PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

SIXTH SERIES—VOLUME 463 (Part 2)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

SECOND SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-SIXTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2006–2007

COMPRISING PERIOD
16 July 2007—1 October 2007

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Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 16 July 2007

TREASURY

Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle): In order to inform the second comprehensive spending review, an oral statement will be made to the House on Tuesday 17 July regarding the outcome of the policy review on sub-national economic development and regeneration, which has been led jointly by the Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and their predecessor Departments.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

BNFL

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Mr. John Hutton): Further to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry's announcement on 24 October 2006, *Official Report* column 85WS, regarding the sale by British Nuclear Fuels Ltd. (BNFL) of British Nuclear Group (BNG) and establishment of a National Nuclear Laboratory, I would like to announce that BNFL has commenced the process to sell the group's one third stake in Atomic Weapons Establishment Management Ltd. (AWEML). AWEML is currently owned equally by BNFL, Serco and Lockheed Martin. In addition to seeking to maximise shareholder return through the sale process, the Government and BNFL will seek to ensure an AWEML consortium is in place to manage the enduring performance of AWEML's subsidiary, AWE plc. in continuing to meet the requirements of its customer, the Ministry of Defence.

I will update Parliament on the progress of the sale at a later date.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Casinos

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (James Purnell): In response to a question from my hon. Friend the Member for Loughborough (Mr. Reed) on 11 July, the Prime Minister said that during the summer we would look at whether regeneration may be a better way of meeting economic and social needs than the creation of regional casinos. I know that there is a great deal of interest in this issue across both Houses and beyond, and I am making this statement to provide further detail to enable those directly involved to plan accordingly.

The Gambling Act 2005 provides for the licensing of one regional, eight large and eight small casinos. The Government's national policy statement on casinos published in December 2004 sought to accommodate the desire expressed by many local authorities to explore the potential economic and regenerative benefits of new casino developments within our overriding objective of keeping crime out of gambling, keeping it fair and protecting children and vulnerable people.

In October 2005, my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Olympics and London, the Member for Dulwich and West Norwood (Tessa Jowell), established the independent casino advisory panel to advise her on the authorities that should be given the power to issue the new casino licences. Some 68 local authorities applied to the panel, including 27 applications for the single regional casino. On 30 January, the panel recommended that Manchester should be permitted to issue the regional casino premises licence, and it recommended the 16 authorities that should be permitted to issue large and small casino licences.

Having carefully considered the independent panel's report, and following consultation with colleagues in the devolved administrations, on 28 March the Government brought before the House an order giving effect to the recommendations. That order was passed in the House of Commons by a majority of 24. It was, however, narrowly rejected by the House of Lords.

The Government have reflected on the debates in both Houses. There are a number of important conclusions to be drawn.

The first is that there was a clear consensus across all parties that the eight large and eight small casinos—the "sixteen"—should be awarded to the authorities identified by the casino advisory panel.

Since Parliament debated this issue, there have been local elections in many of the areas concerned. Some have experienced a change of political control, and in the remaining authorities some of the individual councillors involved in relevant decisions may have changed.

Our reform of gambling policy has placed a great emphasis on the importance of local consultation and local accountability; we have given local people through their elected representatives a greater say in the licensing of gambling premises in their communities. This includes for the first time giving authorities the power to resolve not to license a new casino.

Against this backdrop, I have decided to write to the authorities concerned to ask them to confirm their continued desire to license a new casino. I am sure that both Houses will wish to take account of a renewed commitment from the areas concerned when the time comes to consider this matter again. If any of the authorities have had a change of heart, I will not include them in the new legislation. The Gambling Act requires only that up to eight authorities in each category are identified.

While there may have been broad agreement on the 16, it was equally clear that—as the Prime Minister made plain last week—there is no such consensus over the regional casino. While much of the debate focused on the merits of the casino advisory panel's recommendation of Manchester as compared to Blackpool, many Members on all sides of both Houses expressed serious doubts about whether we should have a regional casino at all. We have taken heed of those concerns.

The Gambling Act, which is due to come into force on 1 September this year, introduces one of the most rigorous regulatory regimes anywhere in the world. And it is why we enshrined at the heart of that legislation the three key objectives of keeping crime out of gambling, keeping it fair for the consumer and—our number one priority—protecting children and vulnerable people.

Later in the year, the Independent Gambling Commission will publish a new study into the prevalence of gambling. This will provide updated information about the rate of gambling and problem gambling in this country. The gambling industry is on notice that if, despite the very stringent safeguards we have introduced, the incidence of problem gambling increases, we have taken the powers to introduce even tougher protections. I have also decided that it is right to pause, to wait for the results of the prevalence study to be published in September, before reaching a decision on how best to respond to the decision of the House of Lords to defeat the casino areas order.

The Government's overriding priority has always been to minimise the potential for harm arising from such developments. At the same time, we have wanted to respond positively to the significant number of local authorities who have been keen to explore the potential of a regional casino to contribute to regeneration in their communities. That is why the new casino provisions were introduced in the first place. And it was the need for regeneration in East Manchester that was a significant factor in that city's success in its application to the casino advisory panel.

In view of the very real concern surrounding the regional casino, it would be prudent to examine afresh whether deprived areas can be equally well served by other forms of regeneration. The Government are taking forward this issue.

In the meantime, we are proceeding with the urgent task of completing the implementation of the Gambling Act. Protecting children and consumers is our number one priority. I will ensure that our new system of regulation, as it covers every aspect of casinos and other gambling premises—from advertising to checks on entry to controls on games and machines—will place public protection first.

DEFENCE

DMETA Key Targets

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): The following key targets have been set for the chief executive of the Defence Medical Education and Training Agency (DMETA) for the financial year 2007-08:

KEY TARGET 1

Deployable Personnel

To meet 100 per cent. of the commanders in chief requirements for secondary care personnel under DMETA command for operational deployments.

KEY TARGET 2

Individual Military Continuation Training

To ensure that 90 per cent. of all DMETA personnel, whose medical category permits, achieve their service's annual mandatory individual military training.

KEY TARGET 3

Medical Professional and Career Training

To provide initial training (phase 2) that meets the requirements, professional standards and timescales defined by the single services.

To provide career, professional and continuation training (phase 3) that meets the requirements, professional standards and timescales defined by the single services, and the statutory requirements of the relevant national bodies.

KEY TARGET 4

Efficiency

To reduce the ratio of personnel engaged in support activities compared with direct activities.

KEY TARGET 5

Customer Focus

To maintain the customer confidence index score within a stated range.

KEY TARGET 6

Harmony/Separated Service

To ensure compliance with the single services' harmony guidelines for all deployable personnel under DMETA's command.

UK Gulf Veterans' Mortality Data

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): As part of the Government's continuing commitment to investigate Gulf veterans' illnesses openly and honestly, data on the mortality of veterans of the 1990-91 Gulf conflict are published regularly. The most recent figures for the period 1 April 1991 to 30 June 2007, were published on Friday 13 July 2007 as a national statistic on the Defence Analytical Services Agency website; copies were also placed in the Library of the House.

The data for Gulf veterans are compared to that of a control group known as the "Era cohort" consisting of armed forces personnel of a similar profile in terms of age, gender, service, regular/reservists status and rank, who were in service on 1 January 1991 but were not deployed to the Gulf. As in the previous release, the "Era" group has been adjusted for a small difference in the age-profile of those aged 40 years and over, to ensure appropriate comparisons.

Key points to note in the data are:

There have been 845 deaths among the Gulf veterans and 864 in the age-adjusted Era comparison group.

The 845 deaths among Gulf veterans compare with approximately 1,393 deaths which would have been expected in a similar sized cohort taken from the general population of the UK with the same age and gender profile. This reflects the strong emphasis on fitness when recruiting and retaining service personnel.

These statistics continue to confirm that UK veterans of the 1990-91 Gulf Conflict do not suffer an excess of overall mortality compared with service personnel that did not deploy.

The full notice can be viewed at http://www.dasa.mod.uk

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Review of the Royal Commission on Environment Pollution

The Minister for the Environment (Mr. Phil Woolas): On 27 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 80WS, my hon. Friend, the Minister for Science and Innovation, the Member for Dudley, South (Ian Pearson) announced the start of a review of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (RCEP). Today, I am publishing the report of this review.

The review was part of a Government recommendation that public bodies are subjected to periodic study to ensure that they are still delivering high quality services and are adequately resourced. It was carried out by independent consultants, on behalf of DEFRA, who gathered evidence from individuals and organisations with an interest in the work of the RCEP.

The report focused on the quality and impact of RCEP studies, its working methods, management and level of resources. It concluded that there is a continuing need for the functions of the RCEP and put forward a number of options for its modernisation.

The report does not constitute our policy position. DEFRA will now examine the options proposed in the report in more detail and explore their financial and organisational implications. DEFRA will consult with other Government Departments, the devolved Administrations and the RCEP to formulate a Government response later in the year.

Copies of the full report will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses. A copy can also be accessed on the DEFRA website.

HEALTH

Health Select Committee Report on Audiology Services

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Mr. Ivan Lewis): The Government have today laid before Parliament their response to the Health Select Committee report on Audiology Services (Cm 7140).

The Government are responding to the conclusions and recommendations raised by the Committee covering issues such as the waiting times challenge in audiology services; service delivery, patient pathways and good practice; the use of the independent sector; and capacity.

The Government's response is available in the Library.

JUSTICE

End of Custody Licence Implementation

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): On 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, House of Lords, column 96 my right hon. and noble Friend, the then Lord Chancellor, Lord Falconer of Thoroton, announced a new scheme—the End of Custody Licence (ECL)—which introduced a presumption in favour of release on licence for prisoners serving between four weeks and four years for the final 18 days of their sentence subject to meeting strict eligibility criteria and providing a release address. Prisoners who would normally be subject to supervision on release (prisoners serving 12 months or more or under 22 years of age) are required to meet their probation officer after release and to have regular contact after that in line with their supervision plan. All prisoners released on ECL are liable to recall if they are reported to have misbehaved during the period of the licence.

The first releases under this scheme took place on 29 June 2007.

Tables with the full set data for this report have been made available in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office. The tables are being published on the Ministry of Justice website today at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

The following information applies only to the releases and recalls in the first week of operation of the scheme. Future reports will be published on a monthly basis.

Between implementation of the ECL scheme on 29 June 2007 and 5 July 2007 there were 1,701 releases on ECL. Of these, 1,552 (91 per cent.) were males and 149 (9 per cent.) were females.

The greatest number of releases was for offenders serving sentences for theft and handling, with 404 (24 per cent. of all releases) coming from this offence group.

Some 1,412 (83 per cent.) of releases were from sentences of less than 12 months, with the remaining 289 (17 per cent.) from sentences of 12 months to less than four years.

The number of releases on to ECL each day is shown in the table:

Date	*Number of Releases*
Friday 29 June 2007	884
Monday 2 July 2007	506
Tuesday 3 July 2007	124
Wednesday 4 July 2007	87
Thursday 5 July 2007	100

There were 30 notified decisions to recall between 29 June and 5 July. The most common reason for recall was the offender being out of touch with their supervising probation officer, with 11 (37 per cent.) of recalls being for this reason.

Any prisoners falling into the following categories are excluded from release on ECL:

Registered sex offenders, whether or not they are currently serving a sentence for a sexual offence.

Prisoners serving sentences for serious violence as specified in Prison Service Instruction 27/2007.

Prisoners who have previously escaped from custody.

Prisoners who have previously breached temporary release conditions during the current sentence, have offended during a period under temporary release at any time, or prisoners currently serving a sentence for failing to return from temporary release.

Prisoners who report that they do not have a release address.

Foreign national prisoners who will be subject to deportation at the end of their sentence.

Prisoners who are subject to extradition proceedings.

Sentenced prisoners who have been remanded into custody on further charges or who are awaiting sentence.

Prisoners who, within the period of their current sentence, had been recalled either from HDC or from normal licence.

Prisoners under the age of 18.

Prisoners serving DTO sentences.

Prisoners required to undertake a treatment programme as a condition of the normal (end of sentence) supervision licence that could not be arranged during the period of ECL.

The data presented in this statement are drawn from the prison administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system. While the figures shown have been checked as far as practicable, they should be regarded as approximate and not necessarily accurate to the last whole number.

PRIME MINISTER

Chief Surveillance Commissioner

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): Further to the written statement made by my predecessor, the right hon. Tony Blair, on the Chief Surveillance Commissioner's annual report, 14 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 91WS, I have today laid before both Houses the annual report for 2006-07 by the Chief Surveillance Commissioner, the right hon. Sir Christopher Rose. I am grateful to the Commissioner, and his office, for this report and the work that has gone into preparing it.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Financial Assistance Scheme

The Minister for Pensions Reform (Mr. Mike O'Brien): On 23 April, the Government launched a review to examine whether an alternative treatment of the residual funds in affected pension schemes could supplement the committed Government funding of the Financial Assistance Scheme.

Andrew Young of the Government Actuary's Department is leading the review. It is being advised by a panel of leading external experts who provide support across a wide range of specialist and technical areas.

I am pleased to advise the House that Andrew Young today published the review's interim report. A copy is in the House Library. In this interim report the review team concentrate on identifying:

the value of assets in FAS schemes, their ownership and stewardship;

potential uses of these assets and whether there are options to increase value;

other non-tax sources of funding; and

the key issues related to solvent employers.

The report will be available on the Department's internet site later today. The review team would welcome comments on any aspect of this report. They plan to consult key stakeholders further over the summer and will be delivering a final report by the end of 2007.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 17 July 2007

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Flood Damage to Schools and Children's Services

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): The recent flooding has brought widespread damage to large areas of central and northern England.

The Government are very grateful to the committed staff in schools, early years and childcare settings and local authorities who have worked so hard to contain and reduce the effect of the floodwaters, to get many schools and early years settings back in use, and to provide places in temporary or alternative accommodation where necessary.

In the flood-hit regions, numbers of schools which lost teaching days included 91 in Kingston-upon-Hull, 72 in East Riding, 72 in Doncaster, 66 in Sheffield, 27 in Lincolnshire, six in Nottinghamshire, four in Derbyshire and two in Rotherham. Only eight of Kingston-upon-Hull's 99 school sites were unaffected:—65 primary schools, 13 secondary schools, 10 special units and three nurseries were all temporarily closed. Nine sites were still closed last week. The local authority has found temporary premises for the children affected. Kingston-upon-Hull calculates that the flooding resulted in losing 107,000 pupil-days, but prompt action by the schools and council avoided losing-up to 90,000 more. In Doncaster, six schools were damaged and closed at some point—but only one is still closed. In the East Midlands, five schools have all their pupils in temporary premises.

Our main aim is to help as many of these schools and early years settings as possible to re-open at permanent premises by the start of the September-term; and, where that is not possible, to help ensure satisfactory alternative arrangements so that no child suffers educationally because of flood damage. There is still an immense amount of hard work to do. The immediate dangers are over, but every child and young person and their parents will rightly expect no let-up in efforts to get back to normal as quickly as possible.

To that end, my Department is working closely with the regional government offices and local authorities, to:

- assess fully the extent of the damage to schools and early years and childcare provision (including children's centres)—both buildings and equipment;
- assess the impact the floods have had on children and young people's ability to learn and make the progress we expect (this includes any impact on examinations or course-work);
- take decisions on how best to get children back into proper permanent educational accommodation.

Already the Government have allocated £14 million and have widened the rules on Bellwin funds to deal with flood damage. In addition my Department will make available an initial sum of £10 million for flood-affected schools and children's services. My officials, with colleagues from Government offices, will hold detailed discussions on an area-by-area/case-by-case basis to determine how best to provide both interim and long-term solutions. As part of these discussions, we will:

- determine how best we can use and, if necessary, re-phase the significant capital investment planned over the next five years to address the needs of the schools most affected;
- decide what additional educational support we can give schools and other providers to help maintain standards while there is disruption;

and look to fund, in particular:

- extra surveyors—to be arranged through existing Departmental call-off contracts—to help authorities accurately assess damage; and more quickly reach a clear picture on the cost of repairs;
- temporary accommodation for those settings which will still be in such accommodation in September;
- additional summer activities for young people who cannot yet return to their homes, and are living in caravans or other temporary housing;
- family support workers to help with longer-term pressures on family life for families who have been seriously affected by the floodwaters.

In addition, I have already written to:

- exam boards, asking them to ensure that, where exams were disrupted, cases seeking special consideration are dealt with promptly and with due consideration; and
- Ofsted, asking for inspections to take proper account of the disruption and loss of school days and records caused by the floods.

The Minister for Schools and Learners (Jim Knight) is working closely with the Minister for Children, Young People and Families (Beverley Hughes) to oversee implementation of the above programme of DCSF work on flood recovery. These Ministers are seeing daily progress reports from Departmental officials. DCSF is playing its part in the flood-recovery inter-ministerial group chaired by the Minister for Local Government (John Healey).

"Staying Safe"

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Kevin Brennan): I am today giving Parliament advance notice of a major consultation on children and young people's safety. Keeping children and young people safe is a top priority and the responsibility of us all. The consultation document, "Staying Safe", seeks views from parents, children and young people, our partners and the children's workforce on the issues. I am today placing a copy of the document in the Libraries of both Houses.

"Staying Safe" has been developed working across Government and signals Government's strong collective commitment to the safety of children. It has four key objectives. These are to:

- raise awareness of the importance of safeguarding children and young people;
- promote better understanding of safeguarding issues, and start to change behaviour towards children and young people, and their safety and welfare;
- ensure that safeguarding activity is coherent and effectively co-ordinated across Government; and
- reinforce existing activity by proposing new actions to plug gaps or improve linkages.

The consultation will run until 31 October 2007 including a range of activities for all interested parties to explore this vital area of work, and respond to the questions and issues set out in the consultation document. After the consultation, Government will produce a response and decide on follow-up action.

We hope that by talking about these issues, and by proposing new work in some areas, we can do even more to improve the safety of children and young people.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Formula Grant Distribution

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): I am today publishing a consultation document looking at proposals for reviewing the formulae used to distribute Formula Grant to local authorities. Formula Grant underpins the provision of a wide range of local services.

The Formula Grant Distribution System was last reviewed following the introduction of multi-year settlements. This first multi-year settlement round covering 2006-07 and 2007-08 is now coming to an end, and we have taken the opportunity to consider updating and modifying some of the formulae to be used in the distribution system for the proposed three-year settlement covering 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Following the last review of grant distribution formulae, the Government have been working with local government and other interested parties to explore possible ways of updating the formulae where necessary, and fine-tuning some of the elements of the distribution mechanisms.

Over the last five months the official level Settlement Working Group, consisting of representatives from all types of local authority in England along with interested parties from central Government, has considered some 53 technical papers and reports looking at options for changes to the distribution formulae. A separate technical group has examined the formulae for the police.

Following the work of this Settlement Working Group, the Government are now publishing this consultation on options for updating the formula grant distribution system. I have placed copies of in the Library of the House and in the Vote Office. The consultation document is also available today on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/0809/grant/sumcons/

We look forward to receiving views on our proposals. The consultation period will close on 10 October 2007 and the Government will then decide on the formula grant distribution system for the next three years.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I will be representing the United Kingdom at this month's Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels.

This being the first Council of the Portuguese presidency, the first item on the agenda will be the presentation of the presidency work programme by the new chairman of the Council. This presentation will lay out the agriculture and fisheries objectives of the Portuguese presidency.

The Council will vote on a proposed Council decision whether to authorise the marketing of a potato product (*Solanum tuberosum* L. line EH92-527-1) genetically modified for enhanced content of the amylopectin component of starch.

The Agriculture Commissioner will present a proposal for a fundamental reform of the EU wine regime to improve the sustainability of the sector. Following the presentation, the Council will hold its first exchange of views on the proposal.

The Council will hold a policy debate on a proposal establishing a temporary scheme for the restructuring of the sugar industry in the Community to provide a sustainable future for the EU sugar sector.

The Council will hold a policy debate on a proposal on the financing of the common agricultural policy.

The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on a Commission proposal banning the use of methomyl in plant protection products.

A number of issues, as follows, will be raised under any other business:

The Agriculture Commissioner will give an update on the WTO agricultural negotiations.

The Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner will update the Council on developments with regard to avian influenza H5N1.

Sweden will request that the Commission draws attention to a report of the Council of the Baltic sea states on the need to reduce nutrient leakage into the Baltic sea.

The Netherlands will call upon the Commission to introduce legal measures against illegal logging and related trade in relation to the EU action plan for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT).

Air Quality Strategy

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw): The Air Quality Strategy will be laid before Parliament and published today.

Government are committed to delivering cleaner air to protect people's health and the environment. Protecting and improving air quality is a key objective for DEFRA and the devolved Administrations.

Our national Air Quality Strategy, last published in 2000 with an Addendum in 2003, contained policies for improving air quality and set standards and objectives for the main pollutants of concern to be met between 2003 and 2010 and beyond.

The quality of our air in the United Kingdom has improved considerably over the last few decades, and much has been achieved through implementation of tighter controls over emissions of harmful pollutants from industry, transport and domestic sectors. These measures have helped to reduce by many thousands the numbers of people dying prematurely and being admitted to hospital as a result of air pollution. We are now meeting the strategy's objectives for four of the

pollutants throughout the UK and meeting all the strategy's objectives in most parts of the country, although not at some hotspot problem areas, such as along some busy roads and in some cities.

But air pollution still has a significant impact and is estimated to reduce the life expectancy of every person in the UK by an average of seven to eight months, with estimated annual health costs of up to £20 billion. It can also seriously damage our ecosystems.

Over the last year or so an extensive review of the strategy was undertaken to examine what more might be done. This review has involved one of the most comprehensive environmental analyses ever carried out by the Government. stakeholders were closely involved at each stage of the review, both in forming and responding to the official consultation process last year.

The new Air Quality Strategy, which I am publishing today in partnership with the devolved Administrations, draws conclusions from the consultation. It sets out a way forward for work and planning on air quality issues, sets out details of the objectives to be achieved and introduces a new policy framework for tackling fine particles, similar to the approach being proposed in the new European air quality directive, which is currently under negotiation. The strategy also identifies new measures which modelling shows could help achieve significant health benefits and help us move closer towards meeting our targets. These measures have been subject to a thorough analysis of the estimated reductions in air pollution, and quantification and valuation of costs and benefits.

The strategy's policies have been considered for their impact on climate change, and there are many co-benefits that can be achieved. Over the longer-term, policies to address both climate change and air pollution emissions together can potentially deliver further significant improvements air quality and public health.

The strategy recognises the important role for industry, transport and local authorities in helping to deliver air quality improvements. It also follows the better regulation agenda for adopting the most effective ways of delivering outcomes without placing unnecessary costs on those who are regulated.

We will now start the process for detailed consideration of the potential new measures to develop them further and co-ordinate and align with other policy measures yet to be implemented. Each new measure will be subject to the full policy scrutiny process and formal impact assessment. I will continue to keep the House informed about these and other air quality developments.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Protective Services Demonstration Sites

The Minister of State, Home Department (Mr. Tony McNulty): I am today announcing that 30 police forces across England and Wales will be taking part in a new programme aimed at establishing new collaborative arrangements for combating serious organised crime and other threats to public safety (also known as protective services).

The Home Office will support 10 separate initiatives by police forces and authorities to become demonstrator sites for joint working solutions to deliver greater capability and capacity in a range of protective services.

The initiatives that will be supported are:

Police Forces and Authorities	*Initiative*
Avon & Somerset/Devon & Cornwall / Dorset / Wiltshire / Gloucestershire	*South West Region Shared Services Programme* delivering operational and back office services through collaboration.
Cheshire / Cumbria / Lancashire / Merseyside / North Wales	*North West Regional Cross-Border Crime Team* establishing a joint team tackling serious organised crime
Cleveland / Durham	*Police Firearms Resources* developing a joint firearms unit.
Derbyshire / Leicestershire / Lincolnshire / Northamptonshire / Nottinghamshire	*Witness Protection* establishing a dedicated joint Witness Protection team including the refinement of policies, procedures and best practice.
Dyfed-Powys / Gwent / North Wales / South Wales	*Public Protection* improving the delivery across the region of public protection (child protection, sex offender and serious offender management, domestic violence, vulnerable adult abuse and missing persons).
Dyfed-Powys / Gwent / North Wales / South Wales	*Major Crime and Serious Organised and Cross-Border Crime* exploring collaborative approaches to delivering these services across the forces in Wales.
Essex / Kent	*Project Forefront* developing and implementing a co-ordinated and integrated strategic command capability, improving operational delivery of policing services to the Thames estuary, sea ports, air ports and the strategic roads network
Hertfordshire / Bedfordshire	*Major Crime Collaboration* establishing a co-located major crime capability.
Humberside / North Yorkshire / South Yorkshire / West Yorkshire	*Regional Undercover Unit / Human Resources Policies* creating a unit to provide a policy lead, training and support infrastructure to undercover officers and exploring the potential for integrating employment frameworks, terms and conditions and human resources policies.
Surrey / Sussex	*Joining Forces Programme* drawing together protective services into an integrated specialist operations command covering both force areas.

These initiatives have been selected from 22 bids to provide a balanced programme across England and Wales to explore and develop the models of collaboration between forces that can deliver these vital services to protect the public more effectively and more efficiently.

Collaborative working is a key part of a national programme of work the Government are taking forward, in consultation with the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Association of Police Authorities

to improve the way the police combat serious organised crime and other threats to public safety. All police forces will be expected to meet newly developed protective service standards. Forces will need to collaborate to do this and the demonstration sites initiative will help ensure that all forces can learn from the experiences of these sites and make use of their best practice.

The selected demonstrator sites will together be offered £3.7 million in Home Office funding to contribute to their start-up costs and they will take part in an evaluation process to be managed by the National Policing Improvement Agency which will monitor and measure their progress and delivery of benefits and develop a shared body of knowledge for the police service.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition

The Minister of State, Home Department (Mr. Tony McNulty): I would like to inform the House that my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has signed a certificate to exempt Transport for London (TfL) and the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) from certain provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 to facilitate the bulk transfer of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) data from TfL to the MPS. The Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police believes that it is necessary due to the enduring, vehicle-borne terrorist threat to London. The MPS requires bulk ANPR data from TfL's camera network in London specifically for terrorism intelligence purposes and to prevent and investigate such offences. The infrastructure will allow the realtime flow of data between TfL and the MPS.

As one of the conditions of this certificate, the MPS will provide an annual report to the Information Commissioner so that he can satisfy himself that the personal data processed under the certificate are required for the purposes of safeguarding national security, and that any processing that is undertaken other than under an exemption set out in the certificate is carried out in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary will review the operation of the certificate in three months' time when the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police provides her with a separate, interim report so that she can be personally satisfied that the certificate is being operated in accordance with the agreement and that the privacy of individuals is protected. In the coming months, proposals will be developed and discussed across Government to ensure that bulk ANPR data-sharing with the police is subject to a robust regulatory regime which ensures reasonable transparency and scrutiny.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Palestinian Authority (UK Contribution)

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): I wish to inform the House that the UK intends to make a contribution of £3 million to the Palestinian Authority (PA). This will go towards paying private sector arrears of around £225 million accrued by the PA. Combined with a £3 million contribution to the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) in May, a £1 million contribution to the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross and a £15.6 million payment to the UN Relief and Works Agency in April, this brings the UK's total bilateral spend this financial year to £22.6 million.

The last year has seen a deterioration of the chronic economic decline in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Israel has withheld clearance revenues owed to the PA, leading to the PA having to reduce or stop entirely the payment of civil servant salaries. At the same time, the PA has run up significant debts with private sector suppliers. This has in turn reduced investment, thereby further shrinking the productive capacity of the economy.

Israel has now agreed to transfer the customs revenue, allowing the Government to pay salaries again. However, the large backlog of public debt remains unpaid. The Prime Minister, Salaam Fayyad, has requested international support to address this. Direct international assistance through the Palestinian Authority's Central Treasury Account will boost the economy and make clear international approval for Fayyad's Government. It will also increase Palestinian companies' ability to continue trading, and so invest and employ more people.

In the last year, DFID has provided £15 million out of a total of £265 million committed through the TIM. This has successfully stemmed the economic decline in the Occupied Palestinian Territories from a projected 27 per cent. to around 10 per cent. The Quartet recently extended the TIM until the end of September. It has already been aligned with the Ministry of Finance to enable full salaries to be paid to public sector workers. Following the creation of the Emergency Government in June, DFID can now resume direct financial assistance.

The UK is working with President Abbas and Prime Minister Fayyad as they seek to make the Palestinian Authority more responsive to the urgent needs of all Palestinians. But ultimately the only way to guarantee the long-term welfare of the people is for all sides to give up violence and work towards a two-state solution.

JUSTICE

Prison Service (Annual Reports)

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): The annual report of Her Majesty's Prison Service for 2006-07 (HC 717) has today been laid before Parliament. The National Probation Service annual report has also been published today. Copies have been made available in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. The regional offender managers have, today, published their statement of performance on the NOMS website at: www.noms.justice.gov.uk. Copies have also been made available in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

The Prison Service report includes the financial accounts for 2006-07. The financial accounts for the National Probation Service will be published later in the year.

Performance against all the national offender management targets for 2006-07 is shown in the table:

Performance against the National Offender Management Targets for 2006-07

Protecting the Public	*Annual Performance*	*Annual Target*
No escapes of Category A prisoners	0	0
The rate of escapes from prison and prison service escorts is below 0.05% of the average prison population		0.05%
Public Prison	0.01%	
Contracted Prison	0.001%	
Fewer than 1 in 20,000 escapes from prison and prison service escorts	1:53,847	1:20,000
90% of risk of harm assessments, full analyses and Offender Assessment System (OASys) sentence plans, including risk management plans, completed within five working days of the commencement of order or release into the community	94%	90%
90% of risk of harm screenings/full analyses (as appropriate) and OASys sentence plans completed on Prolific and other Priority Offenders (PPOs) within five working days of the commencement of the order or release into the community.	95%	90%
Supporting the Courts		
90% of PSRs completed within required timelines	80%	90%
At least 85% of prisoners from prison or police cells are delivered to court before the agreed time	86%	85%
Firm and Fair Punishment		
To initiate breach proceedings in accordance with national standards within 10 days in 90% of cases	92%	90%
85% of arranged appointments attended by the offender in the first 26 weeks of the order or licence	83%	85%
Ensure that the rate of self-inflicted deaths does not exceed 112.8 per 100,000 prison population		
Public Prison	96.3 per 100,000	112.8 per 100,000
Contracted Prison	40.6 per 100,000	
Reduce the number of serious assaults compared to the 05/06 outturn (this is an annualised rate)		
Public prisons	1.66%	1.53%
Contracted prisons	3.6%	3.3%

Performance against the National Offender Management Targets for 2006-07

Protecting the Public	*Annual Performance*	*Annual Target*
To limit overcrowding so that the number of prisoners held in accommodation units intended for fewer prisoners does not exceed:		
Public prisons	24.1%	24.0%
Contracted prisons	32.8%	34.5%
Helping to cut crime		
Accredited Programmes Completed for All Prisons and Probation (including SOTP & DV)[1]	32,760	24,630
Public prisons	7,921	6,720
Contracted prisons	601	409
Probation: Accredited Programmes Completed	19,875	17,500
Probation: Domestic violence programmes	1,825	1,200
Sex offender treatment programmes (Prison and Probation)	2,525	2,400
Public prisons	1,160	1,160
Contracted prisons	64	80
Probation: Sex Offender Treatment Programmes	1,301	1,200
Prisoners have accommodation to go to on release from prison		
Public prisons	65,733	70,000
Contracted prisons	6,098	
Prisoners have employment, training or education on release		
Public prisons	36,501	35,870
Contracted prisons	3,853	
Offenders (in the community) are placed into employment	19,926	15,000
DTTO/Drug Rehabilitation Requirements completions	5,939	5,000
Completions of prison drug rehabilitation programmes		
Public prisons	7,675	6,500
Contracted prisons	674	
Reduce the number of those testing positive in random mandatory drug tests as a percentage of the prison population compared with 2005-06 outturn[2]		10.3%
Public prisons	8.6%	
Contracted prisons	9.6%	
Referrals to LSC in the community	60,418	48,000
Contracted and Wales Learning and Skills Awards delivered by LSC[3]	7,289	6,682
Contributing to Communities and Society		
Completions of unpaid work requirements	55,514	50,000

Performance against the National Offender Management Targets for 2006-07

Protecting the Public	*Annual Performance*	*Annual Target*
85% of victims to be contacted within eight weeks of an offender receiving a conviction or 12 months or more for a serious sexual or violent offence	93% (April-December 2006)	85%
Organising and Supporting Delivery		
Staff sickness in public prisons to be lower than 11.5 working days/person	11.64	11.50
Not to exceed nine days per person per annum in the probation service	12.01	9.00
At least 6% of the workforce in public prisons to be from minority ethnic groups by April 2007	5.9%	6.0%
95% of race and ethnic monitoring data on staff and offenders returned on time and using the correct (census 2001) classification	98%	95%

[1]Data relate to total programme completions (before quality reviews)

[2] MDT, March data will be adjusted in June (three months'lag time)

[3] Data available in April 2008. This metric contributes to the Learning and Skills Council Public Service Agreement (PSA) to increase the number of adults with the skills required for employability and progression to higher levels of training.

Note: Please note that Peterborough performance data are not included.

Chief Inspector of Probation

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): Today I am delighted to announce that the appointment of Andrew Bridges CBE as HM Chief Inspector of the National Probation Service for England and Wales has been extended until 30 September 2008. Mr.Bridges' expertise and knowledge will continue to play a key role in enabling the probation inspectorate to deliver a credible and effective inspection programme for probation and youth offending teams.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment and Social Policy Ministers Meeting

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): The Employment and Social Policy informal meeting was held on 5 to 7 July in Guimarães, Portugal. I represented the UK.

The theme of the informal was "Improving Policies, Improving Results", which was discussed in two plenary sessions. The discussions were informed by a paper presented by Maria João Rodrigues, who was involved in the formulation of the Lisbon strategy during the last Portuguese presidency.

Ministers discussed what the future priorities of the Lisbon strategy should be and how to make the Open Method of Co-ordination (OMC) work better. There was broad agreement that the Lisbon goals were the right ones, and that next year's review should avoid major changes to the strategy, as continuity was needed and would enable comparisons over time. Ministers believed that the focus should be on proper implementation and better exchange of good practice. A number of member states did call for greater prominence to be given to the social dimension of Lisbon. On behalf of the UK, I made it clear that we should not re-open the employment guidelines and that the focus should remain on jobs and growth. I also emphasised that we needed to do more to tackle skills issues as this is the key to helping people into work and ensuring their progression.

In terms of process, most felt the OMC was a success. There was broad agreement that there should be no new instruments or processes. Suggestions for areas of greater focus were: education, skills and lifelong learning; making flexicurity work; increasing labour market participation (including active ageing, work-life balance, gender equality, childcare provision); fighting child poverty; making mobility in the EU work; and tackling the social impacts of migration.

Germany also suggested a one-off "European Social Day" where, for example, Parliaments across the EU could discuss the EU's contribution to social policies on the same day. The idea received considerable support.

The presidency concluded that the revised Lisbon process had improved the focus on employment but the meeting had highlighted the need to: have greater co-ordination of policy approaches; improve the integration and visibility of social priorities; and a balanced approach to flexicurity.

Pension Scheme Assets (Interim Report)

The Minister for Pensions Reform (Mr. Mike O'Brien): The review of Pension Scheme Assets led by Andrew Young published its interim findings yesterday on 16 July.

The review team has worked hard to gather data and engage with stakeholders and I am grateful for their efforts and the co-operation of those who have contributed. The interim findings represent a significant improvement on our understanding of the circumstances of failed pension schemes and provide us with an evidence base upon which to build policy in the future.

The Assets Review has made considerable progress in identifying the value of assets remaining in pension schemes that qualify for FAS and has stated that the current process of annuitisation on a scheme by scheme basis may not offer the best use of these assets. It concludes that it is probable that additional value for money could be secured through a number of different methods and the team will focus on investigating the feasibility of these options before it delivers its final conclusions later in the year. I welcome these interim findings and am hopeful that the work that the review team is to continue over the summer will enable us to increase the value of assistance that FAS is able to offer without further calls on public funds.

The potential for any increase will, of course, depend on the value of assets available. While it is too early to say with any certainty that the review will lead to a means of improving FAS above the promised 80 per cent. level (subject to the cap), it is hopeful that this is

the case. In the meantime the Government's position has always been (and remains) that trustees must act in the best interests of their members, but trustees may wish to take into account the effect that the decisions they take about winding up their scheme may have on the amount of assets potentially available to increase assistance levels.

It is important that trustees continue with the processes of wind-up, including data cleansing and determination of asset share. They should also continue to pay interim pensions to members as they reach normal retirement age and co-operate with the Financial Assistance Scheme Operational Unit to ensure initial payments can be made from age 65.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 18 July 2007

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Council Annual Report

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy): Copies of the British Council annual report, incorporating the trustees' annual report and accounts, for the financial year ended 31 March 2007 have been placed in the Library.

During the period the British Council received £188,124,000 grant-in-aid from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Paul Goggins): The Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2007 is published today.

Copies will be available in the Libraries of both Houses.

TRANSPORT

"Rail Franchising Process"

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris): "The Future of Rail" White Paper and the Railways Act 2005 set out a new role for Transport for London (TfL) in relation to rail, giving them more say in the specification of rail services and allowing them greater flexibility to make choices about the balance between rail and other modes. I am today publishing guidance that explains how the new role of TfL in the franchise specification, letting and management process under the Railways Act 2005, will work in practice. Copies of the guidance have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and can also be found on the Department for Transport's website at: www.dft.gov.uk.

The London suburban commuter rail network does not stop at the GLA boundary. Certain rail services terminate just outside the Greater London area. Because of this the Mayor and TfL were not able to propose changes to "inner suburban" services, to improve service levels or better integrate services with other transport modes. "The Future of Rail" White Paper set out a commitment to change this by enabling TfL to specify and pay for enhancements to these services.

Following consultation on the proposal, I am today announcing that TfL, as part of the franchise specification process, can propose and pay for extra train services or improvements to stations on a number of these "inner suburban" routes.

It is vital to ensure that the rights and interests of rail passengers outside London are protected by those democratically accountable to them. Therefore TfL will be required to consult with Local Transport Authorities in the affected areas beyond the boundary, as well as Regional Assemblies, and London TravelWatch.

Were TfL to seek any reductions to service levels, the governance arrangements are stronger. TfL would be required to obtain the agreement of affected Local Transport Authorities.

In instances where TfL and Local Transport Authorities cannot reach agreement, the disputes should come to the Secretary of State for Transport and feed through the normal franchise dispute resolution process. The Secretary of State shall be the final arbiter of any disagreements.

Section 17 of the Railways Act 2005 amends schedule 10 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 so as to ensure that within six months of section 17 coming into force the membership of the TfL board includes at least two members who can represent the interests of people living, working and studying in areas outside Greater London served by rail services running into London. A commencement order bringing section 17 of the Railways Act 2005 into force on 8 August 2007 was made on 10 July 2007.

These governance arrangements have been put in place to ensure that the rights and interests of rail passengers outside London are suitably protected. TfL will not be able to propose changes to fares on "inner suburban" routes that run beyond the boundary. As a general rule, TfL will not be allowed to propose additional stops on long distance and inter-city services, although the Department will look at individual proposals on a case by case basis.

The "inner suburban" services that terminate beyond the GLA boundary, and on which TfL will be able to propose changes to services levels are:

Services from Charing Cross, Victoria or Cannon Street, terminating at Dartford;

Services from Blackfriars or Victoria, terminating at Sevenoaks, via Swanley;

Services from Charing Cross, Cannon Street or Victoria, terminating at Sevenoaks, via Orpington;

Services from Victoria or London Bridge, terminating at Caterham;

Services from Victoria or London Bridge, terminating at Tattenham Corner;

Services from Victoria or London Bridge, terminating at Epsom or Epsom Downs;

Services from Waterloo, terminating at Hampton Court;

Services from Waterloo, terminating at Shepperton;

Services from Waterloo, terminating at Windsor and Eton Riverside;

Services from Waterloo, terminating at Epsom;

Services from Paddington, terminating at Slough;

Services from Kings Cross Thameslink, terminating at St Albans;

Services from Kings Cross or Moorgate, terminating at Welwyn Garden City;

Services from Kings Cross or Moorgate, terminating at Hertford North;

Services from Liverpool Street, terminating at Hertford East;

Services from Liverpool Street, terminating at Shenfield; and

Services from Fenchurch Street, terminating at Grays, via Rainham.

The services above reflect the main weekday services and may alter for operational purposes or for some late night or weekend services.

Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): I have today published a summary of the responses to the Government's consultation on the design and longer term evolution of the proposed renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO). Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and are available on the Department for Transport's website www.dft.gsi.gov.uk.

There were over 6,000 responses to the consultation, the great majority highlighting concerns over the sustainability of biofuels. The Government have already indicated how they intend to strengthen the RTFO's environmental safeguards in the light of these concerns, as set out in a written ministerial statement on 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 116-117WS. The changes we proposed in that statement put the UK at the international forefront of work to promote sustainable biofuels.

The Government have given careful consideration to the issues raised by stakeholders, and the document I have published today summarises how we intend to take them into account in finalising the RTFO Order which is due to be laid in Parliament in the autumn.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 19 July 2007

TREASURY

Budget ECOFIN (13 July)

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Kitty Ussher): On 13 July 2007, I represented the UK at the Budget Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN).

The Council conducted its first reading of the EC's budget for 2008. The Council adopted a draft budget that was supported by all member states.

During a conciliation meeting between the Council and the European Parliament, five joint statements relating to the budget were agreed. These concerned: structural and cohesion funds and rural development 2007-13 programmes; recruitment in relation to the 2004 and 2007 enlargement; decentralised agencies; executive agencies; and assigned revenues. The Government are supportive of these statements, which call for a greater degree of transparency, sound financial management and budget discipline in the areas they concern.

Landscape Review

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Kitty Ussher): HM Treasury is today publishing a summary of the findings of a Landscape Review of National Savings and Investments (NS&I), commissioned by HM Treasury Ministers in 2005, copies of which are available in the Libraries of both Houses. This statement sets out the findings of this review. Broadly speaking, the Landscape Review of NS&I concluded that:

Since its last review in 2000 NS&I had performed well. Between 2000 and 2005 it raised £7.8 billion of net finance (contribution to the Government's stock of debt) and £1.22 billion of value added (savings to Government made by raising debt through the retail market at a lower cost than through wholesale borrowing).

NS&I should therefore retain as its single strategic objective the reduction of the cost to the tax-payer of Government borrowing.

NS&I should prioritise cost-effectiveness to Government over the pursuit of market share. HM Treasury will reflect this when setting NS&I's net finance and value added targets. As a result, NS&I will not be growing and can be expected to bring in a steady rather than increasing amount of net finance going forward.

Although there are a number of constraints which prevent other savings providers from competing with NS&I on a level playing field, NS&I is not having a significant competitive impact at its current size relative to market. However, the Treasury should take into account the market impact of NS&I's activities when setting its financing targets.

Although NS&I will not move to being FSA regulated, it should comply fully with FSA requirements where applicable, on a voluntary basis. NS&I has agreed with the FSA that it will update the FSA biannually on progress against its plans, will monitor and respond to relevant changes in FSA regulations, and will report on progress in its annual report.

The review also recommended that NS&I should develop a revised corporate strategy incorporating the conclusions of this review. This process has been completed, and NS&I's new five-year strategy "NS&I Adding Value" was launched on 1 April 2007. Further information on the new strategy can be found in NS&I's 2006-07 annual report and accounts which are also being laid before the House today.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

European Directives (Accounting and Audit)

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Mr. John Hutton): My Department is today publishing the Government's conclusions following the responses to the consultation on the implementation of the directive on the Statutory Audit of Annual and Consolidated Accounts (Directive 2006/43/EC). Draft regulations for the implementation of the directive are also being published.

My Department is also publishing the Government's conclusions following the responses to the consultation on the implementation of a Directive (2006/46/EC) which amends EC Accounting Directives, (the 4th and 7th Company Law Directives, Bank Accounts and Insurance Company Accounts Directive) (Directive 2006/46/EC).

These documents will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and will be available on the BERR website shortly.

Regional Development Agencies

The Minister for Competitiveness (Mr. Stephen Timms): I have decided to re-appoint the following Board Members as detailed for a further one to three years accordingly.

Board member name	*RDA*	*Length of re-appointment (years)*
Chris Thompson	One NorthEast	3
Alison Thain, OBE	One NorthEast	3
Councillor Bob Symonds	One NorthEast	3
Gerard Coyne	Advantage West Midlands	3
Sue Prince, OBE	Advantage West Midlands	3
Councillor Diane Rayner	Advantage West Midlands	3
Linda Pollard	Yorkshire Forward	3
Jan Wilson	Yorkshire Forward	3
Laura Moynahan	Yorkshire Forward	2
Ashad Javed	Yorkshire Forward	2

Board member name	*RDA*	*Length of re-appointment (years)*
Lord Haskins	Yorkshire Forward	1
Alan Courts	SWRDA	2
Paul Burall	EEDA	3
Sheila Childerhouse	EEDA	3
John Merry	NWDA	3
Peter Hensman	NWDA	3
Brenda Smith	NWDA	1
Sir Martin Harris	NWDA	1
Steve Brown	EMDA	3
Jonathan Collins	EMDA	3
Geoffrey Stevens	EMDA	3
Gary Hunt	EMDA	3
Phillip Tasker	EMDA	3

The re-appointments will begin on 14 December 2007.

I have placed further details of these re-appointments in the Libraries of both Houses. These re-appointments were made in accordance with the Code of Practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan Roulement

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): The next roulement of UK forces in Afghanistan will take place in October 2007. The force package that we currently plan to deploy will see the lead formation, some 12 Mechanised Brigade, replaced by 52 Infantry Brigade, which will provide the majority of the units serving in Afghanistan. The forces deploying include elements of:

52 Infantry Brigade Headquarters and 258 Signal Squadron
846 Naval Air Squadron
Naval Strike Wing
40 Commando Royal Marines
Armoured Support Group, Royal Marines
The Household Cavalry Regiment
1st Battalion Coldstream Guards
2 Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (Green Howards)
1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles
4th Regiment, Royal Artillery
36 Engineer Regiment
27 Transport Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
5 General Support Medical Regiment
1 Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
Elements of The King's Royal Hussars
Elements of The Queen's Royal Lancers
Elements of 5th Regiment, Royal Artillery
Elements of 16th Regiment, Royal Artillery
Elements of 32nd Regiment, Royal Artillery
Elements of 39th Regiment, Royal Artillery
Elements of 47th Regiment, Royal Artillery
Elements of 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal)
Elements of 70 Gurkha Field Support Squadron
Headquarters 62 Works Group Royal Engineers, 519 Specialist Team Royal Engineers (Works)
Elements of 10th Signal Regiment, The Royal Corps of Signals
Elements Signal of 14th Regiment (Electronic Warfare), the Royal Corps of Signals
Elements of 21st Signal Regiment (Air Support), the Royal Corps of Signals
Elements of 30th Signal Regiment, the Royal Corps of Signals
Elements of 3 Regiment, Army Air Corps
Elements of 1 Close Support Company, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
Elements of 7th Battalion, The Rifles
Elements of 52nd Lowland, 6 Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland
Elements of 9 Regiment, Army Air Corps
Headquarters 102 Logistic Brigade
Elements of 9 Supply Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 12 Logistic Support Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 13 Air Assault Support Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps (47 Air Dispatch Squadron)
Elements of 24 Postal Courier and Movement Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 29 Postal Courier and Movement Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 148 Squadron Expeditionary Forces Institute (Volunteers), The Royal Logistic Corps
Hospital Squadron formed from 201 Field Hospital (V) and 243 Field Hospital (V)
Elements of 7 Air Assault Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
101 Provost Company, 5th Provost Regiment, Royal Military Police
Elements of 1 Military Intelligence Brigade
Elements of Joint Civil Military Co-operation (CIMIC) Group
Elements of 90 Signals Unit Royal Air Force
904 Expeditionary Air Wing Royal Air Force
Elements of 1 Air Control Centre Royal Air Force
15 Regiment Field Squadron Royal Air Force
7 Force Protection Wing Headquarters Royal Air Force
Elements of:
18 Squadron Royal Air Force
24 Squadron Royal Air Force
27 Squadron Royal Air Force
30 Squadron Royal Air Force
47 Squadron Royal Air Force
70 Squadron Royal Air Force
Elements of 1 Air Movements Wing Royal Air Force
Elements of 85 (Expeditionary Logistic) Wing Headquarters, Royal Air Force
Elements of 2 Motor Transport Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 5001 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of Mobile Catering Support Unit
Elements of Tactical Medical Wing
Elements of Tactical Armament Squadron
Elements of Tactical Imagery Intelligence Wing
Elements of 151 Transport Regiment (Volunteers) The Royal Logistic Corps

The bulk of these units represent direct replacements for the Afghanistan deployments I announced to the House on 1 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 19-20WS, and 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 619-635. The House will be aware, however, that all military operations are subject to regular review. As a result, I have therefore agreed to deploy an additional troop of the highly regarded VIKING Protected Mobility Vehicles, manned by Royal Marines and the Queen's Royal Lancers, to enhance further the Task Force Helmand's ability to manoeuvre. In addition, from 1 August 2007 to 31 July 2008 the UK will act as Principal Co-ordinating Nation for NATO's management of Kandahar airfield. I am also considering options to enhance our support for the Afghan National Security Forces In consequence the total UK commitment in Afghanistan is likely to be around 7,800 by the end of this year.

Volunteer and Regular members of the reserve forces will continue to deploy to Afghanistan as part of this integrated force package, and we expect to have eventually issued in the order of 750 call-out notices to fill over 600 posts. On completion of their mobilisation procedures, the reservists will undertake a period of training and, where applicable, integration with their respective receiving units. The majority will serve on operations for six or seven months, although some may have shorter tours. As part of this commitment, we expect up to 20 members of the sponsored reserves to be in theatre at any one time.

The House will recall too, the importance I attach to burden-sharing within the International Security Assistance Force. In this context, I should like to welcome the recent decision by the Danish Parliament to increase their deployment in Helmand. Operating under 52 Infantry Brigade's command will be a Danish Battlegroup which, building on our close co-operation with Danish forces in Iraq, will exercise tactical command over two British infantry companies. This important increase in the Danish contribution to Task Force Helmand is a significant boost to its operational capability and its capacity to help stabilise and secure Helmand province.

Iraq Roulement

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): The next routine roulement of UK forces in Iraq will take place in November and December 2007. The force package that we currently plan to deploy to Iraq during this roulement will see the lead formation, currently one Mechanised Brigade, replaced by four Mechanised Brigade, which will provide the majority of UK forces from 1 December 2007. The units deploying as part of four Mechanised Brigade are as follows:

4th Mechanised Brigade Headquarters and 204 Signal Squadron
The Royal Dragoon Guards
1st Battalion Scots Guards
The Royal Scots Borders, 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland
1st Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment (King's, Lancashire and Border)
1st Battalion The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment (1st Battalion The Mercian Regiment as of 1 September 07)
21 Engineer Regiment
12 Logistic Support Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
1 Close Support Medical Regiment
Elements of 845 Naval Air Squadron (Sea King)
Elements of 847 Naval Air Squadron (Lynx)
D Battery, 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery
K Battery, 5th Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal)
62 Works Group Royal Engineers, 523 Specialist Team Royal Engineers (Works)
Elements of 3rd (UK) Division Signal Regiment, The Royal Corps of Signals
Elements of 1st (UK) Armoured Division Signal Regiment, The Royal Corps of Signals
Elements of 10th Signal Regiment, The Royal Corps of Signals
Elements of 14th Signal Regiment (Electronic Warfare), The Royal Corps of Signals
Elements of 21st Signal Regiment (Air Support), The Royal Corps of Signals
Elements of 6 Supply Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 16 Tank Transporter Squadron, 7 Transport Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 84 Medical Supply Squadron, 9 Supply Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 150 Transport Regiment (Volunteers), The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 24 Postal, Courier and Movement Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 29 Postal, Courier and Movement Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 148 Expeditionary Forces Institute Squadron (Volunteers), The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 1 Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
115 Provost Company, 1st Provost Regiment, Royal Military Police
Elements of 102 Military Working Dog Support Unit, Royal Army Veterinary Corps
Elements of 1 Military Intelligence Brigade
No 28 (AC) Squadron, Royal Air Force (Merlin)
619 Tactical Air Control Party, Royal Air Force
627 Tactical Air Control Party, Royal Air Force

Members of the reserve forces will continue to deploy to Iraq as part of this force package, and we expect to issue around 420 call-out notices to fill approximately 340 posts. Most will deploy to theatre in November and serve on operations for six to seven months, although some may have shorter tours. As part of this commitment, we expect up to 10 members of the sponsored reserves to be in theatre at any one time.

In February, the then Prime Minister set out our plans for Iraq in 2007, centring on changes to the posture of UK forces in Basra in Multi-National Division—South East (MND-SE) and consequent force level reductions. UK forces have transferred control of a number of bases in and around Basra to the 10th Division of the Iraqi army. We expect to complete the final part of these plans, involving the transfer of control of Basra palace to the Iraqi authorities, before this roulement takes place. As a result UK force levels in Iraq will fall to around 5,000 troops.

The force package we deploy in November and December will depend on conditions on the ground, in particular the security situation in the south and progress on handover of security responsibility to the

Iraqi civil authorities in Basra province. We will continue to keep UK force levels in Iraq under review. With the permission of the Speaker, I intend to give an update on operations soon after the recess and will notify the House then should there be any change to our plans.

Gurkha Service Pensions

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): I am pleased to inform the House that there will be a significant increase in Gurkha pensions backdated to January 2006. This increase is in line with the tripartite agreement which established a linkage between Indian army pensions and those of the British Brigade of Gurkhas.

It has always been our policy to ensure a fair deal for the 26,500 Gurkha pensioners mainly living in Nepal, who will receive an increase in their pension rates. This is in addition to the 7 per cent. increase they received earlier this year as part of their annual inflationary uplift. Over 85 per cent. of pensioners who were of the rank of corporal or below will receive an increase to their pension of at least 19 per cent. I am also announcing today a review into the mechanism by which we uprate Gurkha pensions annually.

The Gurkha pension scheme currently cost some £33 million per year and it is calculated that this increase will add to the cost by £6 million per year.

The increased benefits have been included in the Gurkha offer to transfer to the armed forces pension scheme, also affecting 3,400 serving and 2,400 recently retired Gurkhas, which I announced to the House on 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 141-42WS.

This increase sustains Gurkha service pensions at a fair and appropriate level and demonstrates the Government's continuing commitment to the retired Gurkha community in Nepal. It also reinforces the UK's long-standing links with the Government of Nepal, whose co-operation and support for the recruitment of Nepalese citizens into the Brigade of Gurkhas we greatly value.

Ballistic Missile Defence

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): I have said that I would keep the House informed of progress on Ballistic Missile Defence. I hope to be able to make an announcement shortly.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Foreign Postgraduate Students (Counter-Proliferation Screening)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): The Voluntary Vetting Scheme (VVS) is an arrangement designed to prevent states of proliferation concern using the UK as a training ground for their scientists and engineers. It is administered by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and seeks co-operation from universities in identifying postgraduate applicants of proliferation concern. The Government asses the proliferation risk and inform the university, which then decides whether or not to offer a place to the applicant.

As the proliferation threat has evolved, we have looked again at whether there is room to improve the scheme. In particular, and as recommended by the Foreign Affairs Committee (FAC), we have looked at the scope to make it compulsory, so that we catch a greater proportion of students of potential concern. We have also looked to shift the emphasis from universities to Government, where both feel it properly belongs.

Proposed Changes

In essence, the student section of the Immigration Rules contains a requirement for certain postgraduate students to have prior counter-proliferation clearance in order to qualify for a visa. The proposed new scheme—the Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS)—requires all non-EEA students in the designated categories to apply for counter-proliferation (CP) clearance. Details of the disciplines affected by these provisions will appear in the 'Rules'. There is also a requirement to obtain CP clearance when students wish to extend their stay in the UK (for example, when moving from undergraduate studies to a postgraduate programme that is covered by the provisions of the new scheme). Clearance (in the form of a certificate) will be obtained through the FCO, using an easy-to-use, online form, and we aim to process the vast majority of applications within 10 working days. A separate clearance certificate will be required for each separate institution or programme of study.

We estimate that the ATAS will substantially increase the proportion of students of potential concern who are subject to scrutiny. At the same time, we would tighten the scheme considerably by assessing predominantly PhD and Masters by research students, rather than all postgraduate students of potential concern, as was the case under the VVS. However, we would still wish to assess the small number of students wishing to undertake taught Masters studies in Physics, Mechanical Engineering, Aerospace Engineering or Materials Technology, due to potential CP concerns. This allows us to target the areas of greatest concern more efficiently and in a manner proportionate to the threat. It is in line with the Government's publicly stated CP policy, and is a useful reaffirmation of our commitment. The academic community has also been extensively consulted and is supportive of the new scheme.

Timing

We anticipate implementing a voluntary go-live date for the scheme on Monday 3 September 2007. From this date onwards we will be seeking volunteers from Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to advise their students to apply for ATAS clearance. However it will not be a mandatory requirement under the Immigration Rules at this point and we will continue operating the VVS during this transition period. Assuming no problems are found we would have a mandatory go-live date of 1 November 2007 with a corresponding amendment to the Immigration Rules. This date has been decided after consultation with the UK academic community and allows them to deal with their busiest time for new arrivals, that is; September and October, without having to produce amended offer letters to meet the ATAS requirements.

General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC), 23 July 2007

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy): The General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) will be held on 23 July in Brussels. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs will represent the UK.

The agenda items are as follows:

GENERAL AFFAIRS

4th Cohesion Report

Commissioner for Regional Policy, Danuta Hübner, is expected to brief the Council on the 4th Cohesion report, which provides an update on economic, social and territorial cohesion. It also provides an analysis of the impact of cohesion policy at national and Community level in the EU. The report also asks a series of questions to guide discussion: can cohesion policy can adapt to the new challenges facing regions in the coming years; can it further develop an integrated and more flexible approach to development/growth and jobs; and how adequate is the policy management system for 2007-13? The Government welcome these questions as a basis for debate, providing the discussion does not prejudge the fundamental review of the EU's budget taking place in 2008-09.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Doha Development Round

Commissioner for Trade, Peter Mandelson, is expected to brief the Council on the latest negotiations in the Doha development round. The Council is expected to discuss next steps including work to be taken forward by the chairs of the groups on agriculture and non-agricultural market access. The Government want an ambitious, pro-development outcome to the Doha development round and supports the role of the Commission.

Ukraine

The Council will be briefed by the presidency on preparations for the EU-Ukraine summit on 14 September. The Council is also expected to endorse a note, which the Government fully support, setting out the EU's objectives for the summit, which include taking stock of developments in the EU-Ukraine relationship, and discussing the ongoing process of reform in Ukraine.

Sudan/Darfur

We expect discussion at the Council to focus on options for EU engagement in Darfur and the region, including a range of areas in which the EU could support wider international efforts to resolve the Darfur crisis. The Government welcome these options, which set out ways in which the EU can support the political process in Darfur, improvements in the humanitarian and security situations, as well as effective African Union and UN peacekeeping in the region.

The Government will emphasise the importance of keeping the focus on the long-term economic future, development and reconstruction of Darfur and Sudan as a whole. The international community, including the EU, must provide the necessary planning and support to make this happen.

The Council is also expected to discuss a French proposal for an EU military operation in Chad. The UK has long supported, including through UN Security Council Resolution 1706, the need for an international operation in Eastern Chad. An effective military force would be an important contribution to the regional strategy and the Government therefore welcome the French proposal.

Libya

External Relations Commissioner, Benita Fererro-Waldner, is expected to update the Council on progress in the case of the Bulgarian and Palestinian medical staff imprisoned in Libya.

Iran

The High-Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, is expected to brief the Council on his recent discussions with AH Larijani, Iran's chief nuclear negotiator and secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, as part of the EU's agreed twin track approach. The Government welcome steps by Iran to resolve outstanding technical issues with the international atomic energy agency, but our position remains firm on the need to see full suspension, before suspension of UN sanctions can be considered.

Middle East

The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on the Middle East emphasising support for Abbas and Fayyad's Government. The Council is likely to discuss support for building the capacity of Palestinian institutions and economic development, a position the Government support as an essential part of achieving success in political negotiations.

On Lebanon, the Council is expected to adopt conclusions condemning the bomb attack on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) on 23 June in which six peacekeepers were killed, and reiterating the need to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 1559, 1701 and 1757. The conclusions also welcome the meeting held by France to build confidence between the main parties and help work towards a reconciliation of the political crisis in Lebanon.

Western Balkans

Discussion is likely to focus on Kosovo. The Government will want to ensure EU resolve in seeing former President Ahtisaari's proposals through to a successful conclusion.

Russia

The Government will brief the Council on latest developments in the Litvinenko case.

Zimbabwe

The Government will raise Zimbabwe to highlight the need for continued EU engagement in response to the deteriorating situation.

Resolution 1562 of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly

The Dutch have asked to discuss rendition, following a recent Council of Europe report.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Taser (Police Use)

The Minister of State, Home Department (Mr. Tony McNulty): Taser has been available to all Authorised Firearms Officers since September 2004 as a less lethal alternative for use in situations where a firearms authority has been granted in accordance with criteria laid down in the Association of Chief Police Officers Manual of Guidance on Police Use of Firearms.

I am giving my approval from 20 July 2007 for Chief Officers throughout England and Wales to deploy Taser for use by Authorised Firearms Officers in operations or incidents where the criteria for the authorisation to issue firearms does not apply, but where officers are facing violence or threats of violence of such severity that they would need to use force to protect the public, themselves and/or the subject(s) of their action.

I am also approving a 12 month trial of the deployment of Taser by specially trained units who are not firearms officers in similarly violent circumstances requiring conflict management. The trial, commencing on 1 September 2007, will be undertaken in the following 10 forces: Avon and Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, Gwent, Lincolnshire, Merseyside, Metropolitan Police Service, Northamptonshire, Northumbria, North Wales and West Yorkshire.

ACPO has produced new policy and operational guidance documents for both the extension and the trial. The Defence Scientific Advisory Council (DSAC) Sub Committee on the Medical Implications of Less Lethal Weapons (DOMILL) was invited to provide a fourth statement on the medical implications of the use of Taser taking into account the new ACPO policy and guidance. The DOMILL statement confirms that the risk of death or serious injury from Taser remains low.

All Taser deployments will continue to be monitored and a detailed report of every deployment will be produced. These reports will be collated by the Home Office Scientific Development Branch and summarised on a three-monthly basis for assessment by DOMILL.

I have placed a copy of the DOMILL statement in the Library of the House.

JUSTICE

Court of Protection Fees Order 2007/Public Guardian (Fees, etc) Regulations 2007

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): I have today laid before Parliament the Court of Protection Fees Order 2007 and the Public Guardian (Fees, etc) Regulations 2007.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 establishes a new specialist court, the Court of Protection, with a jurisdiction to deal with decision making for people who lack mental capacity to make those decisions themselves. The Act also establishes a new statutory office holder, the Public Guardian, with a range of statutory functions under the Act.

The Court of Protection Fees Order 2007 sets out the fees to be charged for matters coming to the new court. The Public Guardian (Fees, etc) Regulations 2007 set out the fees to be charged for the services provided by the Public Guardian. The Regulations also make a minor amendment to one of the forms included in the Lasting Powers of Attorney, Enduring Powers of Attorney and Public Guardian Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/1253).

The Department conducted a public consultation on the fees contained in these statutory instruments between 7 September and 29 November 2007. Some 65 responses were received from a range of parties including users of the current Public Guardianship Office's services, charities, voluntary and representative groups, legal professionals, public bodies and the public. The response to this consultation is available via the Department's website at http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/cp2306.htm.

Copies are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

TRANSPORT

Ports Policy Review

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): The Department for Transport is today issuing an interim report on the Ports Policy Review. This Review was launched last summer by my predecessor my hon. Friend the Member for South Thanet (Dr Ladyman), with the publication of a discussion document, "Ports Policy — Your Views Invited". A summary of the responses to this consultation are available to view on the Department for Transport's website www.dft.gsi.gov.uk.

Also published alongside the discussion document were reports by the Department's consultants, MDS Transmodal, on freight demand forecasts for ports, and on container transhipment. The consultants have updated some aspects of these reports and their further report will also be made available on the Department's website.

Sir Rod Eddington's report, "Transport's role in sustaining the UK's productivity and competitiveness", was published in December. We are studying Sir Rod's recommendations and will respond to them later in the year. Several of these bear closely on ports policy and especially on the need to co-ordinate it fully with policy on each of the surface transport modes connecting with ports.

Also relevant to ports policy are the consultations, one recently closed and the other still in progress, on the Government's Marine Bill White Paper, and on the White Paper "Planning for a Sustainable Future".

I want to ensure that ports policy reflects emerging conclusions from each of these strands of work. It will not therefore be possible to complete the Ports Policy Review until later this year.

We are, however, already in a position to set out conclusions on important aspects of the overall policy framework for the ports sector. The Interim Report issued today recognises that commercial ports are best placed to make decisions about where and when to invest in the port sector, and that we do not propose any substantive change to the regulatory and operating framework for ports.

But it is the Government's responsibility to create the conditions in which investment is encouraged, and yet sustainability is ensured. This report sets out policies to build on the ports industry's success, including by:

commissioning demand forecasts every five years to aid assessment of national need;

recommending the use of Master Plans by major ports to improve planning;

setting out broad guidelines on the safeguarding of port land;

the pursuit of further trust port modernisation; and

setting out our plans to enhance the port safety regime.

In parallel with the Interim Report, the Government are also making their formal Response to the Transport Committee's report of its inquiry into "The Ports Industry in England and Wales" (HC61-1). I am grateful to the Committee for having expedited its inquiry so as to contribute to the Review. We have accepted a number of the Committee's recommendations, and even in those areas where we have not found ourselves able to do so, the evidence-gathering process has very usefully complemented the Department's own consultation

Wales (Rail Planning Assessment)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris): The Welsh Assembly Government and the Department for Transport have published the Regional Planning Assessment for the railway in Wales (WRPA), the final document in the series of RPAs covering England and Wales.

Copies of the document have been placed in the Library of the House and can also be downloaded from the Department's website at www.dft.gov.uk

The Wales RPA covers the whole of Wales and an area to the east of the border, including the Marches line which has an important role in north / south rail traffic for Wales. Key rail links into England are also included.

RPAs provide the link between regional spatial planning (including preparation of regional transport strategies) and planning for the railway by both Government and the rail industry, and are designed to inform the development of the Government's strategy for the railway. They look at the challenges and options for development of the railway over the next 20 years, in the wider context of forecast change in population, the economy and travel behaviour.

An RPA does not commit the Government to specific proposals. Instead it sets out the Government's current thinking on how the railway might best be developed to allow wider planning objectives for a region or country to be met, and identifies the priorities for further development work.

The Secretary of State for Transport is responsible for specifying the infrastructure outputs which central Government want the railway to deliver in England and Wales, and the funding available, over a five-year period. As co-signatory to the Wales and Border franchise agreement with the Secretary of State, the Welsh Assembly Government are responsible for the financial and performance management of passenger services covered by the agreement and any enhancements to it. The Welsh Assembly Government are also working in partnership with Network Rail to fund enhancements to the railway infrastructure in Wales.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 23 July 2007

TREASURY

Tax and Benefit Reference Manual

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jane Kennedy): Copies of the 2007-08 edition of the Tax Benefit Reference Manual (TBRM) are today being deposited in the House of Commons Library.

HM Treasury publishes the TBRM annually. It is a technical manual detailing the tax and benefit system, describing both the current and historic regimes.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Data Protection and Technology Guidance

The Minister for Schools and Learners (Jim Knight): Guidance on how the Data Protection Act 1998 applies to the use of biometric data in schools is published today by the British Education Communications and Technology Agency (BECTA).

Biometric data are increasingly being used in schools as the benefit for schools of running cashless lunch queues, and improved school libraries and attendance systems, become clear. This guidance advises schools to fully involve parents in any decision to introduce this new technology. It restates schools' freedom to run themselves for the benefit of young people—including introducing new technology to make day-to-day administrative tasks easier.

The guidance also underlines that headteachers and governing bodies should be clear and open with all parents and pupils about this and all aspects of their education. This will involve explaining what biometric technology is, how it will be used, what is involved, what data will be held and stored, why they are required, how they are secured, and for how long they are retained. It also advises that schools should recognise some parents' or pupils' concerns over the introduction of biometric technology and offer alternative systems, like smartcards, to access the same services if they want to opt out.

Today's guidance sets out how Data Protection Act 1998 applies to the use of biometric data in schools—building on BECTA's existing guidance on data security and the data protection law.

The Data Protection Act requires that:

Schools cannot use biometric information for any purpose other than the express purpose for which it was collected. This means that data taken for use in a library, can only be used for that purpose;

Schools must process all personal data fairly and lawfully. This means that schools must ensure that all pupils, or their parents or those with parental responsibility if schools judge they cannot understand, know what personal information they have on record and how they intend to use it.

Schools cannot pass on biometric information to any outside organisation nor can third parties access this information;

Schools cannot keep personal data for longer than it is needed for its specified purpose. Pupils' biometric data must therefore be destroyed when they have left the school.

Schools must put appropriate security measures in place to safeguard personal data from unauthorised processing and accidental loss, destruction or damage. BECTA gives clear guidance to schools on data and ICT security.

BECTA and the Information Commissioner already give schools clear guidance on how to comply with the Data Protection Act. This additional guidance is designed to help schools by confirming how the law relates to biometric data and how to comply with it.

I want parents to be fully engaged with every aspect of their children's education—this is at the heart today's guidance. We give schools complete freedom to run their own affairs and I back every head teacher's right and professional judgment to choose technology to improve their day-to-day running—but it is plain common sense for them to talk to parents about this and all issues relating to their pupils to demystify how schools operate.

I have seen at first hand how well these systems work. They can speed up lunch queues, remove the need for children to carry money and take away the stigma of singling out those on free school meals. Moreover, they can enable schools to register pupils more easily as they move from class to class.

Schools are well used to handling sensitive information like attendance registers, behaviour records and home addresses. But we are absolutely clear that they have to comply with data protection laws. This means that this data can only be used for their explicitly stated purpose, cannot be shared with third parties beyond their stated purpose: and they must be destroyed when the pupil leaves the school.

DEFENCE

Annual Report and Accounts 2006-07

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): I am pleased to announce that I am today publishing the Ministry of Defence's annual report and accounts 2006-07. It combines the Department's annual performance report and departmental resource accounts in a single document that provides a comprehensive overview of the MOD's financial and non-financial performance. I am also publishing the Government's expenditure plans 2007-08 for the Ministry of Defence presenting the forward plans for departmental expenditure across the remainder of the 2004 spending review period.

The report shows that the armed forces and the Ministry of Defence delivered what they were required to do during a busy and challenging year. They continued in particular to achieve our highest priority: success on operations. It reflects the broad and diverse range of operations and tasks undertaken during the

year, including a number in support of the outputs of other Government Departments. It details the progress the Ministry of Defence has made in achieving the public service agreement and efficiency targets agreed with Her Majesty's Treasury in the 2004 spending review, in delivering the capabilities and reformed force structure set out in the July 2004 Command Paper "Delivering Security in a Changing World: Future Capabilities" and the other elements of the defence change programme, in implementing the defence industrial strategy, and in implementing the Government's wider sustainability goals.

Copies of the annual report and accounts and the Government's expenditure plans have been placed in the Library of the House. They are also available online from the Department's website at: www.mod.uk.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Products (Import Controls)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw): The review of controls on the import of animal products for the financial year 2006-07 has been laid before Parliament today as required under the Animal Health Act 1981 (as amended by the Animal Health Act 2002). I welcome the opportunity to report on progress made in the past year to reduce the risk of disease entering the country via imports of animal products.

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) continues to deliver an enforcement strategy that targets anti-smuggling activity on the highest risk traffic and to review deployment of resources and react flexibly in response to changes in the pattern of risk.

Seizures of illegally imported animal products have again increased when compared to previous years (35,001 between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2007, approximately a 7 per cent. increase on the equivalent period from 2005-06), reflecting the enforcement measures in place, and we recognise that these efforts must be maintained.

There continues to be a joined-up approach across Government Departments on the overall communications strategy. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) will continue with its ongoing publicity campaign with a change of emphasis, taking into account levels of public awareness and seizure information. HMRC will continue to promote the products of animal origin (POAO) personal import rules through a wide range of communication channels, as well as seeking new opportunities for media publicity.

We continue to enhance our understanding of the risks from illegal imports of POAO, as well as monitoring and assessing the changing threats from around the world.

Copies of the review will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses, on the DEFRA 'personal food imports' website at: www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/illegali, and sent to stakeholders for information seeking their feedback. Hard copies will also be available on request.

HEALTH

Prescription Charges

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo): On 17 October 2006, the Government published its response to the Health Select Committee Report on NHS Charges (Cm 6922).

The Government responded to the 22 recommendations made by the Committee on areas such as prescription charges, car-parking charges, dental charges, on eligibility for NHS sight tests and on the hospital travel costs scheme.

As part of the response, the Government committed to carrying out an internal review of prescription charges and to making a further statement to the House prior to the summer recess this year.

Following this internal review, the Government have decided to hold a consultation in the autumn so that the public can contribute their views on any proposals prior to a final decision on future prescription charges.

The Government have made clear that any changes to the system would need to be cost neutral for the NHS. A further statement will be made after recess giving details of the consultation.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Independent Police Complaints Commission (Annual Report)

The Minister of State, Home Department (Mr. Tony McNulty): I am pleased to announce that the annual report of the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) will be published and laid before Parliament today.

This is the third annual report from the IPCC. The report deals with the work completed in 2006-07 and, in particular, how the IPCC has dealt with the challenges which its third year of existence has brought and how it has engaged with diverse communities and stakeholders. The IPCC have now developed a robust formal process with all of the relevant policing agencies to ensure that lessons are learned and disseminated.

The IPCC's remit now extends beyond the police service. The IPCC has operational responsibility for complaints about the conduct of members of the Serious Organised Crime Agency and of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs who use "police like powers". Their remit will be further extended to cover similar functions in the Borders and Immigration Agency.

Living Animals (Scientific Procedures)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): I wish to respond to the publication entitled "Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals—Great Britain—2006, which is being presented as a Command Paper (7153) today. Copies will be placed in the House Library.

This annual report meets the requirement in the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 to keep Parliament informed about the use of animals for experimental or other scientific purposes. It also forms the basis for meeting periodic reporting requirements at EU level. Some changes have been made to improve the contents and layout of this publication; in particular a more concise report with just the key tables is available in hard copy and supplementary information with additional tables is available on the Home Office website.

The report shows an overall increase over the previous year of 4 per cent. in the number of procedures undertaken. The total number of procedures was 3.01 million, an increase of 115,800 over the previous year. There has now been a relatively small increase for the fifth year running; it is the highest total since 1992 and marks an overall 15 per cent. increase since 2001. A number of factors, investment in research and development and strategic priorities determine the overall level of scientific procedures

Non-toxicological procedures accounted for about 86 per cent. of the procedures carried out. These included fundamental research in human and veterinary medicine to improve understanding of disease mechanisms and possible therapeutic options, and development of vaccines. Most toxicological studies were for the safety and efficacy testing of new drugs and medicines.

Procedures for toxicological purposes accounted for the remaining 14 per cent. of all procedures. About 74 per cent. of these were for testing the safety and efficacy of new drugs and medicines. In keeping with previous years, those procedures that used mice or rats (or other rodents) were the great majority at 83 per cent. Those using fish amounted to 9 per cent. and those using birds, 4 per cent. The total of all procedures using dogs, cats, horses and non-human primates, that is those species offered special protection by the Act, was less than 1 per cent. of the total.

Genetically normal animals were used in about 1.65 million regulated procedures, representing 55 per cent. of all procedures for 2006 (compared with 57 per cent. in 2005 and 84 per cent. in 1995). Genetically modified animals (nearly all rodents) were used in 1.04 million regulated procedures representing 34 per cent. of all procedures for 2006 (compared with 33 per cent. in 2005 and 8 per cent. in 1995).

Advances in the opportunities to use genetically altered animals for new areas of biomedical research means that the trend of increased production and use of genetically altered animals has continued. It allows a more precise and often less invasive study of physiological processes and disease mechanisms than was previously possible. Most of the animals concerned are mice, which appear and live as normal. Many are only used in breeding programmes.

The licensing system is demand led and the 1986 Act provides the Home Office, as regulator, with no mechanism for reducing animal use. Instead the Act requires that animal use is kept to a minimum. In addition, the procedures authorised must cause the minimum possible suffering to the smallest number of animals of the least sentience. The Act also requires that, before a project licence is issued, we must weigh the benefits to humans, other animals, or the environment against the costs to the animals involved. A licence cannot be granted if the work could be carried out without using animals.

The report and supplementary information can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/scientific1.html

JUSTICE

Emoluments

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I will make a statement on this matter in due course.

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet Committees

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): Today I am announcing a new set of Cabinet Committees. I have strengthened the system by re-casting it to focus on the Government's priorities and, in doing so, have reduced the total number Committees. I have placed a copy of the new list of Cabinet Committees, their full membership and terms of reference in the Libraries of both Houses. The details are also available on the Cabinet Office website.

TRANSPORT

Government Car and Despatch Agency

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): I have today laid "The Government Car and Despatch Agency annual report and accounts 2006-07" before Parliament, copies of which are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Independent Living Funds

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mrs. Anne McGuire): On 15 March 2007 we published the review of the Independent Living Funds that had been conducted by Melanie Kenwood and Bob Hudson and I said that I would provide an initial response to the report before recess. A full response to all the recommendations will be published once we have considered the lessons from the individual budget pilots and the timescale required to ensure they become a mainstream part of the support system.

I welcome the progress the trustees have made on the matters that are for them to consider, for example, reimbursing national insurance and holiday pay, publishing trustees' meeting minutes on their website, continuing to fund users during the first stage of their appeal (from October) and revising their leaflets, targets and processes.

We are now working with stakeholders on the medium-term recommendations such as improving customer care, seeking advice from a user-led organisation, improving the consistency of take-up and working towards a single assessment process with local authorities.

The purpose of the funds remains to provide support to severely disabled people, of working age, to enable them to live independently. I have not accepted those recommendations that significantly extend the funds.

The reviewers recommend in the long-term that that there should be a smooth transition towards full integration within a system of personalised budgets. These recommendations will be taken forward as part of the Government's overall programme to support independent living for disabled people. In the meantime the funds will continue in their present form.

National Insurance Credits

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): People claiming incapacity benefit are entitled to receive national insurance credits for periods when they are unable to work. Such credits count towards accrued entitlement to state pension, incapacity benefit and other contributory benefits.

Details of such credits are held on HMRC's National Insurance Recording System (NIRS2) and this Department's Pension Strategy Computer System (PSCS) which records details of periods of incapacity for people claiming incapacity benefit.

It has become clear that discrepancies exist between the data held on these two systems—as was noted in the National Audit Office's report on the National Insurance Fund in February 2006. These discrepancies have their origin in the introduction of NIRS2 in 1998 and the subsequent transfer of data from PSCS to NIRS2 on periods of incapacity. These discrepancies mean that some people may be receiving the wrong amount of contributory benefit. The main benefits affected are state pension and incapacity benefit. The cases most likely to be affected are those where an individual made a claim for incapacity benefit between 1998 and 2006.

Action has been taken to ensure that these credits are now being correctly recorded and, accordingly, I am now in a position to announce how this Department intends to handle those past cases where errors have occurred.

We estimate that up to 30,000 people may have had underpayments of benefit and about 90,000 have had overpayments. In cases of underpayment, the error does not necessarily mean that individuals have been receiving less money through benefits. For example, in the majority of the cases involving state pension, the underpayments will have been made up by additional pension credit payments. In the case of incapacity benefit underpayments some individuals will have received income support which will have reduced or extinguished any potential loss.

It is, nevertheless, clearly right that all such underpayments should be identified and the correct amount of contributory benefit paid, and any associated income related benefit reviewed. This Department will begin this work in August and aims to have completed it by early 2008. In all cases this Department will individually contact those affected.

Similarly, in the case of overpayments, many of those overpaid state pension would have had a correspondingly lower payment of pension credit. In respect of incapacity benefit this would, in some cases, have led to a correspondingly lower payment, or no payment, of income support.

In respect of cases where an overpayment may have occurred, the payments will have been made and received in good faith and I do not believe it would be right to reduce them. I propose, therefore, to introduce regulations that will allow us to continue paying these benefits at their current level to the individuals concerned for the duration of their claim. The draft regulations will be referred to the Social Security Advisory Committee in the normal way before being made and laid before Parliament.

Where the individual is under pension age we will also correct the national insurance contribution records so that future claims will be correctly assessed. Where correcting the record creates any gaps in an individual's contribution record, HMRC will write to the individuals concerned advising them of their options, if they wish to pay any missing contributions.

Written Ministerial Statements

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CABINET OFFICE

National School of Government

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron): The 2006-07 annual report and accounts for the National School of Government was laid before Parliament today. The report will be placed in the Library of the House for the reference of Members and copies will be made available in the Vote Office.

"The Future Role of the Third Sector in Social and Economic Regeneration: Final Report"

The Minister for the Cabinet Office (Edward Miliband): The Government are today publishing the final report of the review of the future role of the third sector in social and economic regeneration. This review was announced in Budget 2006 and forms part of the analysis for the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review.

This final report marks the end of the largest consultation the Government has conducted with the third sector and sets out a new framework for the Government's partnership with the third sector.

The final report of the third sector review signals the Government's commitment to continue to work in partnership with the third sector, particularly in four key areas - enabling voice and campaigning, strengthening communities, transforming public services and encouraging social enterprise. Under these themes, the Government will continue a number of important policies and programmes. These include continuing to strengthen the implementation of the Compact, further funding for the youth volunteering charity, v, investment in capacity building and further support for organisations involved in the delivery of public services.

However, this strategy also sets out important developments in the Government's approach. In addition to a number of specific measures, such as greater support for grant funding of small organisations, a new skills strategy and a new drive to improve the third sector evidence base, the Government will over the next 10 years develop their partnership with the sector by:

working with a fuller range of organisations and supporting a wider range of activities in the third sector, particularly around community action and campaigning;

a greater emphasis on investing in the long-term sustainability of the third sector's work; and,

a greater focus on local partnership working.

In addition to the publication of this report, the Government are announcing today the creation of a Council on Social Action. The Council will generate ideas and develop initiatives to promote social action.

Copies of "The future role of the third sector in social and economic regeneration: final report" have been placed in the Library for the reference of Members and will be available in the Vote Office.

DEFENCE

Basra International Airport

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): The Ministry of Defence, through Multi-National Division - South East (MND-SE) personnel, has supported the Iraqi authorities since 2004 in the commercialisation of Basra International Airport. Our support to commercial operations at the airport remains vital. The airport is an important element of the infrastructure of southern Iraq and is playing a key part in the economic regeneration of the country and the Basra region in particular.

The nature of our support has been through the provision of the following services:

Air Traffic Control

Communication system support

Fire and Crash Rescue

Our potential contingent liability for this support was first notified to Parliament through a departmental minute dated 2 December 2004. Since then we have been able to make progress in preparing the Iraqis to take on full responsibility for commercial flight operations. From January this year the Iraqis took responsibility for Fire and Crash Rescue services, and the airport will soon benefit from the new airfield lighting and communication systems that will enable 24-hour commercial flight movements.

MND-SE personnel have, however, recently reassumed Air Traffic Control responsibility for commercial flight services. This, theoretically, increases the Ministry of Defence's exposure to the risk of a third party claim in the unlikely event of an aviation accident and, thereby, our potential contingent liability. We are confident, however, that the probability of this liability arising is very low given that the use of professional RAF controllers will substantially reduce the likelihood of an incident occurring.

The potential contingent liability is unquantifiable and would be dependent on circumstances. The Ministry of Defence now holds responsibility for this liability. The Treasury will continue to consider any claim against the Reserve, made by the Department in the usual manner.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia (State Visit)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz al Saud of Saudi Arabia, has been invited to pay a State Visit to the United Kingdom from 30 October to 1 November 2007. The visit will further strengthen the good relations which exist between the United Kingdom and The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This visit will build on our shared history of partnership, and close ties in culture, sport and education, as we work together to tackle the common challenges all countries face in a globalised world.

Strategic Arms Controls

The Minister for the Middle East (Dr. Kim Howells): The 2006 Annual Report on Strategic Export Controls will be published at 11.00 today as a Command Paper. Copies will be placed in both Libraries of the House. The Report describes UK policy and international developments in export control regimes, as well as information on export licensing decisions taken during 2006.

The Annual Report on Strategic Export Controls is an innovation of this Government. This report, the 10th Annual Report (the first report was published in 1997) builds upon improvements made in last year's report. Our export licensing system is one of the most rigorous and transparent regimes in the world and the Annual Report—in this improved format—symbolises our continued commitment to accountability and transparency by presenting detailed information in a more modern and user-friendly format.

Since 2004 the Government have also produced detailed Quarterly Reports which are made available on the Internet—ensuring that the UK provides some of the most open and timely export licensing information available anywhere in the world. This year, the data from the Quarterly Reports have been consolidated into one document on the CD-ROM that accompanies the Annual Report, to make it easier to navigate. Information on licence refusals and fuller information on trade control (trafficking and brokering) licences issued during 2006 is also included, as well as details on the EU Torture Regulation which is included for the first time. This year we have also included three case-study examples of policy analysis of our decisions on licences for embargoed destinations.

The complete Report will be made available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website and will be published through the Stationery Office.

Prospects for the European Union

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy): I will today lay before the House the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Command Paper on Prospects for the European Union in 2007. Copies will be placed in the Library of the House. Additional copies can also be obtained from the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. A copy will also be available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website www.fco.gov.uk

The last White Paper was published in January 2007. It focused primarily on the priorities of the German Presidency. The White Paper I am laying before the House today looks at the priorities of the Portuguese Presidency for the remainder of 2007.

The Portuguese Presidency will concentrate on the EU delivery agenda across a wide range of subjects, building on the positive successes of the German Presidency. It will take forward implementation of the climate and energy package agreed at the Spring European Council in March, including a unilateral 20 per cent. reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. The Presidency will also lead preparations for the December conference of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bali. We will work with our partners to ensure that the EU helps secure agreement on a comprehensive framework to tackle climate change once the Kyoto Protocol expires in 2012. The Portuguese Presidency will also begin discussions on the Commission's proposals for an open, competitive market in gas and electricity.

The Portuguese Presidency will lead Council discussion on the Commission's review of the Single Market, as well as taking forward work on the further liberalisation of postal services, telecommunications and financial services. In addition, the Presidency will present a report on the first 10 years of the European Employment Strategy, and prepare a review of the Lisbon Agenda.

The Portuguese Presidency will take forward the implementation of the Global Approach to Migration, which will intensify partnerships between the EU and third countries of source and transit migration. The Portuguese Presidency will also host an EU-Africa summit in Lisbon in December. The Government hope that a new Joint EU-Africa Strategy will be agreed with African Union partners, covering co-operation on peace and security, governance and human rights, trade and regional integration, and development issues. The EU will also continue to work with international partners to address the challenges posed by Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq and the Middle East Peace Process.

In addition, the Portuguese Presidency will chair an Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) to consider the Reform Treaty for the EU. The Government believe that the IGC mandate secured at the June European Council will make the EU more effective and efficient. This is in the UK's interests. The Government's approach to the IGC is set out in a separate Command Paper, on which I made a statement in the House yesterday.

Action on climate and energy security, reform of the single market, tackling migration and strengthening support for development, particularly in Africa, are important UK priorities where EU action adds real value. We look forward to working with the Portuguese Presidency over an important six months.

HEALTH

GP Services (Better Access)

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): General practitioners in England are among the best in the world. A recent international survey by the Commonwealth Fund showed that the United Kingdom stands out as a clear leader in providing the right incentives for high quality care. I know from my conversations with GPs that many are aware of the need to continually improve services in response to rising public expectations.

In some places, however, patients find it difficult to get an appointment with their GP at a convenient time. For some patients, having a GP surgery that is only open when they are at work is a great inconvenience. In other cases, the ease and convenience of booking or gaining repeat prescriptions could be improved. In some areas, particularly the more deprived, there are fewer GPs and GP services than patients could rightfully expect.

These are major challenges for the 21st century National Health Service as it seeks to improve in response to the rising expectations of patients; expectations for both convenience and quality.

The patient survey of GP services, undertaken between January and March 2007, is the largest ever survey of patients regarding the primary care services they receive. Over 2 million responses were received, giving us a major insight into patients' views of access to GP services. The survey will be used to inform the Government's longer term primary care strategy.

The survey shows that many patients report a good experience of GP services. This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of GPs, primary care nurses and other practice staff. The survey shows:

86 per cent. of people were satisfied that they could get through to their doctor's surgery on the phone;

86 per cent. of people who tried to get a quick appointment with a GP were able to do so within 48 hours;

75 per cent. of people who wanted to book ahead for an appointment with a doctor reported that they were able to do so;

88 per cent. of people who wanted an appointment with a particular doctor at their GP surgery could do this;

84 per cent. of people were satisfied with the current opening hours in their practice; and

94 per cent. of people who were referred by a GP discussed choice of hospital.

The summary report has been placed in the Library and the full results of the survey can be found at: http://www.dh.gov.uk/gppatientsurvey2007.

Practices that offer an accessible service that patients are satisfied with will now receive a payment triggered by the survey results; practices with dissatisfied patients will not. Around £100 million in GP income is linked to the survey results, providing a clear incentive for increased responsiveness.

Of those patients not satisfied with the current opening hours in their practice, 46 per cent. said they wanted the practice to open on a Saturday and 26 per cent. said they wanted the practice to open on a weekday evening.

In addition, people from minority ethnic communities, particularly Bangladeshi and black African groups, were more likely to be dissatisfied with a range of GP services than their white counterparts. There are marked differences in satisfaction between different ethnic groups:

Black/Black British people and Asian/Asian British people had satisfaction rates around 5-10 per cent. below white British people.

People from a Bangladeshi backgroun4 have lowest levels of satisfaction (around 20 per cent. below white British people).

In addition to the concerns raised in the survey, we also know that there is a persistent problem of insufficient doctors in the most deprived areas. For example, last year Barking and Dagenham had 43 GPs per 100,000 population while Northumberland Care Trust had 88; the England average is 61.

The world-class services celebrated in international surveys should be available to all patients in all communities. Good primary care services mean different things to different people and therefore services must be sensitive and responsive to patients' needs.

Lord Darzi's NHS Next Stages Review will look at these issues in detail and make its first, interim report in October 2007, setting out the route by which the NHS of the 21st century will offer a service which meets the needs of modern patients living busy lives. However, in some areas highlighted by the survey, we can make faster progress and I am announcing five measures today to begin this process:

1. I will ensure Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) analyse this rich data and produce robust local action plans to address concerns expressed by patients. These will be made available to the NHS Next Stages review in which I am asking PCTs to actively engage. They will show how PCTs can use existing powers to make rapid service improvements in GP services by the end of this year.

2. Patients tell us they want better information about their own and other GP practices. We will publish new practice data on the NHS choices website, covering practice opening hours and available appointment times, indicators of the quality of care, and what extended services the practice offers. This will be an important first step in improving the information available to patients.

3. I am establishing a National Improvement Team led by the National Clinical Director for Primary Care, David Colin-Thome, who was a highly respected practising GP for over 35 years. This team of experts will give targeted support to poorly performing PCTs and practices to improve access. Their initial focus will be on the areas with the lowest patient satisfaction and fewest doctors per head.

4. I have also asked Professor Mayur Lakhani, the Chair of the Royal College of GPs and a highly respected practising GP, to look at the complex issue of why primary care services are not currently meeting the needs of people from black and minority ethnic communities. He will work closely with the Darzi review in advance of recommendations to tackle these inequalities later this year.

5. The publication of the survey results releases some incentive payments to GPs who are rated very highly for access. To ensure services continue to improve, I have asked Lord Darzi, through the NHS Next Stage Review, to work with the BMA to review the current incentives for GP services (the QOF). Lord Darzi will consider the potential for GPs to be asked to achieve even better outcomes for their patients in order to earn the same level of incentive. In particular Lord Darzi will look at how QOF can reward responsiveness to patient experience in a more effective way, addressing local issues and concerns.

I expect practices with low satisfaction rates to make substantial improvements as a result of these measures. My Department has already agreed a new performance indicator with the Healthcare Commission that uses data from the patient survey. This will ensure that low-scoring PCTs who do not make the improvements that their patients want to see will have their ratings marked down.

Death Certification

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): The Government have today published a consultation paper setting out proposals for improving the process of death certification in England and Wales.

The consultation paper sets out proposals to address the weaknesses in the current system for certifying death which were identified by the Shipman Inquiry. We believe these proposals represent a proportionate and affordable response that will provide greater protection for the public by identifying and deterring criminal activity or poor practice. The proposals will

also improve the quality and accuracy of death certification and remove current inequalities in the way burials and cremations are dealt with.

The consultation paper has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

Medical Expert Witnesses

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Ann Keen): A summary of the responses received during a public consultation exercise, based on the Chief Medical Officer, Sir Liam Donaldson's report, "Bearing Good Witness: Proposals for reforming the delivery of medical expert evidence in family law cases", has been placed in the Library and is available on the Department of Health website at: http://www.dh.gov.uk/Consultations/LiveConsultations/fs/en.

The report's key proposal is that protecting vulnerable children should be a public service, and that the National Health Service should develop a new resource for the family courts by establishing expert witness teams of specialist doctors and other healthcare professionals.

The consultation attracted responses from a wide spectrum of parties and organisations with interests in the family court system. The results from 135 responses received indicated that over 60 per cent., and almost all key stakeholder organisations, approved the proposal to introduce NHS expert witness teams and to commission the expert witness service through a public sector organisation.

The responses confirmed that the introduction of NHS teams should not reserve the work to the NHS, but should offer an additional source of expertise. Responses also suggested that the activity of these teams should be confined, at least for the present, to public law family cases where joint instructions apply, and be commissioned regionally to ensure the independence of NHS experts from the local authority and staff directly involved in the case.

Consultation responses raised concerns over the ability of the NHS to undertake this work within its resources, a shortage of doctors willing to act as expert witnesses, time constraints for those who chose to do so, and possible conflict between a requirement to assist the courts and clinical responsibilities. The availability of trained professionals, particularly those involved in child safeguarding, and shortages of consultants in child and adolescent mental health and in paediatric radiology were among concerns raised over NHS skill levels in some specialised areas.

A substantial number of respondents focused on the deterrent effect of referrals of expert witnesses, particularly paediatricians, to their regulatory body as an unwarranted consequence of their giving expert evidence in court—and regardless of any legitimate cause for complaint. Further measures are envisaged to counter this effect. The Government fully recognises that in order for health professionals to do their job properly and effectively, they need to be clear about the boundaries of the professional and legal framework in which they work. The issues here go broader than those around expert witnesses, into the wider role of medical professionals in the detection and investigation of child abuse and neglect.

In order to help clarify the situation I have recently written jointly with my hon. Friend, the Member for Cardiff West (Kevin Brennan), the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Children, Schools and Families to relevant organisations with a statement setting out the Government's understanding of the legal position as considered in some recent judgements.

The statement, which outlines professionals' duty of care, the legal framework within which they operate, and the basis on which sound professional judgments should be made, has been placed in the Library and is available on the Every Child Matters website: http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/safeguarding.

The role of doctors and other healthcare professionals in acting as expert witnesses is both fundamental and vital to the safeguarding of children's welfare. Any diminution in this resource would be extremely detrimental, and especially to the most vulnerable children and those most at risk of abuse. We shall therefore be supporting the NHS in taking forward the introduction of teams. We envisage this will be through the introduction of path-finding teams in the first instance, but gradually increasing so that NHS healthcare expert witness services will eventually be available throughout the country.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Security Industry Authority

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Vernon Coaker): I am pleased to announce that the Annual Report and accounts of the Security Industry Authority (SIA), 2006-07, will be laid before Parliament on 24 July 2007 and published on that day.

Copies of the report will be available in the Libraries of both Houses.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Learning and Skills Council

The Minister for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education (Bill Rammell): I would inform the House that the Learning and Skills Council for England has today published its Annual Report and Accounts for the period to 31 March 2007. Copies will be placed in both Libraries of the House

JUSTICE

Her Majesty's Courts Service

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I have today laid before Parliament the 2006-07 Annual Report and Accounts for Her Majesty's Courts Service.

Her Majesty's Courts Service has been in operation for two years and during that period it has made huge strides forward in the service it delivers to the public.

The agency has a clear strategic goal which is that all citizens are entitled to access justice, whether as victims of crime, defendants accused of crimes, consumers in debt, children in need of care, or business people in commercial disputes, as quickly as possible. This access should be provided at the lowest cost consistent with open justice so that citizens have confidence in, and respect, for the system of justice.

Over the last year, the courts have seen great change and have achieved much in conjunction with their partners. Significant progress has been made in protecting the vulnerable by tackling domestic violence through both criminal and civil courts, and victims and witnesses protected through better case management and improved safety arrangements. Justice is also being provided in other ways, such as mediation in both civil and family cases so disputes are resolved faster and in less adversarial ways.

During the year, a blueprint for delivering simple, speedy, summary justice in magistrates' courts was launched to reduce delay and make better use of every hearing. In the pilot areas where this was tested, the impact has been very positive with a large reduction in the time taken between first hearing and trial, an increase in guilty pleas at first hearing and those pleading guilty now being sentenced at first hearing.

A similar focus on community justice dealing with the specific concerns of local residents has been successful leading to a decision to introduce it across 11 new areas over the coming year.

The courts have continued with much success to address the challenge of maintaining and improving performance whilst meeting the requirement faced by all Government Departments to work within tight financial constraints.

The Report highlights these and other achievements made by the agency and looks to the future to sustain the momentum and pace of change, and has made a public commitment to deliver a palpable step change, a breakthrough in the public's experience of the justice system.

Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The report is also available on the Courts Service website at www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk

Tribunals Service

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I have today laid before Parliament the Annual Report and Accounts for the Tribunals Service covering the period for financial year 2006-07.

Tribunals are a vitally important part of our legal system, providing access to justice for a large community of users across a wide range of issues, from employment disputes and entitlement, to benefits to asylum and immigration rights. The Tribunals Service has created a new unified administration for the system, bringing tribunals together as an integrated part of our justice system, with the aim of making them more obviously independent and easier for the citizen to use. This first Annual Report sets out its progress over the first year of operation in developing plans to thoroughly modernise the way those services are provided.

Copies of the Report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The Report is also available on the Tribunals Service website at www.tribunals.gov.uk/publications.htm/.

Youth Justice Board

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): The Youth Justice Board's Annual Report and Accounts for 2006-07 has been laid before Parliament today.

Copies of the Report are available on the Youth Justice Board Website at http://www.yjb.gov.uk/en-gb/yjb/Howwework/.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Agency Annual Reports and Accounts

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. Peter Hain): I am pleased to announce that the Department for Work and Pensions has today laid in the House the 2006-07 annual reports and accounts for its executive agencies: Jobcentre Plus (HC712), The Pension Service (HC721), the Disability and Carers Service (HC805), and The Rent Service (HC684).

Copies are available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. Publication of the annual report and accounts of the Child Support Agency has been delayed until after the Summer Recess.

Disability Rights Commission

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. Peter Hain): The Disability Rights Commission's Annual Report and Accounts 2006-07 have been published today and laid before Parliament. The Annual Report demonstrates the DRC's continuing success in its important work to eliminate discrimination against disabled people; promote equal opportunities; encourage good practice, and to keep the working of the Disability Discrimination Act and the DRC Act under review.

The Disability Rights Commission's responsibilities will be taken over by the Commission for Equality and Human Rights when it opens for business in October 2007.

Social Fund Annual Reports

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. Peter Hain): I am pleased to announce Publication of the Annual Report on the Social Fund 2006-07 and the Social Fund Commissioner's annual report.

The Annual Report on the Social Fund for 2006-07 (Cm 7161) was published today and has been laid before Parliament. Copies are available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

The Report records that total gross expenditure in 2006-07, excluding Winter Fuel Payments, was £997 million. This included more than 271,000 non-repayable grants and over 2.3 million interest free loans together worth over £827 million, and Funeral and Cold Weather Payments totalling more than £49 million. In addition around 237,000 Sure Start Maternity Grants worth almost £120 million were made, and 8.6 million households benefited from a Winter Fuel Payment at a cost of around £2 billion.

The report also confirms that reforms to the Social Fund loan scheme were introduced from April 2006, with extra net funding of £210 million over the three years 2006-07 to 2008-09 to support the changes.

The Social Fund Commissioner's report has also been published today and copies will be available in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 25 July 2007

TREASURY

Economic Affairs

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): I propose to present the pre-Budget report and the conclusions of the Comprehensive Spending Review in a single statement to the House in October.

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held on 10 July in Brussels. The items on the agenda were as follows:

Presidency Work Programme

The Portuguese presidency presented its work programme for the next six months. This includes: economic policy, in particular the enlargement of the euro area, the implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact, improving the quality of public finances, the Lisbon strategy for jobs and growth, and the mid-term review of the European growth initiative; the EU's better regulation initiative; completion of the EU's internal market; and the EU's budget for 2008.

Implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact

Ministers agreed Council Opinions on the Stability Programme for Austria and the Convergence Programme for the Czech Republic. Euro area member states are required every year to present stability programmes, and non-euro area member states convergence programmes under the terms of the Stability and Growth Pact. Ministers agreed a decision that the Czech Republic has not complied with the terms of its Excessive Deficit Procedure, and examined a communication from the Commission which concludes that Hungary is taking sufficient action in response to its Excessive Deficit Procedure.

The Euro

Ministers adopted decisions allowing Cyprus and Malta to join the euro on 1 January 2008, and regulations setting permanent conversion rates for the Cypriot pound and the Maltese lira against the euro.

Public Finances in 2007

Ministers held an exchange of views on the Commission report, which contained proposals aimed at strengthening the functioning of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact. Ministers expect to return to the topic at ECOFIN in October.

International Accounting Standards Board: Governance and Financing

Ministers agreed conclusions emphasising the importance of International Financial Reporting Standards for EU financial markets and the need for strong governance and stable funding of the International Accounting Standards Board.

Global Navigation Satellite System (GALILEO)

Ministers held an exchange of views on the possible additional public financing of Galileo, the EU's global satellite navigation system. The UK continued to push for full clarity on costs and a solution that avoids any re-opening or revision of the financial perspective.

IMF Managing Director

Following the resignation of the IMF director, Rodrigo de Rato, ECOFIN also discussed the appointment of a successor. Dominique Strauss-Kahn was suggested as a European candidate. While the Chancellor stressed that he would be a strong and credible candidate, he said it was important for the IMF to run an open and competitive process for the managing director post.

Managing Public Money

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Andy Burnham): Today the Treasury publishes "Managing Public Money". Formally it will replace "Government Accounting" from October. It is part of a suite of documents of which the Code of Good Practice on Corporate Governance in Central Government Departments is the apex. It can be found on the Treasury website. Copies are available in the Library of the House.

The new document makes no significant change to the high standards of stewardship expected of those responsible for handling public resources. Rather, it brings out clearly and concisely how important it is that public money is well managed and achieves good value. At the same time it emphasises that Parliament expects these standards to be honoured and will hold public servants accountable against them.

Tax Credit Administration

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jane Kennedy): HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has identified an administrative problem with a number of older tax credit awards. It has come to my attention that officials did not follow the correct procedure when reopening some of these cases. This now needs to be remedied.

HMRC have estimated that they need to review around 160,000 awards in total from 2003-04 and 2004-05, out of the 6 million households that are benefiting from tax credits. These are cases where information that reduced the households' entitlement came to light after the award for that year had been finalised and closed.

HMRC will shortly be writing to these households to inform them that their case is being reviewed in order to correct this administrative error. HMRC will contact them again once they have completed their review.

Those affected will not need to take any further action themselves, and no household who has their case reviewed as a result of this issue will have their tax credit award reduced.

Although the revised award was an accurate reflection of the households' new circumstances, the process by which HMRC took this into account was not correct. HMRC should have notified recipients in writing at the time that it was examining the award after finalisation, but did not do so in certain cases.

HMRC is now putting in place correct procedures for all subsequent cases, to make sure this problem does not arise again. As part of this, HMRC will also write to around 90,000 households about their 2005-06 awards to make sure they are finalised correctly.

Value Added Tax (Betting, Gaming and Lotteries) Order 2007

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle): The above order subject to the affirmative procedure largely maintains the status quo on the taxation of participation fees for gaming and extends the scope of taxation for charges made for games played against the operator and also to gaming provided illegally. The measure also includes some minor changes resulting from amendments to social law. The provisions of the order are explained in the explanatory memorandum, which is available in the Vote Office and the Library of the House.

The order is being laid today and will come into force on 1 September 2007 because:

it is consequent upon secondary legislation The Gambling Act 2005 (Operating Licence Conditions) Regulations 2007 coming into force on 1 September 2007 made under the Gambling Act 2005 and laid before Parliament in draft on 11 June 2007; and

the main provisions for remote gaming duty were included in the Finance Bill 2007, which received Royal Assent on 19 July 2007.

Time will be made available to debate the order as soon as possible after the House returns from the summer recess.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Regulatory Reform (Next Steps)

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Mr. John Hutton): The Government are today publishing the document "Next Steps on Regulatory Reform", which sets out a range of initiatives that will help realise the benefits of better regulation for businesses, third sector organisations and the public sector front line.

I have placed copies in the Libraries of the House.

Real progress has been made on regulatory reform in the UK over the past 10 years. The UK is taking forward an ambitious and wide-ranging regulatory reform agenda. Delivering on this is central to our overall economic aims - meeting the challenges of globalisation, improving productivity and promoting innovation - in a modern and fair society.

Major improvements include:

improving the stock of regulation with plans for £2 billion savings leading to a 25 per cent. cut in administrative costs by 2010; and

progress towards a risk-based culture in regulators.

The new Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) leads the Government's drive on better regulation. The Next Steps on Regulatory Reform document sets out how the new Department will continue to improve its own regulatory performance, plus the steps the Government as a whole will take to drive improvement.

Action will be taken forward in three principal areas:

A. Targeting simplifications to improve the effectiveness of regulation

(i) BERR's own Simplification Plan

Rethinking Consumer Protection Legislation

BERR is launching a review of the consumer protection regime in the UK. This will:

examine the scope for simplification of existing legislation and enhancing flexibility and future-proofing;

explore avenues to simplify and rationalise enforcement, allowing greater targeting of action on higher risk sectors or businesses; and

investigate the options for improving consumer empowerment and redress.

Working to make employment law more straightforward for all parties

BERR will be working to implement the Gibbons Review of Employment Tribunals, and has an ambitious programme to improve the use of guidance and tools to give business more confidence in dealing with employment issues.

(ii) Relieving the burden of health and safety risk assessment in small and lower risk businesses

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is launching a widely applicable set of concise, practical and sector-specific example risk assessments for a convenience store/newsagent, an estate agent and a general office cleaning contractor. These bring together in one document a sensible response to all their health and safety risk assessment requirements. Example assessments for dry cleaning, hairdressing, cold storage warehousing and catering are planned for launch in November.

(iii) Health and Safety—improving outcomes, easing the burden on low risk businesses

The Government, with support from HSE, are launching a review to consider, from the perspective of low-risk businesses (especially small firms), what more can be done to deliver strong health and safety outcomes in a modern working environment while minimising the burden on business and maintaining the confidence of society. The review is to report by Spring 2008.

B. Helping people understand regulation

(i) High quality and timely guidance

The Government are announcing that they will improve their performance in producing good quality and timely guidance for complying with regulation which has an impact on business. This would be achieved through a package of changes including developing a code of practice for guidance and working to give greater prominence to guidance in the regulatory process.

(ii) Better communication of change

For the next Common Commencement Date in October 2007 the Government will pilot a new approach to providing businesses with information on regulatory change. They will produce a summary document highlighting the most important changes and ensure that this is seen by as many businesses as possible.

C. Holding Government and regulators to account

(i) Working with Parliament

The Government would like to work together with key members of both Houses on how Parliament can play an even fuller part in scrutinising their work to deliver regulatory reform.

(ii) Creating a statutory duty on regulators to address burdens

The Government will work with regulators to frame a power which would allow such a duty to be introduced through secondary legislation at a future date. They would require those regulators whose focus is primarily on business to keep burdens under review and take action to minimise unnecessary burdens.

(iii) Applying the principles of the Regulators' Compliance Code to public service inspectorates

For regulators whose primary work is with business, the Government are developing a Compliance Code which puts risk based enforcement on a statutory footing. The Government will review the case for applying the principles of the code to those regulators whose principal responsibility lies in the public sector.

Small Firms Loan Guarantee

The Minister for Competitiveness (Mr. Stephen Timms): I am today laying a copy of the first Annual Report to Parliament on the operation of the Small Firms Loan Guarantee (SFLG) scheme. SFLG is the Government's principal intervention in the debt market designed to help Small and Medium-sized Enterprises with viable business propositions but insufficient collateral to secure a loan for debt finance.

An independent review, the Graham Review, recommended changes to modernise and streamline SFLG in 2004, changes which were implemented from December 2005. The new form of the scheme focuses on start-ups and young businesses under five years old, simplifies the eligibility criteria, and enables participating lenders to take all operational decisions regarding individual loans, providing their normal commercial lending criteria but for the lack of security are met. BERR has been engaging strategically with lenders to gain a better understanding of how the scheme is being used. Whilst it is too early to assess the full impact of the new form of the scheme on the debt finance gap, the Annual Report highlights initial indications of progress against each of the benchmarks set by the Graham Review. Going forward the focus now will be to continue to build strategic relationships with existing lenders to ensure the full potential of SFLG is exploited, and to extend the lender base to further broaden availability of the scheme. Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

UK Civil Plutonium and Uranium Figures

The Minister for Energy (Malcolm Wicks): The Department will be placing the figures for the United Kingdom's stocks of civil plutonium and uranium as at 31 December 2006 in the Libraries of both Houses. In accordance with our commitment under the "Guidelines for the Management of Plutonium", we will also send the figures to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), who will circulate them to Member States. The figures will be available on the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the IAEA websites.

The figures show that stocks of unirradiated plutonium in the UK totalled 106.9 tonnes at the end of 2006. Changes from the corresponding figures for 2005 are a consequence of continuing reprocessing operations (e.g. as reflected in the increased quantity of unirradiated separated plutonium in product stores at reprocessing plants. High enriched uranium (HEU) stocks decreased mainly as a result of down-blending material recovered during decommissioning of the UK's gas diffusion enrichment plant. The increase in the civil depleted, natural and low enriched uranium figures reflects the increased stocks at the UK enrichment plant at Capenhurst.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Electronic Common Assessment Framework

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Kevin Brennan): I am announcing today the support the Government will provide to front-line professionals in children's services by implementing a single national IT system to support the Common Assessment Framework (eCAF).

The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is a key element of the Every Child Matters programme to transform children's services by supporting more effective prevention and early intervention. Its goal is to provide a standardised approach for practitioners in the holistic assessment of a child's needs and the design of an integrated service to meet those needs.

By facilitating a greater number of early interventions, eCAF will shift the focus from dealing with the consequences of difficulties in children's lives to preventing them from happening in the first place. By facilitating better collaboration between practitioners and encouraging needs-led intervention, eCAF will directly improve the experience of service provision for children and families.

Any given case with a child can involve multiple agencies working across borders, both geographic and organisational. It is, therefore, essential that any supporting mechanism for CAF provides practitioners from different sectors easy access to key information concerning the assessment to allow them to plan, monitor, and review a co-ordinated approach to the delivery of the most appropriate services. eCAF is the response to this need.

eCAF will allow a practitioner to create electronically, store, and share a CAF securely. Completion of CAFs by different agencies and the subsequent exchanges of data between relevant agencies promote multi-agency working and early interventions. The complexities of cross border work are removed, as eCAF provides a consistent approach for all practitioners working in different agencies and locations, thus facilitating the effective and efficient delivery of a coordinated service.

eCAF will only hold information about some (not all) children, with consent, and for a limited period of time. It will offer a systematic means of capturing:

details of child/young person being assessed (i.e. name, gender, date of birth, contact details, ethnicity and immigration details);

details that might be useful for the practitioners working with the child (i.e. child's 1st language, parent's 1st language, disability and whether an interpreter or any other special requirements are needed);

people present at the assessment;

details of parent/carer (i.e. name, relationship, contact details);

family structure, described by the practitioner using free text;

details of person undertaking assessment (i.e. name, organisation and contact details);

name and contact number for the lead professional if applicable;

details of other services working with the child/young person (i.e. school, GP);

assessment summary, appropriately captured by the practitioner using free text; and consent based, planned actions, reviewing progress and a summary of the outcomes, all summarised appropriately by the practitioner using free text.

Children, young people, or where appropriate their parents or carers will be able to ask to see their records and to challenge any inaccuracies, in accordance with Data Protection legislation.

Using eCAF, the assessment process will be enhanced through the removal of unnecessary administration and inherent business issues, allowing practitioners to focus on activities that have the greatest impact. Business issues that eCAF will reduce include unnecessary repeat assessments, inappropriate referrals and inappropriate interventions. Efficiency gains from the reduction of these business issues are expected to yield savings estimated at £150 million over the first eight years from the inception of the national system. We do not intend to reduce funding for children's services, but instead to enable savings realised to be reinvested in more and better services for children and more effective use of staff time. We anticipate that this will enhance staff satisfaction with their jobs.

Using proven technology, the system will be built and implemented on a single nationally, hosted infrastructure that all practitioners will use. Data will be held in a single physical location enabling practitioners to easily work together, accessing the most up-to-date information. The system will have the ability to share data with other case management systems in order to avoid duplication of input when specialist assessments are created. Locally owned systems can be modified to take advantage of this functionality.

The Government will ensure that the eCAF system is secure, and will therefore ensure it complies with rigorous security standards. Access to it will be granted only to authorised users who have undergone appropriate checks, including those provided by the Criminal Records Bureau. Practitioner use of the eCAF system will be audited to ensure information is only accessed where it is necessary for practitioners to do so, and so guard against inappropriate access by authorised users.

Our decision to provide a single national eCAF system has been arrived at using input from stakeholders, the lessons learnt from five local eCAF pilot systems and a comprehensive analysis of eight options, covering a range of variants, from devolved responsibility to a more central approach.

The Government are planning to commit one-off implementation costs estimated to be £44.5 million in total across the next six financial years (including VAT)—this includes funding to roll out the system nationally and ensure practitioners are trained to use the system properly. Operating costs, thereafter, will be £6.4 million per year (including VAT). Both set-up and running costs will be funded by central Government, so that the costs to local authorities do not form a pressure on the Council Tax.

Implementation will be led by a dedicated project team within DCSF. The project team will work closely with stakeholders across local authorities, to ensure that developments continue to be relevant and lead to more effective practice.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Leaseholders' Monies

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright): I have published today a consultation paper on Accounting for Leaseholders Monies which sets out proposals to amend the requirements under the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 (the 2002 Act) for landlords to provide a regular statement of account for service charges to their tenants and for service charge monies to be held in separate designated bank accounts. A copy of the paper has been placed in the Library.

The Government's view is that service charge payers are entitled to receive a certain minimum level of accounting information about the monies they provide. Measures contained in the 2002 Act set out to provide greater transparency and protection for service charge monies.

Following the introduction of the 2002 Act further consultation took place with stakeholders on the content of the regulations that would provide the specific detail of how the accounting provisions would operate. A full public consultation was undertaken in June 2004. Following detailed consideration of the responses to the June 2004 paper it has been decided that our proposals for the content of the regular statement of account, requirements of the certification process and for the holding of service charges in a separate account should be revised. This was in order to examine fully whether the objectives behind the legislation could be achieved without creating unnecessary burdens upon landlords and ultimately additional charges for leaseholders that were highlighted as arising under previous proposals.

The consultation runs until 4 October 2007 and the Government would welcome responses to their proposals up until that date.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): On 27 March 2007 my hon. Friend the Member for Oldham, East and Saddleworth (Mr. Woolas), the then Minister for Local Government, announced that 16 of the 26 proposals from local authorities for the creation of unitary local government would proceed to stakeholder consultation. These proposals were in response to our "Invitation to Councils" issued on 26 October 2006.

The stakeholder consultation ended on 22 June. Since then we have reassessed the 16 proposals against the five criteria in our original invitation, having regard to all the further material and representations received as a result of that consultation and to all other currently available relevant information.

These five criteria are that change to future unitary structures must be affordable, and be supported by a broad cross-section of partners and stakeholders; and the future structures must provide strong, effective and accountable strategic leadership, deliver genuine opportunities for neighbourhood flexibility and empowerment, and deliver value for money and equity on public services.

My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, has now decided to proceed as follows.

She is minded to implement the nine unitary proposals listed in table 1 below, if and when the necessary legislative provisions in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill, which passed this House on 22 May and is currently being considered in the other place, are enacted.

Her judgment is that there is a reasonable likelihood that all these proposals, if implemented, would achieve the outcomes specified by the five criteria, and we believe we can afford to implement them all. We do not therefore need to prioritise these proposals in order to decide which ones to implement, as explained in the written statement on 27 March.

These new unitaries, as they move towards implementation, will need to take into account our developing agenda for empowering citizens and communities and for stronger economic leadership, as set out in the Government's Green Paper, "Governance, of Britain", published on 3 July, and the review of sub-national economic development and regeneration, published on 17 July. Implementation will also need to take into account the recommendations of our Councillors Commission, when it reports in November.

We recognise on the basis of the available information that in four cases - the proposals from Bedford borough council, Chester city council, Exeter city council, and Ipswich borough council—there are risks to their achieving the outcomes specified by the affordability criterion. Accordingly, we are asking these councils to undertake further work and submit additional information on the financial viability of their proposals. We will have regard to this information along with all other relevant available information before taking final decisions, if and when the Bill is enacted.

Implementing Bedford borough's proposal means that we must consider the future local government structures for the remaining county area. We are satisfied that this area needs unitary local government, and we intend formally to invite all the other councils in Bedfordshire to propose a unitary solution that would meet our five criteria for that remaining area.

Once implemented these nine proposals, on the basis of councils' current estimates, will save over £150 million annually, giving councils opportunities for improved services and lower council taxes. The proposals open the door to creating new flagship councils which can lead the way on meeting today's challenges of promoting prosperity, empowering citizens and communities, and modernising local service delivery.

Table - 1 Proposals we are Minded to Implement

Councils Submitting Proposals	Proposed unitary structure
Bedford Borough Council	Bedford Unitary
Chester City Council	2 Unitary Cheshire
Cornwall County Council	County Unitary
Durham County Council	County Unitary
Exeter City Council	Exeter Unitary
Ipswich Borough Council	Ipswich Unitary
Northumberland County Council	County Unitary
Shropshire County Council	County Unitary
Wiltshire County Council	County Unitary

In addition, the Secretary of State is minded to request the Boundary Committee of the Electoral Commission to advise on Norwich city council's proposal, if and when the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill is enacted. She intends to specify in her request that the matters on which the Committee's advice is sought include whether for the areas affected by this proposal—Norwich city and the remaining Norfolk area—there could be alternative unitary solutions involving boundary changes that would meet the five criteria set out in the original invitation.

She judges there is not a reasonable likelihood of Norwich city council's proposal, based on the city's current boundaries, if it were to be implemented, achieving all the outcomes specified by the five criteria, particularly the affordability criterion. We believe having regard to the circumstances of Norwich that alternative proposals based on revised city boundaries would achieve these outcomes.

Further, the Secretary of State is minded not to implement the six unitary proposals which were subject to stakeholder consultation and are listed in table 2 below.

Table - 2 Proposals we are not Minded to Implement

Councils Submitting Proposals	Proposed unitary structure
Bedfordshire County Council	County Unitary
Cheshire County Council	County Unitary
Cumbria Council	County Unitary
Northumberland Districts	2 unitary Northumberland
North Yorkshire County Council	County Unitary
Somerset County Council	County Unitary

For two of these proposals—from Bedfordshire county council and Cheshire county council we judge there is a reasonable likelihood that, if implemented, they would achieve the outcomes specified by the five criteria. However, these proposals are alternatives to unitary proposals that the Secretary of State is minded to implement as we believe these latter proposals are likely to deliver to a greater extent the outcomes on leadership, neighbourhood empowerment, and public services than the proposals from the county councils. For the remaining four proposals we judge there is not a reasonable likelihood of them, if implemented, achieving the outcomes specified by all the five criteria.

I also confirm that we remain minded not to implement the 10 proposals which my hon. Friend announced in March would not proceed to stakeholder consultation.

In all cases where unitary proposals are not proceeding, all the councils involved now need to put in place new collaborative ways of working together to promote the prosperity of their local areas, empower their citizens and communities, and modernise local service delivery. In such areas we will look to the councils together to achieve the same level of outcomes and efficiency gains as the highest performing unitary councils.

The five pathfinder proposals from councils in Buckinghamshire, Dorset, Hertfordshire, Lincolnshire, and Suffolk should, as they are taken forward and develop, lead the way for all councils in remaining two tier areas to deliver better services and achieve efficiency gains.

Accordingly, I am today informing the pathfinder councils that we wish to work with them with a view to their pioneering new and innovative models of two tier working as explained in our White Paper "Strong and Prosperous Communities: The Local Government White Paper" (Cm 6939-1). As indicated in the White Paper we intend these pathfinders to be subject to independent long-term evaluation. This evaluation, reporting at regular intervals, will look at both the processes of changing to new governance models and at the results the new models are delivering.

DEFENCE

Ballistic Missile Defence

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): On 5 February 2003 the the Secretary of State for Defence announced the Government's agreement to a request from the US to upgrade the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System radar at RAF Fylingdales. The UK already makes a contribution to US capability in the area of missile warning, through our operation of the radar at RAF Fylingdales. That upgrade process is now complete and we expect that the radar will switch its operations to the new equipment from August 2007. There is no change to the existing UK-US mission for the radar and the station remains under full UK command. Its primary mission is to warn of ballistic missile attack, with secondary functions of space surveillance and satellite warning. The radar will contribute to the US ballistic missile defence system, alongside a global network of other US-owned sensors based on land, at sea and in space and the data it produces is shared between the UK and US military authorities. The UK will have full insight into the operation of the US missile defence system when missile engagements take place that are wholly or partly influenced by data from the radar at RAF Fylingdales.

Also, at RAF Menwith Hill, equipment will be installed and operated by the US Government to allow receipt of satellite warnings of potentially hostile missile launches, and will pass this warning data to both UK and US authorities. The data will also be fed into the US ballistic missile defence system for use in their response to any missile attack on the US. This will guarantee the UK's continued access to essential missile attack warning data, as well as enhancing the US's ability to deal with any attack aimed at their country.

The Government welcome US plans to place further missile defence assets in Europe to address the emerging threat from rogue states. We welcome assurances from the US that the UK and other European allies will be covered by the system elements they propose to deploy to Poland and the Czech Republic and we have been exploring ways in which the UK can continue to contribute to the US system as well as to any future NATO missile defence system.

These developments reflect the Government's continuing commitment to supporting the development of the US missile defence system. We continue to regard this system as a building block to enhance our national and collective security. NATO has made no decisions about acquiring missile defence for the alliance, and we want to examine how the US system can be complemented and built upon to provide wider coverage for Europe. We have no plans to site missile interceptors in the UK but will keep this under review as the threat evolves. We also want to reassure Russia about the defensive nature and intent of the US system as it develops and to take forward alliance cooperation with them in the field of missile defence.

Operation Banner

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): On 31 July, Operation Banner will come to an end; the Army, Royal Air Force and Royal Navy having delivered continuous support to the police and civil authorities in Northern Ireland for 38 years. It will have been the longest continuous deployment of UK Armed Forces in their history.

As we move into a new era with fewer than 5,000 troops resident in Northern Ireland, trained and available for deployment worldwide, the military will retain some limited but specific responsibilities with the capability to deploy in situations of extreme public disorder in support of the Police Service of Northern Ireland under a new operation to be known as Operation Helvetic. The troops deployed in such circumstances would come from wherever they are available at the time. In addition, provision of Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) will continue.

Across the UK the Armed Forces can provide support to the civil authorities during emergencies under normal Military Aid to Civil Authorities tasking arrangements. Where there is an imminent threat to life, such as major accident or natural disaster, the authorities can call upon local military commanders for support. After 1 August the vast majority of military support in Northern Ireland will be broadly comparable to the assistance that is currently provided in Great Britain, tailored for the particular circumstances in Northern Ireland. Additionally, whilst the Armed Forces are not responsible for maintaining national security in the UK, that does not mean that they would not and could not provide specific support in this area to a civil authority when requested to do so. Again the approach in Northern Ireland will be brought more closely into line with that on the mainland.

As indicated in the Good Friday Agreement, military helicopters will continue to be based in Northern Ireland, but with a worldwide deployable role. As a consequence,

essential flying training will continue in order to maintain the skills of the aircrew and, with Northern Ireland designated as Low Flying Area 19, the training emphasis will be similar to other areas within the UK. Helicopters will also continue to be used in Northern Ireland in support of the civil authorities. It is important to note that the civil authorities in Northern Ireland do not have access to large numbers of civilian helicopters and we will continue to provide support to them.

1 August marks the beginning of a new era for the UK Armed Forces in Northern Ireland when, as with other parts of the country, the military will become very much part of the community. The impact of the commitment since 1969 has been considerable on both the military themselves and on the MOD civilians supporting them. They and the community at large have suffered both death and injury. We should take this opportunity to remember the commitment, bravery and sacrifice of all those who have served over so many years in helping deliver the current, more settled and more optimistic circumstances. Our recognition will culminate in a Commemorative Service to be held in the spring of 2008 as announced by my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Defence in his statement of 9 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 11WS.

RAF Hercules XV206 Board of Inquiry

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): I am able to inform the House today of the findings of the Royal Air Force board of inquiry into the loss of the RAF Hercules XV206 in Afghanistan on 24 May 2006.

The purpose of a board of inquiry is to establish the circumstances of the loss and to learn lessons from it; it does not seek to apportion blame.

The board of inquiry was convened on 25 May 2006 and has considered a mass of evidence. The board has established that on 24 May 2006, an RAF Hercules C130K on a routine operational passenger and freight flight landed at Lashkar Gar Tactical Landing Zone. On landing the aircraft suffered significant damage to the front port main landing gear, resulting in debris puncturing the port wing fuel tanks, which in turn caused an uncontrollable wing fire leading to the loss of the aircraft. The board has concluded that these events followed the detonation of an explosive device buried under the surface of the tactical landing zone. Following extensive investigation the board concluded that the device was an anti-tank land mine.

A "Military Aircraft Accident Summary" is being placed in the Library of the House and on the MOD's website. In addition, a redacted version of the main body of the board of inquiry report will also be available on the website. As you will appreciate, the safety of our people is a principal consideration and we have removed from the report any information that might endanger the security or capability of UK and coalition personnel or be of use to an enemy. We have, however, tried to be as open as possible and have carefully considered the public interest arguments both for and against disclosure of the information in the report. We have ensured that each redaction can be justified by an appropriate exemption in the Freedom of Information Act.

I remind the House that the purpose of the inquiry in identifying those factors which contributed to the loss is to identify lessons to be taken forward, rather than to apportion blame. The board made a number of recommendations that we will study closely. Indeed, we have acted on many of them already. The main recommendation was that we review the force protection procedures at tactical landing zones. Air Command and Permanent Joint Headquarters have developed revised force protection procedures and tactics to be employed at tactical landing zones in operational theatres. These are now being used by force protection teams on operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

The board of inquiry concluded that, had the aircraft been fitted with explosion suppressant foam, it would not have prevented the loss, as explosion suppressant foam does not prevent fuel leaking if the tank is punctured.

I express my gratitude to the president of the board and his team for their painstaking work.

Future of ABRO and DARA

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): On 22 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 67WS, the MOD announced its intention to create a new defence support group by merging together ABRO, retained DARA business units and certain other defence support facilities. I can now confirm that, following the successful conclusion of trade unions consultation, the MOD will proceed with implementation of this merger. The new support group will begin formal trading by April 2008, subject to securing the necessary parliamentary approval.

I can also confirm that work continues to progress the sale option for DARA's Rotary Wing and components businesses. Vector Aerospace have been selected as the preferred bidder, and I hope to be able to make a definitive announcement on the way forward later this year, subject to trade unions consultation, completion of due diligence, and the satisfactory conclusion of negotiations that demonstrate the sale provides best value for defence.

Mental Health Statistics

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): I previously advised the House on 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1752W, on 30 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 155W and on 8 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 91W that the Department has been reviewing its methods of collating figures on service personnel diagnosed with a mental health disorder. I am pleased to be able to inform the House that the review process has now been completed, and that the Defence Analytical Services Agency (DASA) will be publishing its first quarterly report based on an improved method of collecting information on its website www.dasa.mod.uk today. Copies will also be made available in the Library of the House.

The Department has moved from a system of recording and reporting mental health statistics relating solely to Operation TELIC (Iraq) to a new

system covering all in-service personnel assessed with a mental health disorder at the Ministry of Defence's out-patient Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMH). The report also includes a return for new in-patient admissions under the MOD's contract with the Priory Group. The new reporting system has several advantages over the old:

It is more comprehensive because it covers all service personnel;

It is more robust because it verifies individual records of mental disorder against other datasets—such as deployment databases;

There is less potential for subjective bias, because individual staff members in the DCMHs are no longer being asked to make a judgment as to whether a mental disorder is attributable to a specific operation.

The findings to date show that the numbers of service personnel assessed with a mental disorder in the first quarter of 2007 are low—around 5.8 per 1,000 strength, or 0.58 per cent. of the total armed forces population. The numbers of service personnel assessed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during the same period are around 0.3 per 1,000 strength or 0.03 per cent. of the total armed forces population. The actual numbers of individuals affected is 41 from Iraq and 13 from Afghanistan

Any casualty of combat is clearly a matter of regret, and we are committed to helping those whose mental health suffers. The publication of the first results of our new method of collecting and analysing data demonstrates our continuing commitment to understanding the true relationship between service on deployed operations and mental ill-health and to making the results available to inform Parliament and the public.

In recent years, the Department has developed pre and post deployment briefing and training to all personnel, but in particular to medical staff and the chain of command, to increase awareness of mental illness, and to mitigate the development of PTSD and other stress-related disorders occurring among service personnel. It has configured our mental health services to provide community-based mental health care in line with national best practice—establishing 15 military Departments of Community Mental Health across the UK (plus satellite centres overseas). It has introduced a Reserves Mental Health Programme to assess and, if appropriate, treat recently demobilised reserves. It has expanded the scope of its Medical Assessment Programme (MAP) at St. Thomas's hospital to provide assessments by an expert in military mental health for any veterans suffering from mental health problems since 1982. And it has been working with UK Health Departments and clinical experts to establish a new community-based arrangement that will make available to NHS health professionals expertise in the assessment and treatment of veterans' mental health problems; pilots to trial this arrangement will be launched shortly.

I am confident that the more comprehensive quarterly reports will offer an increased understanding of mental health statistics as the dataset grows over the coming years.

Nuclear Steam Raising Plant

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): I am pleased to announce that a 10 year partnering contract worth up to £1 billion has been signed with Rolls-Royce, for the in-service support of Nuclear Steam Raising Plants which power the Royal Navy's submarines. This contract is a key deliverable under the "Defence Industrial Strategy" published in December 2005.

This landmark 10-year contract marks a significant departure from former practices and will transform Rolls-Royce's relationship with the Department in this sector. It will sustain the UK capability in the long term, enable the risks and rewards to be managed jointly, and is a further example of partnering in action. Rolls-Royce and MOD will work together as a single, high-performing team, to improve performance and drive down costs. Savings of over £120 million are anticipated over the term of the contract.

The Nuclear Steam Raising Plant drives not only our current submarines but will also power the new Astute submarines. Rolls-Royce has been supplying Nuclear Steam Raising Plants to the Royal Navy for almost 50 years from their production site at Raynesway in Derby, and this new contract will help secure the future of staff working in this part of the business.

The contract sustains the UK's capability to support Nuclear Steam Raising Plants, as stated in the defence industrial strategy, and uses the principles of the MOD's procurement reform programme to develop more effective relationships with one of our top ten major industrial partners.

Today marks a significant achievement in securing the UK's capability to support submarines in the future.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Landfill

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Joan Ruddock): My hon. Friend the Member for Exeter responded to a written answer on 6 June to the hon. Member for Milton Keynes South West, *Official Report*, column 556W, about the tonnages of waste from local authority areas within Greater London that were sent for disposal to a number of landfill sites in 2003 and 2005.

I have been advised that data for eight of the nine sites provided was incorrect and reflected the total amount of waste landfilled, rather than waste that came solely from Greater London.

The correct data (in tonnes) are shown in the following table:

Landfill Sites	2003	2005
Stewartby (L Field)	281 ,048	60,534
Rainham	315,310	667,257
Pitsea	219,067	305,137

Landfill Sites	2003	2005
Mucking	655,928	714,043
Calvert Pit No 4	440,375	528,507
Brookhurstwood	112,408	87,590
Brogborough	934,812	1,146,361
Arlesley	38,476	46,477
Appleford	57,236	157,915

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Wilton Park

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy): Wilton Park is an academically independent Executive Agency of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Its annual report and accounts for 2006-07 are laid before Parliament today.

Wilton Park has had a successful year, continuing to deliver high-value conferences contributing to our overall Foreign Policy effort. Wilton Park has significantly improved its financial performance over the past year and has met its financial targets.

HEALTH

NHS Pharmaceutical Contractual Arrangements

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo): My right hon. Friend the former Minister of State (Andy Burnham) announced the outcome of a Departmental review of the progress made in reforming market entry arrangements for community pharmacies in England, 11 January 2007, *Official Report*, col.19ws. This report found that whilst still early days, those reforms had had a modest albeit uneven impact and identified a number of concerns.

To address these, my right hon. Friend therefore announced a review of National Health Services pharmaceutical contractual arrangements. This would meet the commitment in paragraph 4.47 of "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say" to develop pharmaceutical contractual arrangements in line with the wider ambitions of that White Paper. He appointed Anne Galbraith, former Chair of the Prescription Pricing Authority, to lead the review.

Anne presented her report to Ministers in the spring. We have been considering and continue to consider Anne's findings and conclusions carefully. The All Party Pharmacy Group also recently completed its own inquiry into pharmacy services, published on 26 June at http://www.appg.org.uk/inquiry.htm.

I believe it is important that we reflect further on these reports in the context of wider developments that are taking place in the NHS, and in particular the wide-ranging review which my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson) announced to the House on 4 July 2007, *Official Report*, col 962.

We have therefore decided to defer responding formally to Anne Galbraith's review until later this autumn. We will come forward with a White Paper, which will set out our future proposals for developing pharmacy services and any legislative reform necessary. We remain committed to pharmacy, its place in the NHS and its role in delivering quality services to patients and consumers.

In advance of this, we are launching today a Departmental consultation on proposals to transfer to primary care trusts allocations residual money still held centrally at the Department to support NHS pharmaceutical services.

This money, known as the "Global Sum", covers a range of fees and allowances which are payable to community pharmacies under the national contractual framework, for the provision of dispensing and other essential pharmaceutical services. Central funding also similarly pays appliance contractors, who supply patients with items such as stoma and incontinence care aids.

This proposal, subject to Parliamentary approval, would not come into force earlier than April 2009. It would bring this funding stream into line with other funding, which already pays pharmaceutical contractors for the costs of the drugs and appliances that they dispense, and align funding systems with those of other primary care professionals such as general practitioners and dentists.

Although this is a small change to the legislation, it is important that the NHS and other organisations are given the opportunity to consider it in full prior to our introducing the necessary legislation.

The consultation document has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office. It is also available on the Department's website at http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/index.htm.

Consultation will end on 16 October 2007. We look forward to hearing the results. Subject to the outcome of this consultation, we expect to include these proposals in the forthcoming Health and Social Care Bill.

HOME DEPARTMENT

National DNA Database

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): Further to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Member for Leigh (Andy Burnham) on 16 February 2006, on the subject of the National DNA Database, I am pleased to announce that we are establishing an Ethics Group to provide Ministers with independent ethical advice on the operation and practice of the National DNA Database (NDNAD).

The Ethics Group will be chaired by Professor Peter Hutton, Professor of Anaesthesia at the University of Birmingham. Its membership will be as follows:

Mrs Wendy Coates
Ms Madeleine Colvin
Mr Michael Menlowe

Dr Andrea Pearson

Dr Clive Richards

Dr Sarmeer Sarkar

Ms Sarah Thewlis

Dr Suzy Walton

The Ethics Group is being established as an Advisory Non-Departmental Public Body. Its role in relation to the NDNAD will include:

Reviewing the appropriateness of policy and practice;

Ensuring the maintenance of high ethical standards in decision making;

Ensuring that the public interest is properly served in relation to the way in which DNA samples and profiles are provided and stored.

The Ethics Group will also provide advice on:

Research applications that involve access to NDNAD samples or data;

Operational services provided by suppliers that rely upon access to NDNAD samples or data;

Matters referred to it by Ministers; by the NDNAD Strategy Board or on its own initiative.

The Ethics Group will submit a formal report by the end of April each year and this will be published by the Home Office.

I am arranging for the Protocol which will govern the operation of the Ethics Group to be placed in the Library.

Criminal Records Bureau

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): I am pleased to announce that copies of the Annual Report and Accounts for the Criminal Records Bureau 2006-07 have been placed in the Library of the House today. Arrangements are now in hand for their publication.

Identity and Passport Service

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) annual report and accounts 2006-07 has been laid before Parliament today. Copies have been placed in the House Library and are available on the IPS website.

Immigration Removal Centre

The Minister of State, Home Department (Mr. Liam Byrne): Following the disturbances at Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre last November and Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre in March this year, Mr. Robert Whalley CB was asked to carry out an inquiry into the circumstances leading to both events. I can announce that the inquiry is now complete and that the resulting report has been published today.

I am grateful to Mr. Whalley and his team for carrying out the inquiry and can confirm that the report has been submitted to Lin Homer, the Chief Executive of the Border and Immigration Agency. I have put a copy of the report in the House Library together with a copy of the agency's action plan responding to recommendations made by the report for both Harmondsworth and Campsfield House.

I have accepted Mr. Whalley's recommendations in full. Action plans have been prepared and combined with an ambitions strategy for increasing deportations of foreign nationals who are in the UK illegally. I have commenced this action plan yesterday by breaking the ground on the new Brook House Immigration Removal Centre at Gatwick. Alongside this I can announce I have approved plans to strengthen and expand Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre. We will incorporate lessons learnt from Harmondsworth and Campsfield in the new designs. The Brook House development, along with our plans to redevelop the Harmondsworth site, will boost projected detention space by 23 per cent.

The removal of failed asylum seekers was at its highest level in 2006. The increased capacity of the new wings at Harmondsworth and the new Brook House will provide a major contribution to our plans for doubling resources for immigration policy.

Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (Lord Carlile's Report)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): In accordance with section 14 (3) and 14 (5) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005, Lord Carlile of Berriew QC prepared a report on the operation of the Act in 2006, which the Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism and Police laid before the House on 19 February 2007.

I am grateful to Lord Carlile for his detailed report and I have given close consideration to his recommendations. Following consultation within my department and with other relevant agencies, I am pleased to place my response to Lord Carlile's recommendations in the House Library today.

JUSTICE

Civil Court Fees

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I am today announcing the outcome of the recent consultation on Civil Court Fees. The consultation paper was published on 2 April and the consultation closed on 25 June. Some 77 responses were received from the judiciary, legal professions and other stakeholder bodies.

After careful consideration of these, I have, with some adjustments, decided to proceed with the changes proposed. Three statutory instruments containing the new civil, family and non-contentious probate court fees will be laid before the House tomorrow and will take effect on 1 October.

A further statutory instrument containing the new fees for magistrates courts is still being drafted and will be laid during recess. However, this should not affect the implementation date. A report analysing the responses to consultation will be published on 1 October.

The current system of exemptions and remissions has been replaced with a new system of concessions that will apply to all the fees orders. The scheme will be based on two distinct tests.

The first test will determine whether the applicant is automatically entitled to a full remission of the court fee. This will apply if the applicant is currently receiving a prescribed means-tested benefit or, failing that, can demonstrate that their gross household income is below a threshold that probably entitles them to such a benefit.

The second, more detailed test will consider both gross income and fixed out-goings to assess the applicant's net or disposable income. The applicant may then be required to pay a contribution towards the fee based on a fraction of their disposable income. This system is a simplified version of the means test for legal aid.

In light of the responses received, we have reconsidered the original proposals and have adjusted some of the fees accordingly, putting together a package of solutions that positively and affordably addresses the majority of concerns, those are:

A majority agreed that the new concession should have a residual discretion to grant remission in exceptional circumstances not covered by the means test. A clause has been added to allow this. Full training will be given to staff to understand what can and can not be considered exceptional to maximise consistency.

Vexatious litigants who would normally be exempt from paying court fees due to financial hardship will be required to pay the full fee of an application for permission to bring a case.

Some of the proposals for downstream civil fees have been adjusted to better reflect the cost of the stages concerned, for example the fee for allocation questionnaires and listing questionnaires has changed. This has created scope to make larger reductions to some of the higher issue fees than originally proposed, meeting the criticism that these were too low.

In the magistrates courts, a fee of £400 was proposed for appeals against the decisions of public authorities, mainly licensing decisions. Some respondents objected that this proposal was likely to deter those individuals appealing to the granting of liquor licenses in their neighbourhood. As a consequence, the definition has been amended so that it only applies to an appeal against a decision by a local authority to refuse a licence. The general fees which apply to miscellaneous magistrates civil proceedings will apply to an appeal against the granting of a licence.

Many consultees disagreed with the scale of proposed increases to fees for ancillary matters such as oaths, copying and searches. As a consequence, a number of detailed adjustments have been made.

The proposal to pilot daily hearing fees in the specialist commercial jurisdictions in 2008 was met with opposition from respondents representing the views of legal practitioners and the judiciary of those courts. We therefore propose to review the scope proposed, to then be the subject of a target consultation. As a result, any introduction of a scheme is unlikely to take place before 2009.

Land Registry

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): On Friday 10 August 2007, Land Registry will launch a formal consultation exercise to seek views on proposals to create electronic legal charges (a form of mortgage) and other services that it proposes to make available on the Land Registry Network during 2008.

Proposed new Land Registration rules would, among other things, prescribe an electronic charge as the first kind of electronic disposition of registered land in England and Wales. Once an electronic legal charge has been created, a customer will be able to apply, using the Land Registry Network, for it to be registered.

It is proposed that the Land Registry Network will also be used to provide an enlarged and enhanced electronic lodgement service in respect of applications for certain entries in the register and an enhanced Chain Matrix, which is an information tool that allows conveyancers and others to view the status of linked conveyancing transactions.

Subject to the outcome of the proposals and the advice and assistance of the Rule Committee, it is anticipated that the new rules would come into force during 2008.

Office for Judicial Complaints

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): With the concurrence of the Lord Chief Justice I will today publish the first Annual Report for the Office for Judicial Complaints (OJC).

I welcome the publication of this report, which provides details of the OJC's first year of operation and the complaints which it has dealt with. The OJC undertakes a key role in supporting the Lord Chief Justice and myself in our joint responsibility for the system of judicial complaints and discipline.

The publication of this report marks the first occasion on which comprehensive details of complaints received about Judicial Office Holders have been made available to the public in this way.

I believe that the report reflects the significant work undertaken by the staff of the OJC under the leadership of the Head of the OJC, Dale Simon, during its first year of operation.

I am sure that the Office will build on this solid foundation in the coming years.

Copies of the Report are available in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. Copies of the Report are also available on the Internet at http://www.judicialcomplaints.gov.uk/publications/publications.htm.

PRIME MINISTER

Intelligence and Security Committee Report

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I am grateful to the Intelligence and Security Committee for their report on Rendition (Cm7171). Following consultation with the Committee over matters that could not be published without prejudicing the work of the intelligence and security agencies, I have today laid the report before the House.

I have also laid before the House today the Government's response to this report (Cm7172).

Copies of the report and the response have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Machinery of Government: Defence Trade Promotion

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): The Government believe trade promotion for defence exports should be more effectively integrated with the Government's general trade support activities, while recognising and accommodating the specific requirements of the defence sector.

Therefore:

the Government will look to move responsibility for defence trade promotion from the Defence Export Services Organisation to UK Trade and Investment. This will provide much greater institutional alignment across Government and build on the success of UK Trade and Investment;

within this new framework, account will need to be taken of the specific features of defence exports, including the continuing role of the Ministry of Defence. No change is envisaged to existing and planned agreements between the Ministry of Defence and other Governments which will continue to be administered by the Ministry of Defence. Also, those functions of the Defence Export Services Organisation which support UK defence policy and the Armed Forces will be allocated elsewhere within the Ministry of Defence.

The Cabinet Office will lead work across Government to develop an implementation plan which will be completed by the end of 2007. Institutional arrangements replacing the Defence Export Services Organisation will come into effect as quickly as possible thereafter.

Review of Intercept as Evidence

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I am today announcing the Review of Intercept as Evidence to advise the Government on whether a regime to allow the use of intercepted material in court can be devised that facilitates bringing cases to trial while meeting the overriding imperative to safeguard national security.

The review will be conducted by the right hon. the Lord Archer of Sandwell, the right hon. the Lord Hurd of Westwell, the right hon. Member for Berwick-upon-Tweed (Alan Beith) and the right hon. Sir John Chilcot, who will also act as the chair. It will consider:

the benefits that might reasonably be expected to result from such use (in terms, for example, of increases in the number of successful prosecutions in serious organised crime and terrorism cases);

the risks, including from exposure of interception capabilities and techniques;

the resource implications of any change in the law;

the implications of new communications technology; and

the experiences of other countries and their relevance to the UK.

I have invited the review team, if possible, to report their conclusions by the start of the next parliamentary session in November.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Scott Review

The Solicitor-General (Vera Baird): My right hon. Friend the Attorney-General has made the following written ministerial statement:

"In January 2006 Mrs. Brenda Downes commenced judicial review proceedings in the High Court in Belfast relating to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland's appointment of Mrs. Bertha McDougall as Interim Victims Commissioner. At the conclusion of the proceedings, the trial judge, Girvan J, raised a number of issues relating to the way in which Government have complied with their duty of candour in the proceedings and listed 68 questions that he considered needed investigating. He referred the matter to my predecessor in office, Lord Goldsmith.

Lord Goldsmith told this House on 23 November 2006 that he had decided to appoint an independent reviewer to investigate the concerns raised by Girvan J and to report to him. On 4 December 2006 he announced that he had appointed a very experienced counsel, Peter Scott QC, to carry out the review. His terms of reference were:

Further to the referral of papers to the Attorney-General by Girvan J and in the light of his judgments of 9 November and 20 November 2006:

to examine the concerns raised by the judge;

to examine in particular the way in which the Government carried out its obligation of candour in the judicial review proceedings relating to the appointment of an interim Commissioner for Victims and Survivors;

to report to the Attorney General with recommendations to prevent a recurrence of any shortcomings identified.

Mr. Scott completed his review and reported to the Attorney-General on 25 June 2007.

In the course of carrying out a thorough investigation, Mr. Scott has said that he received prompt and helpful responses from all those involved and that he believed that he had access to all the material he required. He found no evidence that warranted police investigation. Nor was there any intention on the part of the individuals involved to mislead or obstruct the court.

He has however concluded that there were serious shortcomings in the handling of a request under the Freedom of Information Act that preceded the litigation and, in some respects, in the litigation that followed, and Mr. Scott concludes his report by making a number of recommendations aimed at preventing a repetition of the issues that have arisen in this case. The recommendations are in three key areas—the handling of freedom of information requests, the handling of judicial review applications and, finally, on Northern Ireland court procedures. He recommends that while FoI requests and judicial review proceedings create handling difficulties, both would benefit from greater strategic control and more effective controls over processing, these to be strengthened by regular review to identify and address problems arising. In respect of court procedure, Mr. Scott suggests consideration is given to the adoption of a pre-action protocol, similar to that in use in England and Wales.

I have placed copies of report in the Library. In order to protect the identity of civil servants cleared of any intention to mislead or obstruct the court, with the exception of the most senior officers, the report has been anonymised."

TRANSPORT

Barking to Gospel Oak Railway

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris): The Department for Transport has today announced a contribution of £18.5 million from the Productivity section of the

Transport Innovation Fund (TIP) to enhance the Gospel Oak to Barking line which is an important rail artery through east and north London. The improvements will deliver a number of benefits:

they will enable the line to carry more goods and larger containers from the important and growing ports in the south east, including the new development at London Gateway (Shell Haven), to other parts of the rail network including the West Coast Main Line; and

they will provide rail freight customers with an alternative route during future maintenance works on the North London Line.

TIP was established by the Future of Transport White Paper (July 2004). Productivity TIP is one part of this fund. It supports packages and schemes which are expected to make a major contribution to the UK's economy.

Further Productivity TIP schemes are still under consideration for funding. Announcements will be made on these on a case by case basis.

Highways Agency (Annual Report and Accounts)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris): The Highways Agency Annual Report and Accounts for 2006-07 are published today, under Section 7 of the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000. Copies of the report are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

Highways Agency (Traffic Officer Service Progress)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris): In June 2003, the then Secretary of State for Transport committed the Government to establishing the Traffic Officer Service on England's motorways, reflecting the Highways Agency's change of focus to become a network operator. Since then, the Service has been rolled out in phases across the motorway network, supported by a strong partnership with the police. The Highways Agency has recently reported on the progress made during the period from April 2006 to March 2007. I am pleased to report that the Agency has now completed the full transfer of traffic management functions from the police and the Traffic Officer Service is now fully operational.

Starting in April 2004, the Traffic Officer Service has developed from the initial pilot in the West Midlands to a position where it is performing the full range of traffic management functions formerly undertaken exclusively by the police. The agreement with all 39 police forces that routine traffic management functions are now fully transferred to the Agency, leaving the police to focus on criminal activity, is the final milestone in establishing the Service.

The Traffic Officer Service is providing a valuable service to the public. Traffic Officers are now clearing incidents more quickly, reducing the impact of incident related congestion, and reducing the risk of secondary incidents. There is increasing recognition of the Service by road users and their experience of the Service is very positive.

Information gathered from the police confirms that the Service is enabling the police to redeploy resources on to core policing activities, and they are attending fewer minor incidents.

Now that the Traffic Officer Service is fully established, the Agency will measure the effectiveness of the Service through a performance framework and will publish the results in its annual report. The performance framework will be kept under review to ensure that the measures used are appropriate and support the objectives of the Agency to provide a safe and reliable strategic road network.

MSC Napoli

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): This statement is to update the House on the progress of the salvage operation for the MSC Napoli. Since the ship was beached in Lyme Bay on 20 January, an effective salvage operation has removed almost all of the fuel oil and all of the containers from the ship. The final container was removed on 17 May 2007. Only very small amounts of fuel oil, located in hard to reach sections of the ship, remain.

The most significant remaining task is the disposal of the ship and work on this is already underway. We were aware that our options for disposing of the ship would be dependent upon the condition of the ship itself and this could not be assessed properly while the ship was beached. Accordingly, the MSC Napoli was refloated on 9 July. A subsequent dive survey revealed that the hull was in an extremely fragile state. To reduce the risk of the ship breaking up in an uncontrolled manner, the Secretary of State's Representative for Maritime Salvage and Intervention (SOSREP) took the decision to re-beach the ship.

A small amount of oil leaked from the ship during this operation. Clean up procedures were put into operation immediately and while a number of birds are reported to have been oiled, we believe that the environmental impact was not severe.

Once it was apparent that the entire ship could not be removed from Lyme Bay, SOSREP's advice was that the best course of action was to separate the ship into two parts. The bow section of the ship is relatively intact and retains buoyancy. On the other hand, the stern section, which contains the ship's engines, cannot be floated. By separating the two sections of the ship, we would have the opportunity to reduce the impact on Lyme Bay's natural environment that would result from dismantling the entire ship in its current position.

Accordingly, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, with assistance from the Ministry of Defence, carried out a series of controlled detonations, using cutting charges, on the ship on 17, 18 and 20 July, with the aim of cutting the ship in two as cleanly as possible. Following the final set of detonations, the ship was separated on 20 July.

The stern section of the ship will need to be dismantled in its current location. The ship owners are currently tendering a contract for this work and are drawing up a detailed time-line. Plans for this work will need to take into account the protection of the local environment of Lyme Bay.

We believe that it should be possible to dismantle the bow section of the ship in line with the UK's strategy on ship recycling, with little or no adverse environmental impact. The bow-section of the ship will initially be held in deeper water in Lyme Bay, while the owners identify a suitable location for recycling.

I would like to express my thanks to SOSREP and the team of salvage, counter-pollution and environmental experts for their ongoing efforts in this situation.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): The Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill currently before this House provides for a non-departmental public body, the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, to administer the statutory scheme of child maintenance in place of the Child Support Agency. Schedule 1 of the Bill states that the Commission will be headed by a chair and a chief executive.

The recruitment process for the chair has already begun. This is in anticipation of Royal Assent in spring 2008: by commencing the recruitment process at this stage, we intend that a chair will be in place when the Commission comes into being as a legal entity following Royal Assent. This will ensure that the Commission has the clear leadership, direction and accountability it requires in place from day one.

Parliamentary approval for additional resources of £300,000 for this new service will be sought in a Supplementary Estimate for the Department for Work and Pensions. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £300,000 will be met by repayable cash advances from the contingencies fund.

Deregulatory Review of Private Pensions

The Minister for Pensions Reform (Mr. Mike O'Brien): On 9 March this year, my right hon. Friend the Member for Stalybridge and Hyde, (James Purnell) the former Minister for Pensions Reform, announced that Chris Lewin and Ed Sweeney, who had been appointed as external reviewers to the Deregulatory Review, had published their consultation paper. I am pleased to advise the House that I am today laying a copy of their report in the Library of the House.

I am grateful to Chris Lewin and Ed Sweeney for all their hard work over the last seven months and for their thorough and thoughtful report.

The purpose of the Deregulatory Review is to simplify the private pensions regulatory framework and to reduce regulatory burdens, bearing in mind the need to strike a balance between protecting members' benefits and encouraging employer provision of pensions. The review was initially announced in the May 2006 Pensions White Paper.

We will carefully consider the recommendations and look forward to discussing them with key stakeholders. We expect to produce a full response in the autumn outlining our decisions.

The report will be available on the Department's pensions reform internet site later today.

Personal Accounts Delivery Authority

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. Peter Hain): I am pleased to announce the appointment of Paul Myners as the Chair Designate of the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority. His appointment will take effect as from 1 August. Paul Myners brings extensive experience to this role from his time as a director of N M Rothschild and Sons Ltd. and National Westminster Bank, in addition to non-executive positions at Marks and Spencer and Orange. This knowledge will be invaluable to the Delivery Authority in its initial advisory role to the Government and later when, subject to parliamentary approval, it faces the challenging task of implementing the personal accounts scheme.

Subject to parliamentary approval, personal accounts will be set up as a trust based occupational pension scheme. The scheme will be set up in accordance with a framework set out in legislation and will be aimed at people on low to middle incomes. It will feature low charges and will use automatic enrolment, fulfilling one of the key recommendations of the Pension Commission report.

Implementing such a major occupational pension scheme, with the potential for up to 10 million members, is a sizeable task requiring particular skills and experience. Consultation with stakeholders across the financial services industry, employers, the Trade Union Congress and customer representatives highlighted the need to establish an independent body, staffed by professionals in the field, to be responsible for delivering personal accounts.

The Government are absolutely committed to making personal accounts a success. That is why we are setting up an independent body with the necessary skills and experience to get the policy design of personal accounts right, and to ensure that the interests of members remain at the heart of the scheme. As chair designate of the Delivery Authority, Paul will bring a proven track record and a wealth of experience in the financial sector. One of his first tasks will be to take part in the selection of the authority's chief executive.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 26 July 2007

TREASURY

Business Tax Reforms

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jane Kennedy): The Treasury has today published a discussion paper entitled "Business Tax Reforms - capital allowances changes". Copies of the document are available in the Vote Office and the Libraries of both Houses.

Ultra-Low Sulphur Diesel

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle): Finance Bill 2008 will contain provisions amending the definition of ultra-low sulphur diesel (ULSD) in the Hydrocarbon Oil Duties Act 1979, to take retrospective effect from 4 September 2007.

The Motor Fuel (Composition and Content) (Amendment) Regulations (SI 2007/1608) issued by the Department for Transport require oil suppliers to supply sulphur-free diesel (SFD) to garage forecourts from 4 December 2007. While the current duty rate on both ULSD and SFD is 48.35p per litre, mixtures of the two fuels meet neither definition, and are liable to the heavy oil duty rate (currently 54.68 ppl).

In the transitional period before and after the DFT regulations come into force, there may be occasions when ULSD and SFD need to be mixed, and the high rate of duty may act as a disincentive for the industry to supply SFD. The provisions will remove the density and distillation requirements from the ULSD definition, so that mixtures of ULSD and SFD will meet the ULSD definition. Bringing forward the deregulatory changes to the definition of ULSD will ensure the smooth changeover from ULSD to SFD.

Small Businesses and Settlements Legislation

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle): The Government acknowledge the judgement given by the House of Lords in the Jones v Garnett (Arctic Systems) case.

The Government are committed to maintaining fairness in the tax system. The case has brought to light the need for the Government to ensure that there is greater clarity in the law regarding its position on the tax treatment of 'income-splitting'.

Some individuals use non-commercial arrangements (arrangements that they would not reasonably enter into with an arms-length third party) to divert income (which would, in the absence of those arrangements, have flowed to them) to others. That minimises their tax liability, and results in an unfair outcome, increasing the tax burden on other tax-payers and putting businesses that compete with these individuals at a competitive disadvantage.

It is the Government's view that individuals involved in these arrangements should pay tax on what is, in substance, their own income and that the legislation should clearly provide for this. The Government will therefore bring forward proposals for changes to legislation to ensure this is the case. In the meantime, HMRC will apply the law as elucidated by the House of Lords and will be providing guidance in due course.

The Government would not want commercial arrangements to be caught by any change to legislation. Consultation should help to ensure this.

Flooding (Tax Help)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jane Kennedy): The Government have taken a series of steps to support individuals and communities affected by the recent flooding.

In addition to this, I want to ensure that people affected by flooding do not have to worry about tax and related issues at this difficult time and to make it easy for them to receive their tax credits. Individuals or businesses affected by the flooding should get in touch with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) who will be able to provide practical support and advice. For example, HMRC will consider:

- suspending collection of taxes and duties, or agreeing instalment arrangements where customers are unable to pay as a result of severe hardship;
- practical arrangements where individuals and businesses have lost records in the flooding;
- suspending debt collection proceedings; and
- deferring and suspending compliance checks and investigations.

HMRC will not charge penalties where they are satisfied that customers have missed deadlines as a result of the flooding. In addition the Government will bring forward legislation in next year's Finance Bill which will allow the Commissioners of HM Revenue and Customs to waive interest and surcharges on tax paid late due to the floods. The Government propose to make this legislation retrospective from the date of this announcement. The Commissioners will exercise their discretionary powers not to collect such interest and surcharges in the interim.

HMRC will also support those who have difficulty sending in their tax credit renewals on time or notifying HMRC of any change in circumstances. Individuals affected by the floods should contact HMRC who will take steps to ensure that tax credits continue to be paid at the right level.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

OECD Innovation Review (North of England)

The Minister for Competitiveness (Mr. Stephen Timms): We welcome the announcement that the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is to carry out an Innovation Review of the North of England.

The OECD launched the series "Reviews of Regional Innovation" to address a demand by national and regional governments for greater clarity on how to strengthen the innovation capacity of regions. These reviews are part of a wider project on competitiveness at the regional level. The North of England is one study in this series. The work builds on the OECD's existing areas of expertise including territorial reviews of regions (such as the recent territorial review of Newcastle) and reviews of national level policies.

To be successful, the UK has to continue to build a knowledge-based economy. Encouraging better innovation performance within our regions is pivotal to this end. The Government are committed to improving the economic performance of all UK regions. This regional review of innovation will help develop effective, realistic strategies to raise the rate of sustainable economic growth in the North of England. Greater insight into innovation in the North will directly aid the Northern Way's contribution to regional economic performance.

The review is co-funded by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Northern Way. The Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills is also heavily involved, due to its interest in regional innovation systems. In addition to the project sponsors, the OECD will work collaboratively with core partners across the North, including the three Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) and the N8, which is a powerful alliance of Northern England's eight research-intensive universities.

Objectives of the Study

The review will examine how innovation can be more effectively harnessed to benefit the Northern economy. Through clear recommendations and benchmarking, the review will provide guidance as to how the North can optimally develop its innovation capacity.

The specific aim is to help the North better understand the barriers and opportunities for innovation in the region. The report will look to:

benchmark the North's performance in innovation against other OECD regions;

take forward the debate on key aspects of innovation policy and governance;

establish a framework on which subsequent monitoring and evaluation of policies can be based; and

develop recommendations for national and regional level actors to improve the regional innovation system.

The review will look at the innovation strategies of each of the three regions individually, and include site visits from international experts. However, it will also look at how common approaches and collaborations across the whole of the North may better capitalise on existing assets for the benefit of the Northern economy as a whole. The study will also specifically address whether the North has specific needs vis-à-vis the rest of the UK.

The report will provide recommendations to national, regional and local institutions (in both the public and private sectors) on how to improve the efficacy of the regional innovation system.

Timescales

A final report on Innovation in the North of England is expected to be submitted to the OECD's Territorial Development Policy Committee in June 2008. It is due for publication in autumn 2008.

Informal Competitiveness Council (Lisbon)

The Minister for Competitiveness (Mr. Stephen Timms): The following statement provides information on the Informal Competitiveness Council in Lisbon on 20 and 21 July 2007, at which I represented the UK. The meeting was chaired by Manuel Pinho, Portuguese Minister for Economy and Innovation.

Friday 20 July

SME Policy

The mid-term review of the EU's SME Policy was discussed. The Presidency presented a discussion paper on four main topics:

Innovation on Financing;

Better Regulation;

Internationalisation; and

Energy Efficiency.

Ministers agreed on the urgent need to tackle challenges identified in the Presidency's paper. There was strong support for ongoing work towards reducing EU admin burdens by 25 per cent. Several Ministers called for more to be done to encourage cross border investment and for more information to be provided to SMEs on third country markets. A few Ministers wanted more benchmarking, though I cautioned against duplication. I called for a re-focus on encouraging SMEs to grow and for more action on better regulation, access to finance and ensuring that SMEs could exploit opportunities provided by moves towards a low carbon economy.

There was good support for the role of the Competitiveness Council in monitoring developments in SME policy. Günter Verheugen, Commission Vice-President urged the Competitiveness Council to evaluate effects of other policies on SME competitiveness.

Dinner—The State of the EU economy

Dinner was devoted to a discussion on "EU Growth: Cyclical or Structural?", with guest speaker Professor Francesco Giavazzi of Bocconi University, Milan and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. I noted the impact of recent economic growth performance by the EU.

Saturday 21 July

Sustainable Industry Policy

Ministers debated sustainable industry policy, based on the Commission's recent Communication on the mid-term review of Industry policy. Discussion was focused on three key pillars of a sustainable industrial policy: 1) Acceleration of innovation and creation of lead markets; 2) Full exploitation of the European internal market for the development in sustainable goods, services and technologies markets; and 3) "first mover" advantage, exporting EU know-how in the low carbon economy to external markets.

Ministers agreed that a more efficient product policy could be a major contribution for competitiveness and sustainability of European enterprises. They also agreed that the promotion of lead market initiatives for low carbon and efficient products and services was an important way of speeding up transition towards a low carbon economy and to put Europe as a frontrunner in global markets. I stressed the need to identify market failures and supported wide ranging action on product policy, such as standards and labelling. There was general support from the Ministers.

Regional Development Agencies

The Minister for Competitiveness (Mr. Stephen Timms): I have today laid before Parliament the Annual Reports and Accounts for 2006-07 for the eight Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) outside London. Copies have been placed in the House Library.

The Annual Report and Accounts for the London Development Agency are presented to the Mayor of London rather than to Parliament. I shall provide a copy to the House Library when these are available.

Also published today are the RDAs' reported outputs for 2006-07. These results are evidence that the RDAs continue to play a valuable role in improving the economic performance of the English regions and, through working with their partners, the RDAs are making a real difference to the individual regional economies concerned. The figures cover the number of jobs created and safeguarded, the number of people assisted to get a job, the amount of brownfield land brought back into use, the number of businesses created, the number of businesses assisted to improve their performance, the number of people assisted in their skills development and the amount of public and private sector regeneration infrastructure investment levered, all as a result of RDA activity.

Press releases on the outputs have been issued in each region. Copies of the output results have been placed in the House Library, and are also available on the website of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform at http://www.berr.gov.uk/regional/regional-dev-agencies/rda-performance/page24205.html.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Planning Consultation Papers

The Minister for Housing (Yvette Cooper): During the summer recess, the Government will issue consultation papers on proposals to reduce the Secretary of State's involvement in casework, streamline the arrangements for tree preservation orders and transfer a wider range of appeals from the Secretary of State to the Planning Inspectorate. These proposals will take forward commitments made in the White Paper "Planning for a Sustainable Future" (Cm 7120). In addition, the Government will issue a consultation paper on a possible amendment to Section 237 of the Town and Country Planning Act, to improve the implementation of regeneration projects by removing an impediment to the use of land once construction has finished. Copies of these papers will be made available in the Libraries of both Houses.

Tall Buildings Guidance

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright): In conjunction with my colleague the Minister for Culture, Creative Industries and Tourism, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, I would like to bring to the attention of the House the guidance note on tall buildings prepared jointly by English Heritage and the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE), which is published today. This updates and supersedes previous guidance published in 2003 and reflects changes to the planning system since that time.

The Government's aim is to ensure local planning authorities are getting the right developments in the right places, which we consider to be a fundamental part of creating places where people will want to live and work, now and in the future. Recent reforms to the planning system have helped to reinforce this message, making clear that all new development should be of good quality and designed in full appreciation of its surroundings and context. Tall buildings, in the right places and appropriately designed, can make positive contributions to our cities.

The Government therefore welcome this updated guidance, which will assist local planning authorities when evaluating planning applications for tall buildings, including, importantly, the need for effective engagement with local communities. It also places a greater emphasis on the contribution that design can make to improving the character and quality of an area. It offers good practice guidance to a range of stakeholders in relation to tall buildings in the planning process, provides practical advice on achieving well-designed solutions in the right places, and is capable of being material to the determination of planning applications. Copies of the documents are being placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

DEFENCE

DSDA Longtown

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): I have now approved, effective from 1 August 2007, the early closure of the non-explosive (NE) elements of the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency (DSDA) site at Longtown.

Under the Future Defence Supply Chain Initiative (FDSCi) the MOD assessed a range of options for managing and operating the defence supply chain to reduce costs of ownership, while maintaining or improving service levels and enhancing operational capability. The selected option included plans for the withdrawal of all non-explosive storage from DSDA Longtown by mid-2009.

Since the announcement, work has been undertaken to design a stock relocation plan that will reposition Longtown non-explosive (NE) stocks to other retained DSDA sites. The stock relocation plan has matured and, as a consequence, it is now clear that DSDA has the opportunity to bring forward the planned Longtown NE closure date to the end of July 2007.

The proposal to withdraw NE stocks from Longtown early will affect 62 staff. Approximately 350 staff will be left at the site. Additional staff will be required for the ammunition box task (refurbishing ammo boxes), which transfers from the NE to the explosives business at the site on 31 July 2007. As a consequence there will be no early release scheme or compulsory redundancies.

I recognise that the early withdrawal of NE stocks from DSDA Longtown will not be a welcome prospect for those staff who stand to be affected. DSDA is, however, confident that it can manage the changes without recourse to compulsory redundancies through

a combination of the transfer of staff to vacancies on the Longtown explosive site and by releasing staff on fixed term appointments.

Consultation with the trade unions has been completed and there were no substantive matters raised that preclude implementation. On this basis I have decided to fully implement the change.

Operational Effectiveness

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): I am today announcing a number of initiatives which will enhance our operational effectiveness.

The 1998 strategic defence review identified the need to have robust strategic lift capability to ensure success on operations and we subsequently leased four Boeing C-17 Globemaster aircraft. Our experience of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan has reinforced this judgment and last year we announced our intention to procure these aircraft at the end of their lease in 2008 and also to procure a fifth C-17 aircraft, which will enter service in May 2008. We now intend to purchase a sixth C-17. The aircraft, which can be delivered in 2008, will be a significant boost to the UK's strategic airlift capability and will provide greater robustness in our ability to transport troops and equipment quickly to wherever they are needed.

As part of the NATO-led international security assistance force mission in Afghanistan, we are deploying on a rotational basis with our Canadian and Dutch allies, a 2 Star (Divisional level) Headquarters in command of Regional Command (South) (RC(S)) based in Kandahar. We are also responsible for providing HQ Multi National Division (South East) in Basra, Iraq. In order to meet these temporary demands we have decided to augment the forces' command structure, and will temporarily establish an additional 2-Star deployable HQ. It will be based in York and will be known as HQ 6 Division, with a core of 55 Service personnel, drawn from existing structures. We will keep our planning assumption under review but currently we assess this HQ will be established until 2011.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agency Annual Reports

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw): The following Annual Report and Accounts 2006-07 were laid before Parliament yesterday.

Rural Payments Agency
Marine Fisheries Agency
Animal Health (formerly State Veterinary Service)

Copies of each report are available in the Libraries of the House.

Private Sewers Transfer

The Minister for the Environment (Mr. Phil Woolas): On 22 February 2007 the Government announced that existing private sewers and lateral drains, connected to the public sewer in England, should be transferred into the ownership of the nine statutory Water and Sewerage Companies. The announcement followed an extensive review of current ownership arrangements.

The Government undertook to consult on a range of ways transfer could be implemented and to examine how the proliferation of new private sewers could be prevented.

I am pleased to report that a Consultation Paper "Consultation on Private Sewers Transfer - Implementation Options" was published yesterday. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House and can be accessed on the DEFRA website.

Climate Changes Agreement

The Minister for the Environment (Mr. Phil Woolas): I am pleased to announce today the publication of the report of the third target period report for the Climate Change Agreements (CCAs). Copies of the report have been placed in the House Libraries.

Climate Change Agreements are working—securing a saving of 16.4 million tonnes of CO_2 in 2006, 7.3 $MtCO_2$ more than the minimum signed up to in their agreements.

We have seen continued improvement across all sectors in Climate Change Agreements, with nearly all facilities having their Climate Change Levy discounts renewed. Businesses have found more opportunities to improve energy efficiency, and they should be congratulated on their commitment and innovation to meet and go beyond a challenging set of targets.

However, there is no room for complacency. Although almost all sectors have improved their energy efficiency performance, and most have saved energy overall, it will be increasingly tough for many businesses to keep meeting their targets unless they find new and additional opportunities to save energy.

Overall, 32 out of the 49 sectors covered met their targets outright, and in a further 10 sectors all the facilities had their Climate Change Levy discounts renewed.

In total, 99 per cent of facilities (9830) were recertified through meeting their own targets or because their sector met its target. 461 facilities left the agreements or did not report, probably due to closure. Another 23 were decertified because they failed to meet their targets.

Update on Flooding

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): Even before this month is over, we know that England will have experienced the three wettest months to the end of July on record, with at least twice the average rainfall. Many people from the south-west to the north-east of the country are still suffering from the effects of the extreme weather of the past six weeks, and I wanted to continue to update the House before recess.

Earlier this week, the most pressing issue was the potential flooding of the Walham Switching Station in Gloucester. I am pleased to say that due to the magnificent efforts of the armed forces, Environment Agency, Fire Service, Transco and others who worked

so hard to maintain the temporary defences, power continued to flow. I can also report that a stronger, although a temporary, protective structure will be put in place as soon as possible.

Nearly all the properties that were without power have had power restored, and everything possible is being done to connect the power to remaining properties as quickly as possible.

The key issue in Gloucestershire is now the supply of water. Mains water for sanitation purposes should be restored today to the Tewkesbury area. However, this will not be drinkable and residents will be advised of this. Drinking water will still be available from bottled supplies and bowsers. Every effort is being made to restore the water treatment works at Mythe as soon as possible, and I pay tribute to the work of all those on the site. As of 9am today 140,000 households are still without piped water and this will remain the case for some days to come. Through established collaboration arrangements with other water companies, Severn Trent Water now have over 900 bowsers and tanks in place. The refilling operation is now the priority, and at Severn Trent's request the army is now helping with this. Tankers from the army and from the brewing and dairy industries have been brought in to add to the tankers which the company itself has provided, and offers of tanker help are still being received. I am extremely grateful for the co-operation that we have had from the dairy, food and drinks industries in making vehicles available. The military and supermarket groups helped to deliver 2.5 million litres of bottled drinking water yesterday and 3 million litres are planned for today.

We take for granted a plentiful supply of clean water and Members will know how difficult it is when this is not available, particularly for vulnerable people. Whilst local authorities and other agencies have done an excellent job to date identifying and providing assistance to vulnerable people, I would ask everyone to continue to help those less able to help themselves. There have been some outstanding examples of community co-operation and we must not let isolated instances of more selfish behaviour detract from this.

The absence of piped mains water, and the continued presence of flood waters, pose potential risks to public health. The Health Protection Agency has issued advice which covers both the dangers associated with entering flood waters, and how best to deal with sanitation without mains water. I urge people in the affected areas to listen to this advice.

Although priority is being given to the public, the welfare of animals is of course also important. The interruption to water supplies is posing difficulties for some livestock farmers in getting water for their animals. While many farmers have access to alternative sources of water, some do not. Officials are working closely with the RSPCA, NFU, and other farming organisations in assisting farmers to source water. I chaired a further meeting of COBR on Tuesday evening and official level COBR meetings are taking place regularly, reporting to me.

This morning the Environment Agency still had six severe flood warnings in place, three on the Severn from Gloucester upstream to Tewkesbury, one on the River Ock (a tributary of the River Thames at Abingdon) and two on the River Thames between Oxford and Wallingford. Elsewhere things are improving, including on the Great Ouse in Bedfordshire and in Hull where severe warnings had been in place since June.

River levels on tributaries in and around Oxford rose yesterday and further properties flooded in the Osney area of the city. The Environment Agency advises that the levels on the River Severn continue to fall and should not reach the levels of earlier in the week over the next few days.

On the River Thames the first peak flow is still making its way down the lower reaches of the river with a second peak following around two days later. This is currently going through Reading. The Environment Agency advises today that further flooding to properties is probably still unavoidable from Caversham down river to Shepperton—including parts of Henley, Marlow and other areas. The Environment Agency continues to monitor the situation closely, and, where possible measures are being put in place to protect people and property. Key installations are being protected on a precautionary basis.

The Government are still collecting information on the overall numbers of properties flooded from rivers and surface waters and sewers. I advised the House that up to 10,000 properties may have been flooded. This is still our best estimate but as better information comes in the number may be revised upwards but is unlikely to exceed 15,000.

The Prime Minister visited Gloucester and Tewkesbury yesterday and I have seen the situation in Oxford today. Ministerial colleagues have visited Reading, Purley-on-Thames in West Berkshire, Pangbourne, Tewkesbury and Gloucester in the last two days. There will be further visits to affected areas in the days ahead.

On funding, as I have announced previously, the revised Bellwin Rules to assist local authorities with 100 per cent. of their eligible emergency costs over the standard 0.2 per cent. threshold and the £20 million flood recovery grant fund will apply in all areas flooded since the middle of June.

The Department of Children, Schools and Families will increase its support to schools and children's services which have been disrupted by the flooding by up to a further £4 million. This funding will be made available to those local authorities affected by the floods in recent days to help them ensure that schools and early years services are, as far as possible, able to re-open in September; and to support wider children's services, including the provision of additional summer activities and family support.

Many businesses have been badly affected by the flooding. In total almost £8 million of RDA support has been announced, both in response to the initial flooding in Yorkshire and Humberside and the current flooding. The five RDAs with affected businesses all have in place a Flood Recovery Scheme offering small business up to £2,500 to aid their recovery effort.

The RDAs are also considering whether to increase the amount available to small businesses and other means of support are available for business. Yorkshire Forward has launched a scheme offering between £10,000 and £100,000 per company for larger businesses.

In total, £46 million of help is available. In addition, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury has today issued

a statement on the assistance that HM Revenue and Customs can provide for those affected by flooding.

Current estimates from the ABI show that 7,000 businesses were affected by the June flooding and around 1500 more will have been affected by the July flooding although many businesses are still underwater. The Minister for Floods Recovery has discussed the latest flooding with the head of the ABI and the Government will continue to work with the Insurance industry and others to ensure that the needs of householders and businesses are dealt with rapidly.

The Department for Transport will continue to work very closely with affected local authorities on capital funding support needed to repair local roads, bridges and other transport infrastructure damaged by the floods. At this stage, when much of the infrastructure is still flooded, it is not possible to make good estimates of the total damage, but all reasonable claims will be considered by the Department.

Department for Transport are appointing consultants who will work with authorities and advise on the remedial work which is needed and the claims they are putting forward. The Department is also taking steps to ensure that emergency work can take place as soon as possible without waiting for claims to be settled.

For farmers, the restrictions on using machinery on waterlogged soil have been lifted and the Rural Payments Agency have been authorised to allow farmers to use set-aside land for grazing of animals and harvesting of hay and silage. The lifting of these restrictions will now be extended until the end of August 2007.

These floods have had a significant and distressing effect on families and individuals. The Department for Work and Pensions is helping people on income related benefits or the lowest of incomes affected by the flooding with essential costs through Community Care Grants and repayable interest-free Crisis Loans. A contingency reserve of £1 millions can be drawn on as needed to meet the extra call on grants to help with the replacement of essential household items.

As at 20 July, the Department for Work and Pensions had already paid Community Care Grants totalling £396,000 to people on qualifying benefits to meet the cost of replacing essential household items. In addition, Jobcentre Plus has put in place special measures locally to ensure that this assistance is easily accessible to people in need who have been affected by the flooding. Total payment is of course, rising every day.

As these latest floods recede, the recovery co-ordination, led by the Floods Recovery Minister, the Member for Wentworth (John Healey), will add to the existing remit of Yorkshire and the Midlands, the areas affected by the most recent flooding.

I am determined that we will learn the lessons from what has happened and our conclusions must be robust and followed through. As I have already announced, we will ask an independent person to oversee this exercise.

I know that Members have requested that arrangements be put in place during the recess to enable them to raise points and be briefed on issues affecting their constituents. This is particularly important given that the emergency is still far from over both for those still facing the risk of flooding and for those who are still out of their houses or businesses.

I will therefore write to all Members by the end of the week setting out the arrangements we will put in place.

Finally, I would like to extend my profound thanks to all those who are working so hard to deal with this situation and to offer our sympathy and understanding to all those whose lives continue to be severely disrupted.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Travel Advice

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Meg Munn): Travel Advice is one of the most important public services which the Foreign and Commonwealth Office delivers. We provide Travel Advice notices for 218 countries and territories based on the most accurate and up-to-date information available to us. With the constant growth in international travel, more people are using FCO Travel Advice. In 2006, the FCO Travel Advice website received, on average, 150,000 visitors a week and our call centre handled 62,700 telephone enquiries over the course of the year.

Travel Advice is designed to help British travellers to make informed decisions about travelling abroad and it is therefore kept under regular review to ensure that the information it provides remains of the highest quality.

Following feedback from British travellers and tour operators about Travel Advice, we have identified areas where we could improve the language we use to explain the nature of the terrorist threat. The principles of FCO Travel Advice, as agreed in the 2004 Review (Command Paper 6158), in relation to the threat from terrorism, remain unchanged. It will continue to draw on intelligence assessments, open source and media reporting, the local knowledge of our overseas posts and their diplomatic reporting. We are now introducing four generic threat descriptors, intended to clarify the scale of the terrorist threat to the travelling public. Drawing from our experience of what our customers need from Travel Advice, we consider that these descriptions are the most helpful to the travelling public given the innate difficulty of describing the threat from terrorism. The descriptors, as agreed with the travel industry and other stakeholders, are:

"A high threat from terrorism" means a high level of known terrorist activity.

"A general threat from terrorism" means some level of known terrorist activity.

"An underlying threat from terrorism" means a low level of known terrorist activity.

"A low threat from terrorism" means no or very limited known terrorist activity.

Our Travel Advice will continue to reflect the best judgements we can make at the time, though, as we have seen in the UK, it is possible for attacks to take place without prior warning. I believe that these changes will improve our Travel Advice to give effective information to help British travellers make informed decisions about their travel plans and personal security overseas.

VFS Online (Independent Investigation)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): The report of the independent investigation into the breach of data security in the VFS online UK visa application facility, operated through VFS websites in India, Nigeria and Russia has been laid before Parliament today, together with the Government's response. It is also available on UKvisas' website at www.ukvisas.gov.uk.

I record my appreciation for the independent investigator's prompt, full and thorough investigation. I am satisfied that the facts have been correctly established and that the conclusions are sound. Our priority has been to understand what happened in this case so that UKvisas and their partners can learn important lessons. The report enables them to do so. I can accept all the recommendations.

I note the independent investigator's finding that, despite vulnerabilities in the commercial partner's online application facilities from their launch in 2005 until they were closed in May 2007, there is no evidence that data from VFS websites in India, Nigeria and Russia has been misused or visas wrongly issued. The websites in question will remain closed.

I am publishing with the report my response to the investigator's recommendations. The investigator has found that since May 2007 VFS and UKvisas have taken the issue seriously and applied significant resources to identifying weaknesses and putting into place improved skills and oversight. I shall ensure a continuation of this joint effort in line with the investigator's findings.

I welcome the investigator's finding that the global contracts recently concluded with two commercial partners have improved consistency in the partnership programme and are more detailed in their scope. They provide a sound basis for full implementation of the Investigator's recommendations. UKvisas will take all necessary steps to ensure the new contracts are implemented rigorously in partnership with VFS and CSC, to the benefit of the effectiveness and efficiency of the visa process.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Vernon Coaker): I am today laying before Parliament, with the Comptroller and Auditor General, the annual report and accounts for 2006-07 for the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority. It is being laid before the Scottish Parliament by the Scottish Ministers simultaneously.

The annual report and accounts describes the activities of the authority in paying financial compensation to victims of violent crime, under the terms of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1995.

The accounts estimate the final settlement value of cases in progress and the predicted value of applications which have not yet been received in respect of crimes that have already occurred. As a result, the balance sheet at 31 March 2007 shows net liabilities of £1,187 million.

In 2006-07 the authority received 60,861 applications for compensation and resolved 59,096. The number of cases outstanding at 31 March 2007 was 87,543. The proportion of cases decided within 12 months was 62.9 per cent.

Independent Police Complaints Commission

The Minister of State, Home Department (Mr. Liam Byrne): I wish to inform the House that I am publishing today a consultation document on the implementation of measures in the Police and Justice Act 2006 extending the Independent Police Complaints Commission's jurisdiction to cover the Border and Immigration Agency's enforcement functions. Copies of this consultation document have been placed in the House Library.

We have embarked upon an ambitious programme of reform of the Border and Immigration Agency to improve the effectiveness of our immigration controls. Change in three key areas will make a substantial difference to the organisation's performance. Establishing the Border and Immigration Agency as an executive agency will provide greater autonomy to deliver effective immigration controls within a policy framework agreed by Ministers. The new regional structure, more responsive to local communities, will keep the public in touch with how the agency is performing in their particular region. The introduction of tougher, independent oversight and accountability to Parliament and the public will ensure we build confidence in the new system moving forward. All are of equal importance in helping us secure the objectives of the immigration enforcement strategy published in March.

The IPCC will support these reforms by providing independent oversight of the most serious incidents and complaints and an assurance that agency staff will be held accountable to an independent organisation. This oversight will be in line with that which the IPCC provides for the police and other law enforcement bodies. While the new chief inspector created by the UK Borders Bill will monitor the effectiveness of the agency as a whole, the IPCC will provide expert, independent oversight on the actions of enforcement staff in individual cases. The consultation paper sets out the proposed content of the regulations detailing the exact remit of the IPCC and invites comments which will inform the final version.

The consultation period ends on 17 October 2007. We will then report on the results of the consultation and our proposed course of action.

UKvisas

The Minister of State, Home Department (Mr. Liam Byrne): The UKvisas annual report for 2006-207 will be published on 8 August and I will place copies in the Libraries of both Houses. The report will also be made available on the UKvisas website.

JUSTICE

Child Care Proceedings System

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): In agreement with the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Children, Schools and Families, my hon. Friend the Member for Cardiff, West (Kevin Brennan), and the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services in the Welsh Assembly Government (Gwenda Thomas), I am pleased to be able to inform the House of the progress we are making towards improving the child care proceedings system in England and Wales.

The Government set out the strategy for all children in England in the consultation paper "Every Child Matters: Change for Children", published in September 2003. In this paper, we identified five key outcomes for children, which are universal ambitions for all children, whatever their background or circumstances. Our aim is for every child to be healthy; to stay safe; to enjoy and achieve; to make a positive contribution; and, to achieve economic well-being. In Wales, "Rights to Action", published in April 2004, set out policies within the framework of seven outcome based aims founded on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. We believe that the outcomes set out in these policies are particularly important in the case of children that are the subject of care proceedings.

We know that more can and must be done to improve the child care proceedings system, and contribute to better and more positive outcomes for children. Currently, a care or supervision application takes an average of 51 weeks in Care Centres and 42 weeks in Family Proceedings Courts from the time of application to the point of disposal. Many cases take much longer. We believe that there is much that can be done to reduce this period of uncertainty in the lives of these children and their families.

Recognising this, the former Department for Constitutional Affairs and the former Department for Education and Skills, with input from the Welsh Assembly Government and a wide range of stakeholders, jointly undertook a review of child care proceedings and the findings were published in May 2006. The Review of the child care proceedings system in England and Wales set out a number of proposals to improve the child care proceedings system. Implementing the immediate recommendations of the Review is a key priority for both our Departments and I am pleased to announce a detailed timetable relating to two of the key recommendations of the Review.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families in England and the Welsh Assembly Government in Wales are consulting on proposals to issue revised statutory guidance to local authorities under section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970. The consultation commenced in England on 29 June 2007 and will last for 13 weeks. The revised statutory guidance will be published in England in November 2007. In Wales, the guidance will be issued to all local authorities shortly for consultation to broadly similar timescales. The revision to the guidance will put greater emphasis on the work undertaken by local authorities before care proceedings can be commenced. In particular, they will be required to notify parents of their intention to make an application to the court and to set out the basis of their concerns and an outline of their future plans for the child. On receipt of this, parents will be able to have immediate access to publicly funded legal help from a solicitor, funded by the Legal Services Commission.

In conjunction with the Judicial Office for England and Wales, the Ministry of Justice is consulting stakeholders during summer 2007 on a revision of the Protocol for Judicial Case Management in Public Law Children Act Cases, to be entitled the Public Law Outline. Testing of the Outline in 10 centres from June 2007 will be followed by implementation in England and Wales from April 2008. The Outline will underpin the revised statutory guidance by promoting compliance with the pre-proceedings requirements. It will be contained in a Practice Direction from the President of the Family Division, to be issued with the concurrence of the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor. The Practice Direction will prescribe and timetable the steps to be taken by parties, and the directions to be made by the court for the timely disposal of care applications.

Juvenile Secure Settings (Restraint Methods)

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): I announced a review of restraint in juvenile secure settings to the House on 12 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1714 - 1722. The Ministry of Justice and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) have joint responsibility for the review. My right hon. Friend the Member for Stretford and Urmston (Beverley Hughes) will be the lead Minister for DCSF.

My right hon. Friend and I are in the process of appointing an independent Chair to lead the review and a further announcement in relation to this will be made as soon as possible.

The broad terms of reference for the review are as follows:

It will encompass policy and practice on the use of restraint across a range of juvenile secure settings including Secure Training Centres (STC), Secure Children's Homes (SCH) and Young Offender Institutions (YOIs)

It will review and make recommendations to Ministers upon:

The operational efficacy, safety, (including medical safety), and ethical validity of restraint methods, in juvenile secure settings, including Physical Control in Care (PCC)—the system of restraint used only in secure training Centres—and the circumstances in which they may be used.

The system of training provided to staff using restraint in juvenile secure settings, including how such training is monitored, reviewed and accredited.

The arrangements for cross-departmental knowledge-sharing on use of restraint and behaviour management across a range of juvenile secure settings including STCs, SCHs and YOIs.

The respective responsibilities of the Ministry of Justice, the Department for Children, Schools and Families, the Youth Justice Board, Her Majesty's Prison Service and individual providers of secure children's homes and other relevant institutions in relation to the safety and effectiveness of restraint including clarification of the approval methods for restraint techniques.

The responsibilities of Local Safeguarding Children Boards in relation to the safety of restraint in their area.

Whether the arrangements in place to record and monitor the use of restraint and the arrangements for sharing and analysis of information relating to deaths, injuries and warning signs exhibited following restraints, are adequate in all juvenile secure settings.

The review will be able to call for evidence from any interested party to assist in the compilation of recommendations to Ministers.

The review will report to Ministers within six months of the appointment of the Chair.

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Service Pension Reform

The Minister for the East Midlands (Gillian Merron): I am today laying before Parliament, under the provisions of the Superannuation Act 1972, two amendment schemes. The civil service unions have been involved throughout and confirm their agreement to the scheme amendments. The first of these amends the rules of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) and introduces new provisions for those joining the pension scheme on or after 30 July 2007. The second amendment scheme makes consequential changes to the civil service compensation scheme. These amendments are the first step in implementing a major package of reform which builds on earlier changes modernising the civil service pension arrangements and announced by the then Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, my right hon. Friend the Member for Paisley and Renfrewshire, South (Mr. Alexander) on 22 July 2002, *Official Report*, column 728W. I will bring forward further amendments in due course to complete the implementation of these reforms.

The package of reform that I am announcing today is in line with the agreement reached between the Government and the public sector unions in the Public Services Forum ("PSF") in October 2005. The Government's aim is to continue to provide their staff—both existing and new—with good quality, defined benefit, index-linked pension provision delivered in a sustainable way. The Government seek to achieve this by delivering a range of measures intended to both reduce civil service pension costs by £2.1 billion over 50 years, on the basis of the assumptions made at the time of the PSF, and control unplanned cost growth.

New entrants

Pension terms for new entrants from 30 July 2007 will undergo radical change, with pensions calculated by reference to pensionable earnings throughout the career rather than "final salary". We believe that this change will produce a fairer outcome for the workforce generally, particularly for those who have relatively short or broken civil service careers and for those who wish to move to less demanding employment as part of their transition from work to retirement. This new whole career option will be known as the *nuvos* scheme and, in common with the existing *premium* scheme, will have a member contribution rate of 3.5 per cent, of pensionable pay. Members will be able to retire and draw benefits at any age from 55 to 75, with benefits drawn before age 65 reduced for early payment and those drawn after 65 increased for late payment. Members will have access to options to help them tailor the scheme to meet their personal requirements. These include the ability for members to purchase added pension for self or for self plus dependants, to give up pension in exchange for a lump sum and to give up pension in exchange for additional benefits for dependants. The *nuvos* scheme will also offer a range of other benefits including ill-health retirement pensions and benefits for dependants following the member's death. To facilitate mobility among the public services the PCSPS belongs to the Public Sector Transfer Club; the future service of staff transferring in from public service schemes continuing to operate final salary pension schemes will be pensioned on the whole career basis but the service transferred will continue to provide benefits on a final salary basis. A similar approach will apply to the frozen final salary benefits of civil servants returning after resigning to broaden their careers.

New entrants who prefer a stakeholder pension with an employer contribution will continue to have the option of a *partnership* pension account.

Current staff

The Government recognise the importance that current staff place on retaining their existing pension scheme. Current staff (including many of those who resign and return to work after a break of no more than five years) will therefore continue to have pensions calculated on a "final salary" basis and will be able to draw an unreduced pension on retirement at or after age 60. These terms will continue broadly as now, subject to the following changes:

an option for staff leaving from 1 October 2007 to give up pension for a larger lump sum on retirement;

relaxation of service limits from 40 to 45 years (to be phased in from 1 March 2008);

replacement of the "added years" facility for topping up pension by a new "added pension" arrangement (from 1 October 2007 for staff over 60 and from 1 March 2008 generally); and

introduction, from 1 March 2008, of "flexible retirement" arrangements which will permit staff who reduce their hours or job weight to access their pension before full retirement.

Sustainability

Although unfunded, the PCSPS publishes an annual resource account, including its estimated liabilities, and undergoes regular actuarial valuations. The state of the scheme at 31 March 2007 is currently being assessed and I will place the results of the valuation in the Library when the report is agreed. The valuation is used to set the level of employer contributions to apply in future years; by convention a range of employer contribution levels apply, with higher percentage rates of contribution being paid for higher-paid staff. The average employer contribution is currently 19.4 per cent. of pensionable pay and this is taken into account in setting the overall level of civil service reward packages.

The PSF agreement recognised the importance of on-going scheme sustainability. This requires members to accept a degree of responsibility for future cost pressures, rather than seeing them as an issue for the employer (and taxpayer) alone. We will establish a Scheme Governance Group with employer and union representation to take work on this area forward. The Government will ensure that cost pressures identified at scheme valuations from 2010, that will be implemented

with effect from April 2012, are shared on a 50:50 basis between employers and staff. To the extent that such cost increases or reductions arise as a consequence of changes to the Treasury-mandated financial assumptions or from some fundamental changes to the actuarial valuation methodology the consequent impact on costs should continue to be absorbed by the employer through an adjustment in Accruing Superannuation Liability (ASLC) rates. The Government will also ensure that the average employer contribution is capped at 20 per cent. of pay (assuming no changes to the valuation approach). This approach is intended to deliver long-term sustainability through the reduction of taxpayer exposure to risks, principally those associated with improvements in longevity over and above the improvements already anticipated.

As and when cost-sharing takes effect, it is by no means axiomatic that member contributions will rise. While this approach would of course be one option, we would look to the Scheme Governance Group to suggest approaches designed to secure widespread acceptance by staff, to maintain scheme membership and to have particular regard to the impact on low-paid staff. We will consult with the unions in the near future on the detail of how this process should work, before amending the scheme rules to reflect the outcome of that process.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Procedure Committee's First Report (Public Petitions and Early-day Motions)

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): I have today laid before Parliament the command paper "The Governance of Britain—Petitions. The Government's Response to the Procedure Committee's First Report, Session 2006-07, on Public Petitions and Early Day Motions." Copies can be obtained from the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. It will also be available on the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons website at: www.commonsleader.gov.uk

Parliamentary Pay, Pensions and Allowances

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has today received the 3rd triennial report from the Senior Salaries Review Body on Parliamentary Pay and Allowances.

The Government plan to publish the report in the autumn, followed shortly thereafter by consideration by both Houses in the normal way.

The Government are grateful for the work of Sir John Baker and his Committee.

PRIME MINISTER

Machinery of Government: Equalities Office

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): To strengthen further the Government's ability to deliver across the entire equalities agenda, I am today announcing the establishment of a new Government Equalities Office.

The Government Equalities Office will be physically located with and supported by staff in the Department for Work and Pensions. It will have its own vote from the House of Commons. The Women and Equalities Unit, currently based in the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), will transfer to the new Office.

Because of the links to the community cohesion agenda, race and faith issues remain located with the rest of the community agenda in DCLG.

My right hon. Friend the Leader of the House of Commons will be responsible for the Equalities Office at Cabinet level as Secretary of State for Equality. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), my hon. Friend the Member for Stevenage (Barbara Follett), in addition to her current role, will be Parliamentary Under-Secretary in the Equalities Office, with the title Minister for Equality. The Permanent Secretary at DWP, Sir Leigh Lewis will become the Accounting Officer for the new Equalities Office.

As now, there will continue to be lead Secretaries of State and Ministers for individual policy areas:

my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House of Commons is the lead Cabinet Minister for women and is supported in this role by the Women and Equality Unit;

my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions is the lead Cabinet Minister for disability issues, supported by the Minister for disabled people, my hon. Friend the Member for Stirling (Mrs. McGuire) and the Office for Disability Issues in his Department;

my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is the lead Cabinet Minister for race and faith issues. My right hon. Friend the Minister for Competitiveness at the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform will also play an important role in advising the Government on issues of concern to faith communities.

My right hon. and noble Friend the Leader of the Lords will cover the equalities agenda in the House of Lords.

The Sub-Committee on Communities and Equalities, a Sub-Committee of the Domestic Affairs Committee, will bring together Ministers from across Government to discuss key policies on equalities. This sub-committee is chaired by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Governance of Britain (Role of the Attorney-General)

The Solicitor-General (Vera Baird): My right hon. Friend the Attorney-General has made the following written ministerial statement:

"I have today published a consultation paper on the role of the Attorney-General. The consultation period will run until the end of November.

When the Government published their Green Paper: "The Governance of Britain" this included a commitment to reform the role of the Attorney-General. This is a complex role which has evolved over centuries and comprises a broad and varied range of functions which are fundamental in upholding the rule of law. I am keen to have the widest possible engagement on the important issues raised, and would welcome responses from parliamentarians.

Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses."

TRANSPORT

BRB (Residuary) Ltd.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris): I have today issued revised and expanded guidance to BRB (Residuary) Ltd. (BRBR) on the procedures that should follow prior to disposing of its non operational estate.

Historically, the company has been required to make an assessment as to whether a property is likely to be needed for a rail, other transport or Brownfield development use in the future. Part of this assessment has involved consulting parties in the rail industry, local transport and planning authorities and other potentially interested parties. The new guidance that I have issued today makes it clear that these arrangements will continue. In addition it now sets out in clear terms what we expect to happen as and when a consultee identifies such a use for the site in question. Specifically the company is now expected to ensure that the body that has expressed an interest in the site should take on the holding costs as soon as possible and acquire the site at market value, within a reasonable timeframe. The new guidance makes it clear that in the majority of cases a period of six months represents a reasonable timeframe for interested parties to acquire a site.

This new guidance will ensure that the company continues to facilitate and encourage transport and Brownfield development projects and that the promoters of such schemes have ample opportunity to purchase sites. It will also ensure sites can be released on the open market for development in a reasonable timeframe where no realistic transport or Brownfield development opportunities can be identified.

In the case of surplus BRBR land, which is not needed for a future transport use, BRBR and English Partnerships will be working closely together with a view to that surplus land being released for housing development, which is a key Government priority. A substantial number of BRBR sites have been identified for joint assessment with English Partnerships for housing development and a similar approach is being adopted in relation to Department for Transport agencies, such as the Highways Agency.

Copies of the revised guidance have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. A copy is also available on BRBR's website at: www.brbr.gov.uk.

Ministerial Cars

The Secretary of State for Transport (Ruth Kelly): I am publishing today details of the number and cost to Departments of the provision of allocated cars and drivers by the Government Car and Despatch Agency to Ministers during 2005-06 and 2006-07.

The figures for 2005-06 are:

Department	*No. of Ministerial Cars*	*Contracted cost (£)*	*Notes*
Cabinet Office	7	423,700	1
Department for Constitutional Affairs	5	293,400	
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	4	265,200	
Department for Education and Skills	7	428,900	
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	5	319,700	
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	4	240,700	2
Department of Health	6	371,800	
Home Office	7	436,400	
Department for International Development	2	124,500	
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister	6	383,400	
Attorney General's Office	2	126,600	
Northern Ireland Office	5	418,400	3
Privy Council Office	3	168,300	
Scotland Office	1	58,900	4
Department of Trade and Industry	6	366,800	
Department for Transport	4	256,100	5
HM Treasury	5	328,200	
Wales Office	1	71,300	
Department for Work and Pensions	6	390,700	

Notes

(1) Cabinet Office figures include cars for Ministers in the Cabinet Office, the Prime Minister's Office, the Chief Whip in the House of Commons and the Minister without Portfolio.

(2) The Minister of State for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs was a post held jointly between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department of Trade and Industry. The Government Car Service (GCS) costs were met by the FCO.

(3) The right hon. Member for Neath (Mr. Hain) was both Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and Secretary of State for Wales. GCS costs were met by the Northern Ireland Office.

(4) The GCS car and driver provided to the Scotland Office was shared by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and the Advocate General.

(5) The right hon. Member for Paisley and Renfrewshire, South (Mr. Alexander) was both Secretary of State for Transport and Secretary of State for Scotland. GCS costs were met by the Department for Transport.

The figures for 2006-07 are:

Department	*No. of Ministerial Cars*	*Annual Contracted Cost (£)*	*Notes*
Cabinet Office	8	531,700	1
Department for Constitutional Affairs	5	339,000	
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	4	279,600	
Department for Education and Skills	7	464,900	
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	5	323,300	
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	5	324,500	2
Department of Health	6	387,100	
Home Office	7	487,500	
Department for International Development	2	132,200	
ODPM/Department for Communities & Local Government	6	393,900	3
Attorney General's Office	2	133,900	
Northern Ireland Office	5	434,400	4
Privy Council Office	3	204,100	
Scotland Office	1	62,200	5
Department for Trade and Industry	5	312,200	6
Department for Transport	4	263,300	
HM Treasury	5	346,700	
Wales Office	1	74,600	
Department for Work and Pensions	5	407,800	

Notes
(1) Cabinet Office figures include cars for Ministers in the Cabinet Office, the Prime Minister's Office, the Chief Whip in the House of Commons, the Minister without Portfolio and the Deputy Prime Minister (since May 2006).
(2) The Minister of State for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs was a post held jointly between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department for Trade and Industry. The GCS costs were met by the FCO.
(3) Machinery of Government changes in May 2006 created the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Deputy Prime Minister's Office from The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.
(4) The right hon. Member for Neath (Mr. Hain) was both Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and Secretary of State for Wales. GCS costs were met by the Northern Ireland Office.
(5) The GCS car and driver provided to the Scotland Office was shared by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and the Advocate General.
(6) The right hon. Member for Paisley and Renfrewshire, South (Mr. Alexander) was both Secretary of State for Transport and Secretary of State for Scotland. GCS costs were met by the Department for Transport.

Strengthening Local Delivery

The Secretary of State for Transport (Ruth Kelly): The Government published a draft Local Transport Bill on 22 May for public consultation and pre-legislative scrutiny (Cm 7043). The package of measures included new and enhanced responsibilities for the traffic commissioners as part of a new bus punctuality performance regime, and in relation to the approval of bus 'quality contracts' schemes.

The consultation paper on the draft Local Transport Bill highlighted that performing these new functions successfully is likely to require a different mix of skills and expertise from the existing core functions of the traffic commissioners and their support staff. It indicated that we were therefore considering whether the proposed new functions would be best delivered within the existing traffic commissioner structures, or whether further modifications could better deliver the desired outcomes.

The draft Local Transport Bill also includes proposals to encourage stronger transport governance in the six English metropolitan conurbations outside London, including changes to local transport planning. The consultation paper indicated there would be further consultation about local transport plans this summer.

I am today publishing two consultation documents. First "Strengthening Local Delivery—Modernising the Traffic Commissioner System" explores the functions and responsibilities of the traffic commissioners in more detail and proposes the creation of a Board of Traffic Commissioners which would be responsible for ensuring that both the goods vehicle and bus sectors get the attention and resource they deserve.

In particular, the board would champion bus passengers' interests and complaints about the punctuality and reliability of local bus services.

The proposals seek to ensure that the traffic commissioner system is well placed to deliver the proposed new bus functions, alongside its existing responsibilities. The proposed board will also oversee the overall performance of the traffic commissioner system with an enhanced, centralised administrative support network to facilitate bus punctuality monitoring, ensuring that resources are focused on the greatest problem areas.

Secondly "Local Transport Planning: The Next Steps" considers the statutory basis of local transport planning. It also sets out non-legislative proposals for reporting progress and distributing funding, related to local transport planning during the next three years.

Copies of both consultations have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

I would also like to announce that from 1 August 2007, operators of heavy goods vehicles and public service vehicles who hold a licence in more than one traffic area will be allocated a Lead Traffic Commissioner who will take decisions on all applications relating to their licences. This change is an important milestone in our implementation of the operator licensing reform agenda announced in December 2006. The Government's new proposals for reform of the traffic commissioner structure are entirely consistent with this initiative.

Written Ministerial Statements

The following statements were received between Monday 3 September and Friday 7 September 2007

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Claims Handled by ACAS

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): The following is a revised table showing the number of individual conciliation cases handled by ACAS during the five years up to 2006/07. The table has been revised to include total local authority equal pay claims. It should replace the individual conciliation table in my answer of 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 895W to the hon. Member for Tamworth (Mr. Jenkins).

Individual Conciliation - Claims Received

Region	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*5 Year Total*
London	15,109	15,214	12,435	33,001	8,905	84,664
South & East	10,414	10,666	8,473	8,094	9,965	47,612
East of England	7,355	7,442	5,804	5,100	5,326	31,027
East Midlands	6,090	7,493	5,224	6,105	6,864	31,776
West Midlands	7,977	8,724	6,662	9,670	8,381	41,414
North East	5,294	5,928	9,120	8,349	15,615	44,306
Yorkshire & Humber	8,015	9,202	7,110	7,887	10,996	43,210
North West	14,310	15,932	11,783	15,445	13,136	70,606
Scotland	9,309	10,366	7,138	8,379	16,563	51,755
South West	5,815	6,888	5,035	4,543	5,248	27,529
Wales	4,765	4,704	3,049	3,139	4,178	19,835
Total - All Regions	94,453	102,559	81,833	109,712	105,177	493,734

TREASURY

Indirect Taxes (Dishonest Conduct)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jane Kennedy): This is to announce a new procedure for dealing with suspected dishonest conduct for indirect taxes, where neither criminal investigation nor the Civil Investigation of Fraud procedure outlined in Code of Practice 9(2005) is appropriate.

Code of Practice 9(2005) covers HMRC investigations of suspected serious fraud against the Exchequer where, for policy or operational reasons, it is considered inappropriate to launch a criminal investigation. Where cases are not suitable for Code of Practice 9 (2005) or criminal investigation, for direct taxes, it is already possible for income tax self-assessment and corporation tax self-assessment inquiries to lead to penalties being imposed for either negligent or fraudulent conduct. However until the new penalty provisions in clause 96 and schedule 24 of Finance Bill 2007 take effect, there is no equivalent procedure for dealing with lower level fraud in relation to indirect taxes, with the exception of civil evasion penalties issued at the ports for customs duties and import VAT.

This statement announces a new procedure which will enable HMRC to tackle cases where dishonesty is suspected in relation to indirect taxes. It also introduces a new public notice 160 outlining that procedure. This will bring current practices more closely in line across direct and indirect taxes and help enable a smoother transition to the new penalty regime put forward in clause 96 and schedule 24 of the Finance Bill 2007.

The procedure complements HMRC's policy of providing a level playing field for all businesses by supporting those who wish to comply but dealing more severely with those who seek an unfair advantage through non-compliance. It will be used in appropriate cases after 1 September 2007.

A copy of the new notice, PN160, is being placed in the House of Commons Library.

Player-to-Player Gaming (Casinos)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle): On 30 April 2007, during the Committee of the whole House debate on clause 7 of the Finance Bill, my hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (John Healey), the then Financial Secretary to the Treasury, made a statement concerning the taxation of bingo. He said:

"The policy of applying VAT and duty to bingo participation fees is entirely consistent with our treatment of other player-to-player games in licensed premises, such as poker played in casinos". [*Official Report*, 30 April 2007; Vol. 459, c. 1303.].

Similar statements have also been made in response to numerous letters and parliamentary questions from hon. Members.

I regret to inform the House that these statements were based on an incorrect understanding of the effect of the legislation relating to gaming duty as set out in the Finance Act 1997. In fact the Finance Act 1997 does not apply gaming duty to participation fees for poker played in casinos, so participation fees for poker played in casinos are liable only to VAT.

I apologise to the House for this misunderstanding.

I can, however, assure the House that HMRC have, nevertheless, been applying the law correctly, and casinos have not been required to account for gaming duty on participation fees for poker.

In the light of the effect of the current legislation relating to gaming duty, I will be looking again at the tax treatment of participation fees for player-to-player gaming in casinos.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) (West Midlands)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Parmjit Dhanda): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is today publishing "Proposed Changes to the Regional Spatial Strategy" (RSS) for the West Midlands. They follow the public examination held in January 2007 and the panel report published in March.

The panel report largely welcome the changes submitted by the West Midlands Regional Assembly (WMRA) and considered that the draft revision was broadly compatible with the previously agreed principles of the West Midlands RSS.

The Secretary of State is pleased to support most of the changes recommended by the panel. These include: new policies to define broad areas for regeneration and growth in the black country,

a new policy which replaces Dudley with Brierley Hill/Merry Hill as a strategic centre,

a new policy to emphasise the importance of transforming the environment, and

revisions to the transport priorities to reflect the current status of transport proposals in the black country.

In addition, an appropriate assessment of the proposed changes has been completed and the recommendations incorporated.

I have today written to the WMRA with the proposed changes and indicating areas where views are particularly sought from any interested parties. There will now be a public consultation period on the proposed changes, which will end on 9 November.

Copies of the relevant document is available in the Libraries of both Houses and has been provided for all of the region's MPs, MEPs and local authorities.

The more extensive phase 2 revision to the West Midlands RSS is also underway. The WMRA is considering revisions to housing and employment policies as part of this revision.

HEALTH

NHS Financial Performance (Quarter 1 2007-08)

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): On 30 August 2007, my Department published the first NHS quarterly performance report for 2007-08, which highlights the progress made by the NHS across a range of indicators at the end of the first quarter of this financial year.

The report highlights how local NHS organisations are performing against key promises such as achieving maximum 18-week waiting times and reducing hospital acquired infections.

The report also shows that the NHS continues to make improvements on financial performance, forecasting a net surplus of £983 million at the year end, compared with £510 million unaudited surplus at the end of 2006-07. This overall net surplus delivers the necessary stability in the service that will help ensure that local NHS organisations have the flexibility to continue to improve services for patients.

The report has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members in the Vote Office. It is also available on the Department's website at http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/publicationsandstatistics/publications/dh_078045

JUSTICE

Care Proceedings in the Family Courts (Correction of Written Question)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): Pursuant to a reply to a written question, 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 505W, the then Minister of State for Justice provided the hon. Member for Bury St. Edmunds (Mr. Ruffley) with incorrect statistics on children who were the subject of new care proceedings in the family courts.

I apologise for this error. Corrected figures are given in the following table:

Number of Public Law Children Act applications made for a Care Order in the areas shown. 2003-06

	Year			
Area	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Cambridgeshire	129	167	144	192
Essex	365	369	359	329
Norfolk	169	200	243	256
Suffolk	128	151	177	240

It has not been possible to obtain corresponding corrected figures for Bedfordshire or Hertfordshire.

These statistics relate to the location of the court where the case was heard, and not necessarily to the location of the care provider seeking the order, or the residence of the child on whose behalf the order is being sought. The figures cover both the family proceedings courts and the county courts, and exclude cases which are reported as having been transferred between courts.

I have written to the hon. Member for Bury St. Edmunds and copies of this letter have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

TRANSPORT

Railways: InterCity East Coast Franchise Replacement

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris): The Department for Transport announced to the London Stock Exchange on 14 August 2007 the award of the InterCity East Coast rail franchise to NXEC Trains Ltd., a subsidiary of National Express group. The franchise will commence on 9 December 2007, and will continue until 31 March

2015 with the last 17 months conditional on set performance levels being reached. NXEC Trains Ltd. has undertaken to pay the Department for Transport a premium of £1,414 million net present value over the life of the franchise that will be reinvested in the railways.

The franchise offers value for money to passengers and taxpayers, and provides for more capacity, performance improvements and investment at stations and in on-board services.

Bidders were required to reflect the emerging recommendations of the east coast route utilisation strategy, a draft consultation document published by Network Rail in June 2007. The contract with NXEC Trains Ltd. makes provision from December 2010 for up to 25 extra train services—around 14,000 seats—each weekday and up to 40 more carriages to deliver increased capacity. Until then, the current timetable will continue to be operated in the new franchise, including Leeds half-hourly service improvements introduced in May 2007.

The additional capacity from 2010 would enable a new London—Lincoln service to operate at two-hourly intervals, and an additional London—York service to operate at two-hourly intervals. Faster journeys will also be possible between London and Leeds, York and Edinburgh. NXEC Trains Ltd. will reduce delays for which it is responsible by 29 per cent. by March 2015. It will work closely with Network Rail to raise the public performance measure to over 90 per cent. by January 2010.

NXEC will invest £7.4 million to upgrade station facilities. Up to 2000 more car parking spaces will be provided by the end of the franchise with half of these expected within the first two years.

Environmental improvements have also been secured. Fuel consumption per passenger-kilometre will be reduced by 28 per cent. and four stations will be designated as "green stations". Pre-series inter-city express trains, which will replace the current fleet of high speed trains, will be trialled on the east coast main line from summer 2012.

On-board improvements include CCTV on all trains and free wi-fi for all passengers. A full restaurant service on 87 weekday services will be offered. A hot food at seat service will be available to standard class passengers.

The Government will continue to limit annual rises of regulated fares—which include season tickets and saver fares—in line with national policy, which is currently RPI+1%. Unregulated fares will be, as with all franchises, the responsibility of the operator.

NXEC have indicated that they may wish to raise unregulated fares by an average of 2.1 per cent. above inflation each year over the course of the franchise. Overall, regulated and unregulated fares together are likely to rise by RPI+1.6% each year throughout the course of the franchise. Annual rises in regulated fares will continue to be capped at RPI+1%.

An improved website will be introduced that will highlight the cheapest tickets available and the expected seat availability on each train. Smartcards will be introduced by 2010.

Written Ministerial Statements

The following statements were received between Monday 10 September and Wednesday 12 September 2007

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Flood Recovery Update

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): Further to the statement that my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs laid before the House on 26 July, I am today providing a progress report on recovery from the summer floods.

I wish to express the Government's continuing sympathy for those still working to recover from the devastation of the recent floods. The flood waters have gone but the difficulties faced by some households, businesses and communities remain and I pay tribute to the efforts that the emergency services, local authorities and agencies, local voluntary groups, the private sector and individuals have put into dealing with the immediate aftermath and with recovery.

Further to the commitments given by my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House that Ministers will keep Members whose constituencies have been affected updated on a regular basis, I have written three times to update all Members and both I and ministerial colleagues have hosted regular telephone conferences with hon. Members to ensure that local issues and concerns are being picked up. The Inter-Ministerial Group is meeting regularly and the inter-departmental officials group continues to meet weekly. Throughout the recess, Government work to support the efforts of those leading local recovery programmes has continued. Ministers are continuing to visit flood affected areas, and officials both in Government Offices and Government Departments are in close contact with Local Authorities and Agencies in the affected areas.

Communities and Local Government (CLG)

I announced on the 24 August the final payments of the Flood Recovery Grant to local authorities in the area affected by the July floods. A total of £7.4 million was paid to 36 local authorities. This was in addition to the £10 million that was paid in July. This means almost £18 million of funding has now been released from the £20 million that I and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs have previously announced for help to those hardest hit by this summer's floods.

The funding has been provided to local authorities without conditions on use, to allow them to decide how best it should be distributed according to local needs. Many local authorities have used the grants to make payments—either automatic or on application—to households affected by the flooding. Some local authorities have provided a mixed approach of payments and replacement of white goods, again based on locally agreed criteria.

Many local authorities are also utilising established council tax flexibilities to provide discounts to those whose properties are or have been uninhabitable. Some of these discounts are being funded from the grant, others from alternative means. This is not the only funding available to local authorities. Financial assistance is also available retrospectively through the Communities and Local Government Bellwin Scheme. We have made Bellwin more generous in the exceptional circumstances of both the flooding in July and the June floods. Some 50 local authorities have made applications under the June scheme and 52 under the July scheme (20 of which had already registered for June).

Transport

In addition, the Department for Transport (DFT) has been working closely with the most seriously affected LAs and has made £3 million available to support longer run infrastructure costs in flood affected areas and has appointed consultants to assist local authorities with their applications for claiming Emergency Capital maintenance funding from the Department for Transport.

Department for Work and Pensions

Community Care Grants are non-repayable grants to help to support vulnerable people living in the community. An applicant must be in receipt of Income Support, Income based Job Seeker's Allowance or Pension Credit.

Jobcentre Plus put in place a range of special measures locally to ensure that these grants were easily accessible to people in need who were affected by the flooding.

So far the Department for Work and Pensions has paid Community Care Grants totalling £653,000 to people on qualifying benefits to meet the cost of replacing essential household items.

Schools

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has made available £14 million for flood affected schools and children's services. Officials, with colleagues from Government Offices, are holding detailed discussions on a case by case basis to determine how best to provide interim and long-term solutions.

Schools play an important role in all communities, both in providing education and as a focus for an increasing range of other activities. It has therefore been vital to get schools back open to pupils as quickly as possible, and I can report that 97 per cent.of flood-hit schools reopened on time at the start of term, with the others all open early the following week; some are in temporary premises, but all are providing education to all their pupils. The Government would like to thank all those in schools and their local communities for their efforts to achieve this.

DCSF will be continuing to work with the affected areas to ensure that pupils' education does not suffer as a result of the floods.

European Union Solidarity Fund

I am able to confirm that an application was submitted to the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) on 20 August. A provisional assessment of damage caused by the June and July floods is estimated at more than 4 billion Euros—significantly above the 3 billion Euro threshold required for a Member State to make an application. We are currently working to refine the detailed estimates. The calculations used to assess whether the EU threshold for applications is met includes insurable costs. The aim of the EUSF, however, is to help Member States meet some of the uninsurable costs of dealing with natural disasters, for example, supporting the costs of emergency services, cleaning up and restoring infrastructure to working order.

Work to firm up the details of the application and to respond to initial questions from the Commission continues, and decisions by the Commission on fund applications may take some months. If the application is successful, the Commission would only provide a proportion of the eligible costs incurred.

Business

Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) have committed more than £11 million to flood recovery packages. They continue to assess the needs of business in the regions and have adapted or expanded their support to meet demands. RDAs report that the principal business issues still being dealt with through the grants are: loss of earnings and trade, property damage, and damage to uninsured stock and machinery.

In total some £1.4 million has so far been approved to support small and medium sized enterprises, including farmers across the flood affected regions of Yorkshire and Humberside, East Midlands, West Midlands, South West and South East. Ministers from the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) have hosted two flood summits in early September. These were hosted in Yorkshire and West Midlands. These are aimed at ensuring Government are doing all possible to help business get back on its feet quickly. A further summit will follow in the South West and other regions as necessary. All will be followed by a commitment to hold regular regional business forums, beginning in the autumn.

Tourism

On 14 August the Department for Culture Media and Sport announced a £1 million cash injection to promote tourism, rural destinations and visitor attractions. This will fund a targeted marketing campaign for the flood affected regions of England and businesses such as B&Bs, caravan parks and attractions.

Insurance

I know that insurance remains an issue of concern to some households and businesses. Government continues to have constructive relations with the Association of British Insurers who provide regular updates on progress with claims. A task group of officials and the insurance industry have been meeting weekly during recess to address issues relating to the insurance industry's role in the flood recovery process and Ministers from CLG, DEFRA, HMT and BERR are set to meet industry leaders again later this month. The ABI has reported that all claimants should now have been visited or contacted by their loss adjuster if necessary and that 20 per cent. of claims have now been settled.

Flooding Lessons Learned Review

Finally, on 8 August my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, announced that the Flooding Lessons Learned Review will be led by Sir Michael Pitt, Chair of the South West Strategic Health Authority. An interim report will be submitted by the end of the year with a final report in the spring/summer of 2008.

As previously reported to the House, the review is seeking views from those who suffered from the impact of the flooding, including affected residents, businesses and public organisations, such as schools and hospitals, as well as those involved in the emergency response. Locally conducted reviews will obviously be important for local planning decisions and provide a useful source of evidence for the national review.

Comments to the review can be submitted to

Flooding Lessons Learned Review,
Cabinet Office,
10 Great George Street,
London,
SWIP 3AE,
email:
2007floodreview@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk

DEFENCE

Project Borona

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): On 24 July 2006, Official Report, columns 71-72WS, my predecessor announced the establishment of a project team to examine in detail opportunities for further rationalisation of our basing arrangements in Germany, through the exploitation of UK defence estate opportunities, including the possible relocation to the UK of Headquarters Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (HQ ARRC), 102 Logistic Brigade (102 Log Bde) and 1 Signal Brigade (1 Sig Bde) over the period 2008-2012. This followed on from the earlier announcement by the then Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for Airdrie and Shotts (John Reid), of the move of 4 Mechanised Brigade (4 Mech Bde) to the UK from Germany and our intention to take the opportunity to make further adjustments to our forces in Germany, where it made sense to do so. My predecessor also announced a series of minor moves which, in addition to the move of 4 Mech Bde, will enable the closure of Osnabrück Station (one of two stations that comprise Osnabrück Garrison). He explained that the project team would examine the feasibility of further moves which would enable the closure of Münster Station—the other element of Osnabrück Garrison—and thereby Osnabrück Garrison as a whole. The relocation of HQ ARRC, 102 Log Bde and 1 Sig Bde would also enable us to close Rhine Garrison in the period 2010-2014, concentrating our Germany-based forces in Bergen-Hohne, Paderborn and Gütersloh Garrisons.

Today, I am announcing that, having examined the findings of the project team's initial review, I have decided that Headquarters Allied Rapid Reaction

Corps (HQ ARRC), 102 Logistic Brigade (102 Log Bde) and 1 Signal Brigade (1 Sig Bde) should move to the UK over the period 2009-2014. This initial decision will need to be confirmed following scrutiny of the detailed plans for the moves. The site currently occupied by the RAF at Innsworth in Gloucestershire has been selected as the most suitable for HQ ARRC and its supporting elements, and RAF Cosford in Shropshire is the project team's recommended site for 1 Sig Bde and 102 Log Bde. We will continue to assess other sites for the two brigades until such a time as Cosford's future defence use has been decided. Securing the final approval for this work will also mean that a series of other moves will take place within Germany, which would lead to the closure of Rhine Garrison and Münster Station, the latter completing the closure of Osnabrück Garrison, by 2014.

The project team's work will now focus on drawing up detailed plans for all the moves, including additional infrastructure requirements at the selected UK sites and a clear timetable. This work will start with the proposed move of HQ ARRC. The team will consult with all interested parties, including local county councils, health and education providers and trades unions. In Germany, we will continue to engage with the relevant authorities and employee representatives at national and local levels.

Our NATO allies have been notified of this decision, including the German Government as host nation.

Although we may make further modest adjustments to our force levels in Germany, our plan remains to base UK forces there in the form of HQ 1 (UK) Armoured Division and the majority of its formations and supporting units, some 15,000 service personnel, for many years to come. These moves and the work of the project team in no way signal a change in either our commitment to the NATO Alliance or in our overall defence policy, nor do they in any way devalue the continued close bilateral defence relationship between the UK and Germany.

JUSTICE

Advisory Committee on Civil Costs

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): In response to a recommendation from the Civil Justice Council, I am establishing an ad hoc Advisory Committee on Civil Costs to provide independent advice on costs in civil claims. Advice provided will be based on evidence and economic analysis, and the Committee will be chaired by Professor Stephen Nickell, with whom I look forward to working. I will make a further announcement on the membership of the Committee and its programme of work in due course.

Criminal Cases Review Commission

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Maria Eagle): I would like to inform the House that Mr. Mark Emerton, Mr. Michael Allen and Mr. John Weeden CB have been re-appointed as Commissioners to the Criminal Cases Review Commission. Copies of the press release relating to these re-appointments have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Ministerial Statements

The following Statements were received between Thursday 13 September and Monday 17 September 2007

DEFENCE

Defence Relations

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): I am today announcing the results of the Defence Attaché network, which was notified to the House by the then Minister of State for the Armed Forces on 7 February 2007, Official Report, columns 924-926W. The review was commissioned to ensure that our resources were deployed in the most cost-effective way, in support of the defence contribution to HMG strategic international priorities.

The role of Defence Attachés is to promote the Government's priorities in the area of international security co-operation. The principal components of this policy are to strengthen international peace and stability by preventing conflicts, by contributing to the transformation of the security structures of vulnerable states, by assisting and building partnerships with those who may contribute to peace-support operations and by reducing the risk of terrorism through greater co-operation and communication. In line with this policy, we will be strengthening our representation both in Afghanistan, where we will have a Defence Attaché from April 2008, and in Pakistan, where we will have an additional Attaché from April 2008.

As part of our rebalancing of resources, Defence Sections will be closing over the coming year in Albania, Croatia, Guatemala, Ireland, Macedonia, Slovakia and Thailand. We intend to provide non-resident Attaché cover for these countries (except for Guatemala) from nearby states and, in the case of Ireland, through alternative arrangements. Defence Sections in Argentina, Egypt, France, Greece, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Poland, the Russian Federation, Spain and Ukraine will retain cover but will reduce their Attaché numbers by one. There will also be reductions in military support staff and more of their tasks will be undertaken, where appropriate, by civilian personnel. The rank of certain military posts will also be reduced at the next rotation to a level commensurate with their role.

The review of the Defence Attaché network has given an opportunity for us to provide greater emphasis and focus to the MOD's programme of international engagement, and we have confirmed the importance of the role of the Attaché network in contributing to both defence and broader strategic priorities in the 21st century. We shall continue to review our Attaché network, as we have done regularly in the past, to ensure that our investment is effective and relevant to our international interests.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

EU Development Ministers (Informal Meeting 21-22 September 2007)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Gareth Thomas): I shall be representing the UK at the EU Development Ministers' Informal Meeting in Madeira on 21-22 September 2007.

The agenda items are as follows:

Friday 21 September

Fragile States

Development Ministers will discuss an issues paper on fragile states with the objective of developing a more coherent approach for the EU to respond to fragile situations and difficult environments. This will include clarifying the comparative advantage of the Commission in fragile situations and developing guidelines for a more coherent and systematic approach to analysing the causes of fragility and consequent interventions.

Development and Security

Following on from the discussions on fragile states, over lunch Ministers will respond to a number of questions on development and security. This is one of the Portuguese Presidency's priorities and the Portuguese Defence Minister will also be present.

Humanitarian Consensus

It is the objective to agree a European consensus on humanitarian aid by the end of the year that will help to strengthen the collective efforts of member states and ECHO both to influence global humanitarian policy and to ensure timely and effective assistance on the ground. Discussion will focus on the initial draft consensus.

Economic Partnership Agreeements (EPAs)

European Development Ministers are expected to discuss the current state of play of the Economic Partnership Agreements. The deadline for concluding these agreements is fast approaching and there needs to be a focus on encouraging the ACP to put forward their own market access offers. The Government will be urging other member states to ensure that the EU market access offer is not diluted.

Development Ministers are expected to discuss development co-operation within the EPAs. The Government will be urging other member states to continue to give reassurance to the ACP on financial assistance.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Control Orders

The Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing (Mr. Tony McNulty): Section 14(1) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (the 2005 Act) requires the Secretary of State to report to Parliament as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of every relevant three-month period on the exercise of the control order powers during that period.

The level of information provided will always be subject to slight variations based on operational advice.

Control orders continue to be an essential tool to protect the public from terrorism, particularly where it is not possible to prosecute individuals for terrorist-related activity and, in the case of foreign nationals, where they cannot be removed from the UK.

During the period 11 June 2007 to 10 September 2007, two new control orders were made with the permission of the court under section 3(l) (a) of the 2005 Act and, on 25 June and 4 July 2007, served on two British citizens.

Control orders can only be made and renewed if they meet the test set out in the Prevention of Terrorism Act in that:

(a) there are reasonable grounds for suspecting the individual is or has been involved in terrorism-related activity; and

(b) it is necessary, for purposes connected with protecting members of the public from a risk of terrorism, to make / renew a control order imposing obligations on him.

Obligations are tailored to the individual concerned and are based on the risk that individual poses. Each control order is kept under review to ensure that the obligations remain necessary and proportionate. Specifically, as Lord Carlile recommended in his February 2006 report on the operation of the control order system, the Home Office has established a Control Order Review Group (CORG), with representation from law enforcement and intelligence agencies, to keep the obligations in every control order under regular (quarterly) formal and audited review and to facilitate a review of appropriate exit strategies. During this reporting period, four review groups were held in relation to the orders currently in force. In addition, further meetings were held on an ad hoc basis as specific issues arose.

As a result, during this reporting period, five control orders were renewed in accordance with Section 2(6) of the 2005 Act. Four control orders have expired and one has been revoked since the last report.

In total, therefore, there are 14 control orders currently in force, eight of which are in respect of British citizens. Four of the individuals live in the Metropolitan Police Service area; the rest fall within other police force areas.

Three of the 14 individuals currently subject to a control order have absconded—one in January 2007 and two in May 2007. One further individual absconded during this reporting period—in June 2007. His control order expired on 31 July 2007. Details in relation to this abscond were given in a written statement on 21 June 2007. Parliament has also previously been informed of a further individual who absconded in May 2007. This individual is currently on remand and therefore when his control order expired during this reporting period no further control order was made against him.

The anonymity order for the individual who absconded in September 2006 was lifted by the High Court on 25 May 2007. The anonymity orders for the two individuals who absconded in May 2007 were lifted by the High Court on 23 May 2007. For police operational and legal reasons, the Government are not currently seeking to lift the anonymity orders of the other two individuals who absconded (one in January 2007 and the other in June 2007). Finding individuals who have absconded is an operational matter for the police and investigations are ongoing.

During this reporting period, 25 modifications of control order obligations were made and 23 requests to modify a control order obligation were refused. A right of appeal exists in Sections 10(1) and (3) of the 2005 Act against decisions by the Secretary of State relating to the modification of obligations imposed by non-derogating control orders. Appeals have been made in respect of 10 modification requests that were refused and one modification which was made by the Secretary of State.

There have been no prosecutions for breaches completed during this reporting period.

During this reporting period, three court judgments relating to control orders were handed down from the High Court. In the control order review hearing in *Secretary of State for the Home Department v AF* [2007] EWHC 1970 (Admin) the High Court accepted that the Secretary of State had reasonable grounds for suspecting that the individual was involved in terrorism-related activity and that the control order and obligations were necessary to protect the public. The control order modification hearing in *Secretary of State for the Home Department v AF* [2007] EWHC 2001 (Admin) was heard between 23 and 25 July 2007. AF had appealed the Secretary of State's decision to refuse 10 modification requests. The High Court upheld the Secretary of State's refusal to make eight of the requested modifications, but directed that the Secretary of State slightly modify two of AF's obligations.

The control order modification hearing in *Secretary of State for the Home Department v Mahmoud Abu Rideh* [2007] was heard on 29 August 2007. On 7 September, the High Court dismissed Mr Abu Rideh's appeal.

The House of Lords heard the cases of *JJ and others, MB, AF and E* in July and considered issues relating to Articles 5 (Right to Liberty) and 6 (Right to a Fair Trial)of the European Convention on Human Rights. In relation to *E*, the Lords also considered the extent, if any, of duties on the Secretary of State under section 8 of the 2005 Act and the duty to consult the family about the impact on them of the control order. We await the outcome.

Independent Police Complaints Commission Report (Police Road Traffic Incidents)

The Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing (Mr. Tony McNulty): I can announce today that the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) report on police road traffic incidents has been laid before Parliament and will be published tomorrow, Tuesday 18 September 2007.

This is the first report from the IPCC on this subject. The report provides findings from a study of cases involving serious and fatal injuries resulting from road traffic incidents involving the police between April 2004 and September 2006. It includes recommendations for police forces and the Association of Chief Police Officers for better management of police pursuits, and improvements will be made to the Association of Chief Police Officers' guidelines for the management of police pursuits.

JUSTICE

Office of the Public Guardian (Performance Targets for 2007-08)

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): On 1 October 2007, I will launch the Office of the Public Guardian. The new agency will be created by the transition of the current Public Guardianship Office into the new Office of the Public Guardian (OPG). The OPG will support the Public Guardian to regulate all decision makers who are appointed to make the whole range of finance, health and welfare decisions for people who lack capacity and those who live and work with them. The OPG will also provide support for decision makers appointed by the Court of Protection to ensure that they have the necessary skills and information to manage effectively the affairs of someone who is not capable of doing so.

I have set the following Key Performance Indicators for the Office of the Public

Guardian for 2007-08:

KPI 1: Lasting Power of Attorney/Enduring Power of Attorney

a) The OPG will register and return 98 per cent. of correctly lodged LPAs/EPAs, where there are no objections, within five working days of the statutory waiting period.[1]

(b) The OPG will inform the applicant where an application has not been made properly with details of the error within five working days in 80 per cent. of cases.

KPI 2: Supervision of Deputies

All deputyship cases will require a supervision regime based on a risk assessment. Risk criteria include: whether a deputy has been refused credit or is an un-discharged bankrupt; whether the deputy has any financial interests which conflict with those of the client; the value of the client's estate; the relationship of the deputy to the client and any objections which were made to the appointment to the deputy.

(a) 90 per cent. of deputyship cases will be assessed and a supervision level set within 30 days of the court order being served on the Public Guardian.

(b) 100 per cent. of ongoing deputyships with active supervision will be reviewed within thirteen months of the court order being issued.

(c) The OPG will audit 10 per cent. of Type II supervision cases per year.

KPI 3: Customer Contact

(a) The OPG will respond to 95 per cent. of correspondence (including letters, faxes and emails) within 15 working days.

(b) 85 per cent. of telephone calls to the Customer Contact Centre will be answered within 60 seconds.

(c) During the first six months of operation the OPG will monitor the use of the Customer Contact Centre and by April 2008 will have developed any further appropriate performance measures required.

KPI 4: Investigations

The OPG will carry out investigations where required.

(a) The OPG will put in place an approved action plan in 100 per cent. of investigations cases within 14 days of receipt.

(b) 75 per cent. of investigations will be completed within three months.

KPI 5: Customer Satisfaction

Based on inherited experience the OPG will investigate, develop and agree a baseline for future customer satisfaction. It will carry out at least one full customer satisfaction survey.

The OPG will set an agreed process for surveying customer satisfaction by April 2008.

KPI 6: Finance

Based on the statutory instrument for fees approved by Parliament the OPG will aim to achieve the following targets for full cost recovery.

(a) OPG 100 per cent. full cost recovery.

(b) Court of Protection 63 per cent. full cost recovery.

Full cost excludes the cost of remissions as the Court of Protection has discretion to waive a fee if the client or their dependents would experience hardship by paying and it is therefore considered a social subsidy not recovered as detailed in the OPG's publicised remissions and exemptions policy.

Copies of the Office of the Public Guardian Framework Document and Business Plan will be available in the Printed Paper Office, the Vote Office and in the Libraries of both Houses from 17 September 2007 and from the website of the OPG www.publicguardian.gov.uk from 1 October 2007.

[1] The statutory waiting period is 42 days from the latest date on which notices of intention to register the LPA were sent or given and 35 days for EPAs.

PRIME MINISTER

Council of Europe/Western European Union

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): The United Kingdom Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Assembly of the Western European Union is as follows:

Leader: Right hon. John Prescott MP

Full Representatives	*Substitute Representatives*
Lord Burlison DL	John Austin MP
Christopher Chope OBE MP	Timothy Boswell MP
Bill Etherington MP	James Clappison MP
Paul Flynn MP	Nigel Dodds OBE MP
Mike Hancock CBE MP	Nigel Evans MP
Baroness Hooper	James Gray MP
Baroness Knight of Collingtree DBE	John Greenway MP
Christine McCafferty MP	Doug Henderson MP
Humfrey Malins CBE MP	Bob Laxton MP
Alan Meale MP	Right hon. Lord McIntosh of Haringey
Edward O'Hara MP	Right hon. Denis MacShane MP
Lord Russell-Johnston	Khalid Mahmood MP
Geraldine Smith MP	David Marshall MP
Lord Tomlinson	Mark Oaten MP
Dr. Rudi Vis MP	Gordon Prentice MP
Robert Walter MP	Paul Rowen MP
David Wilshire MP	Right hon. Baroness Taylor of Bolton
	Betty Williams MP

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 16 July 2007

TRANSPORT

Air Passenger Duty: Repayments

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to end the practice of budget airlines *(a)* not to refund air passenger duty to their customers who do not use their flights and *(b)* levying handling charges to make refunds of air passenger duty to customers who do not use their flights unviable; and if she will make a statement. [149289]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Air passenger duty (APD) is a statutory duty levied on aircraft operators and liability is determined based on the number of passengers they carry from UK airports. It is for aircraft operators to decide whether to absorb this levy or pass it on to their customers and whether a refund is made of air passenger duty, or any other portion of the ticket price if the passenger does not travel.

Many airlines, not just low cost airlines, specify on their on-line terms and conditions before booking that charges are applicable for refunds including APD.

The imposition of a reasonable service fee was approved by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) and further recognised in the 2007 OFT reference to the Competition Commission. Passengers are always advised to check the terms and conditions of a ticket before booking.

Bicycles: Helmets

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the proportion of *(a)* adult and *(b)* child cyclists who wear helmets; and what estimate she has made of those numbers (i) five and (ii) 10 years ago. [149618]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Surveys of cycle helmet wearing rates have been carried out for the Department in 1994, 1996, 1999, 2002, 2004 and 2006. The findings from surveys from 1994 to 2004 are shown in the following table. This shows that in 2004 cycle helmets were worn by:

10.8 per cent. of male cyclists under 16

28.7 per cent. of male cyclists 16 years and over

26.3 per cent. of female cyclists under 16

29.7 per cent. of female cyclists 16 years and over.

The 2006 survey of cycle helmet wearing rates will be published in the autumn.

	1994	*1996*	*1999*	*2002*	*2004*
Male					
Under 16	16.0	13.3	12.7	12.3	10.8
16 years and over	15.5	16.7	22.2	25.2	28.7
Female					
Under 16	21.9	17.6	20.9	24.4	26.3
16 years and over	17.0	17.5	22.2	27.0	29.7
All					
Under 16	17.6	14.4	15.0	15.3	14.1
16 years and over	15.9	17.0	22.2	25.7	29.0

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects the Government's evaluation of cycle helmet effectiveness to be completed. [149619]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department is planning to commission a new research project on cyclists' road safety in the autumn. This will include a new review of cycle helmet effectiveness. The research project as a whole is likely to take three years, but we are aiming to complete the review of cycle helmet effectiveness within two years, so by autumn 2009.

Bus Services: Gravesham

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much subsidy was paid to bus service operators in Gravesham in each year since 1997. [149309]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) is the only grant paid by the Department direct to operators of local bus services. It is based on the amount of fuel used on providing services and is essentially a reimbursement of about 80 per cent. of the fuel duty incurred.

The Department holds national figures on BSOG spend which is anticipated to be £413 million in financial year 2007-08. We estimate that BSOG payments to operators in the South East region now total around £40 million annually.

Eligible operators based in the Gravesham area may not necessarily run their services in the area. Conversely, operators based outside of Gravesham may well run services within the area.

Buses: Registration

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the cost of the re-registration of excursion services as local bus services using coaches when the Concessionary Bus Travel Scheme is implemented in April 2008. [149653]

Ms Rosie Winterton: None. A service will be eligible to offer the statutory concessions only if it meets the criteria set out in the Travel Concessions (Eligible Services) Order 2002.

The Department expects that the majority of 'excursion' services will not meet all the eligibility criteria and so will not have to offer the national bus concession. It will

be for operators and local authorities to assess which services are covered in accordance with the criteria set out in existing legislation.

The Department is keeping the issue of 'eligible' services under review. The definition can be changed by secondary legislation.

Cycling: Accidents

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reasons were for the decision to change the way in which child pedal cycle injuries are recorded in the road casualty statistics published on 28 June 2007; and how many such injuries there were in the period covered. [150000]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The way the statistics on child pedal cycle casualties are published has not changed. Child pedal cyclist casualties (aged 0 to 15) are given in Table 2 of "Road Casualties Great Britain: Main results 2006". This was published on 28 June 2007 and copies of this publication have been deposited in the Libraries of the House. There were 3,795 child pedal cyclists injured in reported personal injury road accidents in 2006.

Departments: Public Transport

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what incentives she has considered to encourage staff in her Department to use public transport. [148803]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has for several years made available for full and part-time permanent staff, who have been Civil Servants for a full three months, season ticket advances to assist in the cost of their journey to work by public transport. All such loans are interest free and provided they do not exceed £5,000 do not attract income tax on "interest free loans" under the Inland Revenue's "benefits in kind" rules. All season ticket loans are repaid from deductions from salary within the term of the loan, normally 12 months.

DVLA provides a shuttle bus service between its two HQ sites to reduce excessive vehicle use and provides in-house bus services to a number of local areas.

VCA successfully campaigned for bus stops outside their Bristol offices, to encourage staff to use the local services.

Departments: Publicity

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the cost effectiveness of advertising commissioned by her Department in the last 12 months. [148507]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The major campaign activity undertaken by the Department in the 2006-07 fiscal year was in support of the THINK! road safety; Act on CO2 (launched in March 07); aviation security informing travellers about new security rules; and the continuous registration campaign (car tax evasion).

We measure the effectiveness of our campaigns through regular independent pre and post-advertising tracking research which explored:

- the attitudes and behaviour of the general public towards the above campaign issues
- the awareness of each burst of advertising to inform us what percentage of our target audience has been reached and the message take-out.

For the THINK! campaign we also conduct an annual THINK! survey to track long-term shifts in driver and public beliefs and behaviours towards road safety, details of which are available at www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk. Ultimately, for THINK! we are judged by the number of people killed or seriously injured and we are on course to meet our demanding road safety targets.

On the continuous registration campaign, we demonstrate the effectiveness of our advertising, in addition to tracking research, in terms of the impact on volumes of licensing/statutory off-road notification (SORN) transactions processed and volumes of late licensing penalties issued to those who delay renewing their licence for two months post licence expiry. We also take into account evasion levels as reported in the annual roadside survey.

Finally, we also measure how effectively we buy advertising space compared to other advertisers and can demonstrate that we are achieving highly competitive prices for the taxpayer.

Driving: Licensing

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to ensure that information obtained from driving licences using scanning equipment at commercial venues is not misused and that data protection requirements are met. [149267]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The purpose of the driving licence is to confirm an individual's entitlement to drive. It is not an identity document and is not intended to be used as such. If a licence holder volunteers information to a commercial entity, it is the responsibility of that organisation to comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act. It is the responsibility of the Information Commissioner to enforce compliance with the Data Protection Act. DVLA does not have any legal power to monitor data protection compliance of commercial organisation in such circumstances.

M1: Closures

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason the M1 motorway northbound was closed on 5 July 2007; upon whose authority the motorway was closed; and what investigation or inquiry will be held into the circumstances of this closure operation and the reason for it. [149648]

Mr. Tom Harris: A road traffic collision involving four large goods vehicles occurred on the northbound carriageway of M1 adjacent to the J20 northbound entry slip at 2.50 am on 5 July. Leicestershire police led the incident and directed that the motorway should be closed in order to deal with the casualties and recover

the vehicles involved. This was a serious incident involving one death and life-threatening injuries to a second driver who had to be released from his vehicle by the emergency services.

The police handed over the scene to the Highways Agency at 2.51 pm, following the removal of the last vehicle, to prepare the road for reopening. A large amount of diesel and spilled loads had to be cleared and temporary repairs to be made to the carriageway surface before the carriageway could be reopened, which was achieved at 4.44 pm. A permanent repair was left until it could be carried out overnight when there would be less disruption to the travelling public.

Leicestershire police are carrying out their own investigation of the circumstances of the incident and the matter has been voluntarily referred by the police to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) who will oversee the result of the police investigation. All of the Highways Agency staff involved in the incident (both in the East Midlands control room and on-road Traffic Officers) were de-briefed on the day of the incident in order to identify and learn any lessons from the Agency's handling of the incident.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she will answer the letter to her predecessor of 24 May from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. J. Woolley. [150468]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A reply was sent on the 26 June 2007 by the then Secretary of State for Transport.

Motor Vehicles: Insurance

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will negotiate amendments to the Motor Insurers Bureau Untraced Drivers Agreement following the judgment in Byrne v MIB; and if she will make a statement. [149272]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The recent judgment on the preliminary issues in the matter of Ben Byrne v (1) the Motor Insurance Bureau and (2) the Secretary of State for Transport is presently the subject of an appeal. In those circumstances it would not be appropriate to make any further comments on the case. Once the case has been finally determined we will carefully consider the decision and any steps that may need to be taken.

Motorcycles: Training

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many motorcyclists were issued with a Certificate of Completion DL196 in each of the last five years, broken down by local authority area; and if she will make a statement. [149462]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driving Standards Agency does not record how many motorcyclists were issued with form DL196 broken down by local authority area.

The following table shows how many DL196 certificates were sold to Approved Training Bodies in each of the last five financial years:

Year sold	*DL196 certificates*
2002-03	170,792
2003-04	184,256
2004-05	179,200
2005-06	178,625
2006-07	183,600

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Certificate of Completion DL196 certificates were reissued to motorcyclists following the expiry of a DL196 certificate previously issued in each of the last five years, broken down by local authority area; and if she will make a statement. [149463]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Information is not collected about the number of DL196 certificates issued to riders who have retaken Compulsory Basic Training following the expiry of an earlier certificate.

New Cross Country Rail Franchise

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 10 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 53-54WS, on the new cross country rail franchise, which North West passengers will lose current direct journey opportunities; from which stations in the North West; and to which destinations in the South West and south coast. [149521]

Mr. Tom Harris: At the commencement of the December 2007 passenger rail timetable, direct rail services are no longer specified from Carlisle, Penrith, Oxenholme, Lancaster, Preston, Wigan North Western and Warrington Bank Quay to Cheltenham Spa, Bristol Parkway, Bristol Temple Meads and stations in Somerset, Devon and Cornwall or to Birmingham International, Coventry, Leamington Spa, Banbury, Oxford, Reading and stations in Hampshire and Dorset.

These changes were set out in the stakeholder briefing document which was published in October 2006.

Railway Stations: Lifts

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which railway stations from the 251st busiest to the least busiest in England have a passenger lift. [149997]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department does not hold information about facilities at stations. This information is collated by the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) and published at:

www.nationalrail.co.uk.

Railways: Freight

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether it remains the Government's policy that there should be three or four rail freight interchanges around London. [149977]

Mr. Tom Harris: Our position is still as set out in the former "Strategic Rail Authority's Strategic Rail Freight Interchange Policy" 2004 that, for London and the South-East, required capacity would be met by three or four new strategic rail freight interchanges in the region. But it is for the private sector to develop such proposals and progress them through the necessary approvals including planning consent.

This document is available from the House Library or the DFT website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/freight/railfreight/strategicrail freightintercha3222.

Roads: Compensation

David Heyes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects *(a)* the negotiation of the Highways Agency to appoint a firm of consultants on fees to be completed and *(b)* the results of the negotiation to be made public, referred to in the statement by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport of 14 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 489WH. [149209]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency appointed consultants in January 2006 to make recommendations on the amount it should repay to a successful claimant under Part I Land Compensation Act 1973 for the work of his/her agent. The consultants have produced a draft report and conducted further consultation with interested parties. The Highways Agency is now considering their recommendations and hopes to make an announcement shortly.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Flood Control: Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff are employed by the Environment Agency at the regional emergency control centre in Worthing; how many of these he expects to be made redundant when the Worthing office closes; and what impact he expects the closure of the office to have on the capability to manage flooding and other emergencies in the area. [149293]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 12 July 2007]:* The Environment Agency employs approximately 350 people in Worthing, based on two principal offices—a regional office in Guildbourne House and an area office in Saxon House.

Staffing matters are an issue for the Environment Agency. The Government would not expect the changes to have any adverse impact on the Agency's capability to manage flooding and emergencies in the area.

Floods

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what evidential basis the Environment Agency reaches its conclusions about the probability of particular flooding episodes; whether any change will be made to the Agency's mechanisms for assessing that probability following the recent floods; and if he will make a statement. [148949]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency uses the methods contained in the Flood Estimation Handbook (published by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology), in conjunction with the data on rainfall and river flows collected during a flood event, to assess the probability of such an event.

The data from each event become part of the ongoing record and will inform future updates of the Flood Estimation Handbook. There are currently no plans to change this mechanism.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he intends to revise the Government's first response to the Making space for water consultation following the recent floods. [148951]

Mr. Woolas: The first response to Making space for water, the cross-Government flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy, sets out what we plan to do. A detailed programme of work has been developed to take this forward.

The programme is already addressing some of the issues highlighted by recent events, but we will consider whether there are any further implications, including changes to our long-term aims and objectives, following the completion of the lessons learned exercise.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what standards are required of water companies to ensure that pumping stations for drainage of low-lying areas are themselves protected against flooding. [148953]

Mr. Woolas: Sewage pumping stations are designed to convey flows arising from a once in 30 years storm. The majority of stations are designed with submersible pumps and many have duplicated multi-pump arrangements to mitigate against the failure of one pump. As part of the design check, they should be reliable, efficient and capable of dealing with the once in 30 years level of storm intensity at the pumping station itself. Emergency overflows are also provided at most sewage pumping stations to further protect the station from flooding in extreme wet weather events. The detailed design and site-specific design of such facilities is a matter for the water companies and, where appropriate, the planning authority.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information he has received from *(a)* the Environment Agency and *(b)* the insurance industry on the proportion of flooding in England caused by surface water in each of the last five years. [149290]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 12 July 2007]:* I have received no such information. The Environment Agency's national flood risk assessments estimate the numbers of properties at different probabilities of

flood risk (but do not separately identify those which have actually flooded). The most recent of these was completed in 2006. The Office of the Water Regulator (Ofwat) compile figures on the numbers of properties at varying risk of flooding from overloaded sewers. DEFRA does not hold comprehensive national figures on the numbers of properties flooded from all sources of flooding (river, sea, surface, groundwater and sewer) in any given year.

Floods: Gloucestershire

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Environment Agency, *(b)* district councils and *(c)* Gloucestershire county council on the recent floods in Gloucestershire; and if he will make a statement. [148306]

Mr. Woolas: I have discussed the recent widespread flooding with the Environment Agency but have not yet had focused discussions on the specific flooding that occurred in Gloucestershire. We will review the circumstances surrounding the flooding as a whole to see if lessons need to be learned and applied.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the condition of the drains in Gloucestershire following the recent floods in that county; and if he will make a statement. [148307]

Mr. Woolas: Drainage is a complex issue and responsibility rests with water and sewerage companies, the Environment Agency, local authorities and private owners. It is for the owners of the drains to assess and ensure their operability.

There is a need to review the circumstances surrounding the recent flooding to see if lessons need to be learned and applied. This will have to consider the complex interaction between the various sources of flood risk involved.

Floods: Hertfordshire

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment his Department has made of the damage caused by flooding in Hertfordshire in the last five years; [148704]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Environmental Agency on improving flood defences in Hertfordshire in light of the recent weather conditions; [148705]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of flood defences in Hertfordshire in light of the recent weather conditions; [148706]

(4) how much his Department spent on *(a)* managing and *(b)* improving flood defences in Hertfordshire in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [148709]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA provides the Environment Agency with a budget (£436 million this year) towards its national flood risk management activities. Decisions on which improvement projects to promote with this money rest with the Environment Agency within the overall policy and prioritisation framework set by the Government. I have not yet had any discussions with the Agency about Hertfordshire in particular.

I understand from the Environment Agency that the only significant flooding that has occurred in the last five years was in 2002 when the River Colne overtopped its banks adjacent to Lower High Street, Watford. 25 commercial properties were flooded.

The Environment Agency completed works to construct a flood wall at the location in March 2007. The Environment Agency carries out routine inspections of flood defence assets. Currently, 95 per cent. of all Environment Agency and third party-owned flood defence assets within Hertfordshire are at or above a nationally defined target level.

The Environment Agency operates a risk-based inspection programme of all flood defence structures located upon the main river network. The frequency of these inspections is determined by a risk assessment of the consequences of failure of a particular structure. The rolling programme of inspection covers Hertfordshire and the rest of the country.

The recent weather conditions have not presented new information that creates a need to revise this inspection programme for any main river systems within Hertfordshire. All main river flood defences within Hertfordshire are fully assessed in terms of their adequacy and priority for any maintenance needed. Where third party-owned assets require maintenance the Environment Agency informs the owners of what is needed and follows up to ensure that the works are carried out.

The following tables provide information on Environment Agency spending on *(a)* managing and *(b)* improving flood defences in Hertfordshire in each of the last five years for which the information is available.

	Amount spent (£)
Managing flood defences	
2007-08	[1] 890,000
2006-07	870,000
2005-06	831,000
2004-05	799,000
2003-04	[2] 750,000
Improving flood defences	
2006-07	435,000
2005-06	122,000
2004-05	270,000
2003-04	415,000
2002-03	240,000

[1] Amount scheduled for current financial year
[2] This figure is estimated

Floods: Sheffield

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what financial support the Government plan to provide to assist Sheffield in the aftermath of the recent floods. [146570]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* Emergency financial assistance can be made available to local authorities under the Bellwin scheme. The scheme is operated by the Department for Communities and Local Government to help with non-insurable clear-up costs incurred in taking immediate action to safeguard life and property following a disaster or emergency in their area.

In addition, a support package has been put together by Department for Communities and Local Government to assist recovery from the floods. £10 million is being made available to local authorities in flood hit areas to support the work that they and other organisations are already doing to help recovery. A further £3 million from Department for Transport for local authorities is available to pay for repair to damaged roads. A contingency reserve of £1 million is to be made available by the Department for Work and Pensions to meet additional grant applications arising out of the recent floods. This can cover replacement of essential household items for communities.

In relation to commercial businesses, Yorkshire Forward, the regional development agency (RDA) for the Yorkshire and Humber region, intends to set up a small-scale recovery scheme for small businesses. The scheme will be run in conjunction with Business Link South Yorkshire and will provide funding assistance for immediate recovery needs. They will be contacting larger companies on an individual basis to discuss their specific needs and how best the RDA might support them.

The Government will continue to monitor the situation closely working with local councils and agencies to assess what more it can do in the coming days and weeks.

Pesticides: Licensing

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many charges were heard in court during the prosecution of John Rawlings for storing illegal pesticides; what the results of the case were; what order was made for costs; why the complete report on the case was not posted on the website of the Pesticides Safety Directorate and his Department; what steps he proposes to take following the words of the judge in the case about his Department's collaboration with chemical companies to maintain a cartel; and if he will make a statement. [148728]

Mr. Woolas: In the case of R. *v.* Rawlings heard in Shrewsbury Crown court last month, the defendant was found guilty on three out of 14 counts of storage of non-approved pesticides. The judge imposed a conditional discharge for two years in relation to each count. The jury were unable to reach a verdict on the remaining 11 counts. The defendant was ordered to pay £8,500 towards prosecution costs but was granted 50 per cent. of his defence costs from central funds to be calculated at the legal aid rate. The Department does not post complete reports of court cases on its website as it is impractical. A news release, however, was issued summarising the outcome.

The Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD) is studying the court transcript and will be responding to the judge's comments about the differential in prices between pesticides in the UK and similar pesticides in other member states. The Policy Commission on the Future of Farming and Food (the Curry Commission) recommended in 2002 a move towards a more harmonised system for approvals of pesticides across the EC. Proposals from the European Commission for amendment of the approvals regime, which are currently under negotiation, will help to achieve that objective.

Meanwhile to secure safety of operators, consumers, bystanders, residents and the environment, only pesticides approved as safe under UK conditions may be stored, sold or used in the UK. In the case of pesticides imported from other member states, approval is given, subject to a fee to cover administrative costs, if it is demonstrated firstly that the imported product is not materially different to one approved for UK use, and secondly that the label bears the necessary safety information, in English. Some 145 such approvals for "parallel imports" are issued each year. They are not time limited.

Recycling: Small Businesses

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take to encourage small businesses to improve their recycling rate. [147390]

Joan Ruddock: 'Waste Strategy for England 2007', published on 24 May 2007, sets out a range of measures which will help businesses of all sizes to improve their recycling rates.

These measures include: a higher and faster rate of increase in the landfill tax escalator, which will make it cheaper for businesses to separate waste materials for recycling; and continued advice and support through the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) programme.

BREW is funded through the landfill tax, and is aimed at reducing the amount of waste that businesses produce and improving their resource efficiency, including through increased rates of recycling. Results from the first year of the programme suggest that businesses have saved over £4 for each £1 invested through BREW, as well as increased environmental benefits.

In the strategy, the Government encourage local authorities to take on a wider role to help local, particularly smaller, business to reduce and recycle their waste. A joint Local Government Association/ National Industrial Symbiosis Programme/Oxfordshire county council project, funded through BREW, is piloting work on what local authorities can do to contribute effectively to business waste management and resource efficiency (including trade waste recycling collection services). In addition, the Waste and Resource Action Programme (WRAP) is running pilots of recycling collection services for smaller to medium sized enterprises (SME) waste.

Further details on these and other measures aimed at improving small business recycling rates are available in the strategy, which is available on the DEFRA website and in the Library of the House.

Waste Management

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps his Department is taking to reduce the level of waste emissions from eco-centres and recycling plants; [149347]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to prevent recycling plants and eco-centres emitting noxious smells. [149348]

Joan Ruddock: All establishments and undertakings carrying out waste management activities need to hold a waste management licence or register for an exemption from the need for one.

Sites operating under a waste management licence, or an exemption, have an overarching requirement to recover or dispose of waste without causing harm to human health or pollution of the environment. This includes not causing a nuisance through odour. The Environment Agency is the competent authority responsible for carrying out regular inspections of such sites to assess compliance with licence conditions.

Under section 79 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, local authorities can also serve nuisance abatement notices for sites emitting nuisance odours.

DEFENCE

Defence Export Services Organisation

11. **Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future of the Defence Export Services Organisation. [149383]

Des Browne: Following the recent capability review of the Ministry of Defence, we are reviewing the function of the head office better to align with recent changes elsewhere in the Department, such as the creation of Defence Equipment and Support and the merger of the single service headquarters. This review includes the Defence Export Services Organisation. The review is due to make recommendations later this year.

17. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future of the Defence Export Services Organisation. [149389]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable).

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations he has received on the future of the Defence Export Services Organisation. [149319]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 12 July 2007]:* We regularly discuss with industry the support provided to defence exports.

Ministerial Absences

12. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who will undertake his ministerial responsibilities in his absence on other official duties; and if he will make a statement. [149384]

Des Browne: I remain in charge of the Department when absent from the Department on official duties. In accordance with the ministerial code, appropriate arrangements are made for ministerial cover when any Minister is absent.

Mental Health

13. **Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on mental health support services for members of the armed forces. [149385]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Member for Preseli Pembrokeshire (Mr. Crabb).

Iraq

14. **Mr. Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of levels of force protection in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [149386]

Des Browne: Force protection levels are constantly assessed and reviewed by military commanders in theatre as well as at the UK permanent joint headquarters in order to meet the evolving threat that troops face in Iraq. A range of new capabilities have been deployed in response to these assessments including new intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance systems, new and upgraded armoured vehicles and base protection measures.

21. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Iraq. [149393]

Des Browne: The security situation in Iraq varies from province to province. In Baghdad, violence perpetrated by sectarian and insurgent groups remains a serious problem, although recent action by Iraqi and coalition forces as part of Fardh al Qanoon, has led to some reduction in violence against civilians.

Outside Baghdad and its environs the security situation is better.

In Basra the violence is a result of a struggle between Shia Militia groups vying for power and money.

Troop Protection

15. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to increase the protection of British armed forces deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. [149387]

Des Browne: A number of new capabilities have been deployed to each theatre in recent months including intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance systems, new, better protected armoured vehicles and additional base protection measures. More are due to arrive before the end of the year.

Afghanistan

18. **Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress is being made in development and reconstruction in Helmand province. [149390]

Des Browne: The Helmand Provincial Reconstruction Team has implemented over 130 projects to provide tangible benefits to local Afghans, often with engineering support from the military. Examples include the building, extending or refurbishing of 12 schools, the construction of three new parks—including a women's park—six projects improving local healthcare facilities, including the construction of a 20-room midwifery hostel, and five projects improving the rivers and irrigation canals that enable local farmers to earn a living.

20. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he next expects to discuss with military commanders the helicopter lift requirements for operations in Afghanistan. [149392]

Des Browne: I meet frequently with military commanders to discuss operations in Afghanistan and we keep our force levels and equipment requirements under constant review. We have sufficient helicopters to undertake the key tasks required of them but we all recognise that operational commanders would be able to do more with additional resources. For that reason, we have announced the purchase of six additional Merlin helicopters and the conversion and earlier availability of eight Chinooks.

Dartmoor: Farmers' Compensation

19. **Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will increase the level of compensation his Department provides for hill livestock farmers within the Dartmoor National Park when live firing takes place; and if he will make a statement. [149391]

Derek Twigg: The compensation payment levels are enshrined in an agreement with the Commoners' Associations. These are reviewed every three years with the next one being due this coming September. For obvious reasons I would not wish to pre-empt the outcome of the discussions with the Associations.

Flooding Assistance

22. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role the UK armed forces have played in assisting people during the recent floods in England. [149394]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The armed forces provided valuable assistance during recent floods in Yorkshire and Humberside, and were available to provide further assistance elsewhere in the country if requested.

Fleet Requirements

23. **Mr. Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many destroyers and frigates are required by the fleet. [149395]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Member for Wimbledon (Stephen Hammond).

Eurofighter

24. **Mr. Jack:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role his Department will play in securing further overseas orders for the Eurofighter Typhoon. [149396]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence continues to co-ordinate Government support to UK industry to help win export orders for Eurofighter Typhoon.

Darfur

25. **Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what support he has provided to the African Union Mission to Darfur. [149397]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK has, over the last three years, provided significant assistance to the African Union Mission in Darfur. This includes vehicles and other equipment, technical military advice and training to a number of troop-contributing countries and airlift for Nigerian soldiers. Over and above this ongoing effort, we currently have six specialist military officers in key positions, ensuring our military contribution is focused in those areas where we can have best effect. We will consider future requests for support from either the African Union or the United Nations.

Falklands Anniversary

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will assess the impact of the events held to mark the 25th anniversary of the Falklands conflict. [149377]

Derek Twigg: The veterans, widows and families involved in the events held both in the UK and in the Falkland Islands considered them to have been a tremendous success. They appreciated the opportunity to reflect on their experiences and the courage, sacrifice and professionalism of all those, both military and civilian, who contributed to the liberation of the islands in 1982. The commemorations also helped to educate a new generation about the conflict and underlined the professionalism of our armed forces both then and now.

Aircraft Carriers

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Future Aircraft Carrier Programme to gain main gate approval. [148267]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave on 22 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1181W, to the hon. Member for Brecon and Radnorshire (Mr. Williams).

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British troops are stationed in *(a)* Europe, *(b)* Africa, *(c)* the Middle East and *(d)* Asia. [147489]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 5 July 2007]:* The strength of UK regular forces posted outside the UK is available in Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 6—Global Location of UK regular forces. However, due to the introduction of a new Joint Personnel Administration System (JPA) the latest publication for the numbers of Naval Service and Army personnel was on 1 October 2006 and are available at:

www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/tsp6/tsp6_oct06.pdf

The most recent data for the Royal Air Force (RAF) (which are provisional also because of JPA) were published on 1 April 2006 and are available at:

www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/tsp6/tsp6_apr06.pdf

Defence Analytical Services Agency (DASA) are currently validating JPA RAF location data and expect to publish provisional RAF figures for 1 July 2006 and 1 October 2006 by the end of July 2007.

Copies of TSP 6 are available in the Library of the House of Commons.

Armed Forces: Pay

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average employment cost was of *(a)* an officer, *(b)* a member of another rank, *(c)* a non-industrial civil servant and *(d)* an industrial civil servant in the (i) Army, (ii) Navy, (iii) Air Force and (iv) Royal Marines in each year since 1997. [147355]

Derek Twigg: The information is not available and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Personal Records

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information and statistics his Department records on Service families regarding *(a)* accommodation, *(b)* mobility, *(c)* education, *(d)* health care, *(e)* dentistry, *(f)* demographics, *(g)* number of family members and *(h)* age of family members. [149314]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally in the format requested and therefore could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Protection

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK military personnel are providing close protection for EU mission staff. [149130]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: None.

Armed Forces: Training

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the cost of training specifically for operations is included in the costs of operations funded from the Treasury Reserve. [148289]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* The net additional cost of training specifically for operations is included in the cost of operations funded from the Treasury's Reserve.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces training *(a)* accidents and *(b)* deaths were investigated by the Land Accident Investigation Unit between June 2006 and June 2007. [149127]

Derek Twigg: Between June 2006 and June 2007 the Land Accident Investigation Team undertook 71 investigations of incidents that occurred during training, including seven fatalities.

Armed Forces: Young People

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of new candidates to the armed forces were school leavers aged 16 and a half years in the last 12 months. [147136]

Derek Twigg: During the Financial Year 2006-07 there were 58,951 applicants for armed forces employment. Of these, 14,812 were from candidates aged under 17 years of age on the date of application, representing 25.1 per cent.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Future Rapid Effect System to enter service. [148268]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The in-service date for the Future Rapid Effect System will not be fixed until the main investment decision has been taken. The procurement strategy is, however, designed to achieve the earliest in-service date which meets the Army's needs and offers the potential for sustained operational effectiveness.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which British companies are involved in the Future Rapid Effects System project; and in what capacity each plays a part. [148551]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 11 July 2007]:* UK registered companies currently involved in the FRES programme are listed in the following table:

Company	*Support provided*
Atkins Defence	FRES Systems House
Lockheed Martin UK INSYS Ltd.	Electric Armour Technology Demonstrator Programme
BAES Land Systems (Bridging) Ltd.	Gap Crossing Technology Demonstrator Programme
SULA Systems Ltd.	Independent systems engineering
BMT Sigma	Planning and scheduling
Fraser Nash Consulting Ltd.	Independent safety advice
Synthesys Systems Engineers Ltd.	Independent advice on system integration issues

Company	Support provided
Cap Gemini	Access to a shared working environment to facilitate joint working between FRES IPT, Atkins and other key stakeholders
Commerce Decisions Ltd.	Provision of tender selection tool and associated consultancy support
County Cabins	Providing the Portacabin village at Bovington for the duration of the utility vehicle design competition
General Dynamics (UK) Ltd.	Utility vehicle design competition

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made with the Future Rapid Effect System programme; and if he will make a statement. [149238]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 12 July 2007]*: The acquisition strategy for future phases of the FRES programme was announced by my noble Friend Lord Drayson in November 2006. The initial wave of three competitions that will select the utility vehicle (UV) design, UV integrator, and system of systems integrator, has formally been launched and utility vehicle trials have commenced. The outcome of the trials will be announced later this year.

Army: Deployment

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* lowest and *(b)* average period of time between operational tours was for each army infantry battalion over the last three years. [148278]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Three years is too short a period to produce a meaningful analysis of tour intervals as only two infantry battalions have undertaken more than two operational tours as formed units in that time. A summary of deployments over the last three years by battalion indicating tour intervals is shown in the following table.

Ser	Army infantry battalion	Last operational deployment (as a unit)	Start date	Previous operational deployment (as a unit)	End date	Prior deployments since June 2004 (as a unit)	Last unit tour interval (months)	Lowest unit tour interval (months)	Average unit tour interval (months)
1	1 Gren Gds	Afghanistan	May 2007	Iraq	May to September 2006	Balkans (October 2004 to March 2005)	8	8	11
2	1 Coldm Gds	Iraq	May 2005	Northern Ireland	March 2000	—	61	n/a	n/a
3	1 SG	Iraq	November 2004	Northern Ireland	November 2001	—	35	n/a	n/a
4	1 IG	Iraq	June 2007	Northern Ireland	March 2004	—	38	n/a	n/a
5	1 WG	Balkans	October 2006	Iraq	April 2005	—	17	n/a	n/a
6	1 Scots (1 RS)[1]	Northern Ireland	January 2006	Iraq	April 2004	—	20	n/a	n/a
7	1 Scots (1 KOSB)[1]	Iraq	July 2003	Northern Ireland	March 2002	—	15	n/a	n/a
8	2 Scots	Iraq	April 2004	Balkans	October 1999	—	53	n/a	n/a
9	3 Scots	Iraq	November 2005	Balkans	October 2003	—	24	n/a	n/a
10	4 Scots	Iraq	July 2004	Iraq	June 2003	—	12	n/a	n/a
11	5 Scots	Balkans	April 2005	Iraq	July 2004	—	8	n/a	n/a
12	1 PWRR	Iraq	May 2006	Iraq	October 2004	—	18	n/a	n/a
13	2 PWRR	Iraq	January 2005	Northern Ireland	December 2003	—	12	n/a	n/a
14	1 RRF	Iraq	November 2005	Iraq	June 2003	—	28	n/a	n/a
15	2 RRF	Northern Ireland	April 2003	Northern Ireland	June 2002	—	9	n/a	n/a
16	1 R Anglian	Afghanistan	May 2007	Iraq	October 2005	—	17	n/a	n/a
17	2 R Anglian	Iraq	May 2006	Afghanistan	October 2003	—	30	n/a	n/a
18	1 KORBR[2]	Iraq	November 2005	Balkans	October 2000	—	60	n/a	n/a
19	1 Kings[2]	Iraq	July 2003	Prior to January 1999	—	—	—	n/a	n/a
20	QLR[2]	Iraq	July 03	Northern Ireland	September 2001	—	21	n/a	n/a
21	1 Lancs[2]	n/a	—	n/a	—	—	—	—	—
22	2 Lancs[2]	Iraq	November 2006	n/a	—	—	—	—	—
23	1 Yorks	Iraq	November 2006	Balkans	September 2004	—	25	n/a	n/a
24	2 Yorks	Balkans	April 2006	Afghanistan	October 2004	—	17	n/a	n/a
25	3 Yorks	Iraq	November 2004	Balkans	June 2001	—	40	n/a	n/a

Ser	Army infantry battalion	Last operational deployment (as a unit)	Start date	Previous operational deployment (as a unit)	End date	Prior deployments since June 2004 (as a unit)	Last unit tour interval (months)	Lowest unit tour interval (months)	Average unit tour interval (months)
26	1 R Welsh	Cyprus (Theatre Reserve Battalion)	May 2007	Northern Ireland	September to January 2006	Iraq (May to October 2004)	15	10	13
27	2 R Welsh	Iraq	June 2007	Iraq	October 2005	—	19	n/a	n/a
28	1 Mercian	Iraq	May 2004	Northern Ireland	December 2002	—	16	n/a	n/a
29	2 Mercian	Afghanistan	May 2007	Afghanistan	April 2005	—	23	n/a	n/a
30	3 Mercian	Iraq	November 2006	Iraq	October 2005	—	12	n/a	n/a
31	1 Rifles (1 RGBW)[3]	Afghanistan	October 2005	Northern Ireland	July 2003	—	26	n/a	n/a
32	1 Rifles (1 D&D)[3]	Iraq	May 2006	Northern Ireland	March 2001	—	61	n/a	n/a
33	2 Rifles	Iraq	November 2006	Northern Ireland	September 2004	—	25	n/a	n/a
34	3 Rifles	Northern Ireland	September 20 04	Northern Ireland	May 2000	—	51	n/a	n/a
35	4 Rifles	Iraq	June 2007	Balkans	October 2001	—	67	n/a	n/a
36	5 Rifles	Iraq	May 2006	Iraq	April 2004	—	24	n/a	n/a
37	1 R Irish	Iraq	July 2005	Iraq	June 2003	—	24	n/a	n/a
38	1 Para[4]	Northern Ireland	March 2005	Iraq	June 2003	—	20	n/a	n/a
39	2 Para	Iraq	November 2005	Iraq	March 2004	—	19	n/a	n/a
40	3 Para	Afghanistan	April 2006	Northern Ireland	August 2004	—	19	n/a	n/a
41	1 RGR	Balkans	October 2005	Balkans	March 2004	—	30	n/a	n/a
42	2RGR	Afghanistan	April 2005	Afghanistan	April 2004	—	11	n/a	n/a

[1] 1 RS and 1 KOSB amalgamated to form 1 Scots in August 2006. 1 Scots has yet to deploy on an operation.
[2] 1 KORBR, 1 Kings and QLR amalgamated in July 2006 to form 1 Lancs and 2 Lancs. 1 Lancs has yet to deploy on an operation.
[3] 1 RGBW and 1 DDLI amalgamated in March 2007 to form 1 Rifles.
[4] As from August 2005 1 Para are no longer under the operational control of HQ Land.

Army: Manpower

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* assessed requirement and *(b)* numbers of personnel in post is for each Army infantry battalion. [148279]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Officials are currently collating this information. I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Bombs

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the standard programmes regarding the number of rockets per ripple are when CRV-7 cluster munition rockets are fired in a pre-programme ripple; and what factors influence the choice of ripple programme. [147524]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Multi-Purpose Sub-Munition variant of the CRV-7 (the CRV-7 MPSM), which is only fired from the UK Apache Helicopter, does not fall within the UK's understanding of a cluster munition primarily because of its direct fire capability and also because it has too few sub-munitions. The CRV-7 MPSM is not fired using a pre-programmed ripple.

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what body conducted the tests to establish the six per cent. failure rate for the M261 submunitions carried on CRV-7 cluster munition rockets; how many rockets and submunitions were fired in the tests; and what the *(a)* ground conditions and *(b)* range were. [147525]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The CRV-7 with its M261 multi-purpose submunition (which is only fired from the UK Apache Helicopter) does not fall within the UK's understanding of a cluster munition primarily because of its direct fire capability and also because it has too few sub-munitions.

UK contract acceptance tests were conducted by Industry in the Yuma Proving Grounds in Arizona. The trials involved 36 all up rounds firing a total of 315 M73 grenades (one rocket motor failed to fire). The munitions were fired at 1, 3 and 6 km. A 94 per cent. reliability target was achieved.

The UK MOD also holds test data from further US Army trials which corroborates the 94 per cent. reliability figure achieved by UK trials.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total cost is of all private finance initiative projects for which his Department has responsibility completed since 1997; and what the projected cost is of such projects commissioned or under way. [148028]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The total costs of all private finance initiative projects are provided at HM Treasury's website, http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm. Total cost information is expressed as the sum of unitary charge payments. Unitary charge payments are projections and are conditional on the performance of the private sector contractor. They frequently include inflation, service provision and major refurbishment costs as well as capital repayments.

The information provided at HM Treasury's website provides unitary charge payment information up until 2033-34. The Department has three projects whose life exceeds 2034. These projects and the projected total unitary charge payments for each are as follows:

Project name	*Estimated total unitary charge payment (£ million)*
Allenby/Connaught	12,816.76
ASTUTE Class Training Service (ACTS)	551.15
Colchester Garrison	2,900.56

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 61W, on Departments: private finance initiative, when each preferred bidder was selected. [148280]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The date when each preferred bidder was selected is shown in the following table:

Project	*Date preferred bidder selected*
Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft (FSTA)	February 2005
Royal School of Military Engineering (RSME)	March 2005
Future Provision of Marine Services (FPMS)	February 2006
Corsham Development Project	October 2006
Defence Training Review	October 2006
United Kingdom Military Flying Training System	July 2006

Galileo Project

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 955W, on Galileo project, what the wider issues in relation to Galileo are on which his Department provides advice to the Department of Transport. [148694]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD provides the Department for Transport with policy advice on the security aspects of Galileo, including system security and security implications of the programme. Along with other Government Departments the MOD also provides advice on EU institutional issues. In addition, drawing on its experience of large procurement projects, the MOD can offer advice on project management, governance, PPP funding and risk management issues.

Helicopters: Spare Parts

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times each helicopter type in the *(a)* Army Air Corps, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force was cannibalised in each of the past 12 months. [148271]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of cannibalisations involving aircraft operated by the Army Air Corps, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force in the Forward Fleet (with front-line commands and utilised for operational deployment or other tasks) in the last 12 months is shown in the following table:

	2006							*2007*			
	Jun	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*
Army Air Corps												
Apache AH	22	30	20	14	42	33	23	31	22	30	14	7
A109	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gazelle	3	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	0	2
Lynx 7 and 9	15	14	44	22	21	41	26	25	26	44	21	8
Royal Navy												
Sea King 4 and 6	15	6	12	17	5	25	19	18	24	10	10	19
Sea King Mk5	11	6	0	11	12	8	7	3	10	12	n/a	n/a
Sea King Mk7	7	7	7	12	9	5	4	7	12	10	n/a	n/a
Merlin Mk1	31	39	27	53	58	47	21	40	62	32	n/a	n/a
Lynx Mk3	11	11	3	6	7	10	5	6	12	18	n/a	n/a
Lynx Mk8	12	12	3	4	13	9	9	11	5	15	n/a	n/a
RAF												
Chinook 2/2a	38	17	18	24	36	13	15	12	12	19	20	34
Merlin Mk3	35	30	25	33	37	28	29	19	43	62	52	41
Puma	12	17	9	16	34	3	6	6	8	7	5	12
Search and Rescue Sea King Mk3/3A	23	20	20	12	18	21	7	11	19	12	10	n/a

n/a = Figures not yet available.

Cannibalisation is an accepted short-term measure employed by aviation forces around the world, to ensure the maximum number of aircraft are available. It is often the only course of action where replacement items cannot be sourced in the required time frame.

The figures shown in the table refer to individual instances of cannibalisation as opposed to the number of aircraft involved. All instances of cannibalisation are authorised and undertaken in accordance with clearly defined regulations. The term 'cannibalisation' can refer to the removal of single or small numbers of components, of any size. It does not necessarily refer to the wholesale utilisation of capital components or airframes.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 125W, on Iraq: peacekeeping operations, what the estimated replacement costs of military equipment damaged and destroyed owing to use in Iraq has been since the start of the war in Iraq *(a)* in total and *(b)* for (i) tanks and other armoured vehicles, (ii) aircraft and (iii) helicopters since 1 March 2004. [147488]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 5 July 2007]:* I have nothing to add to the answer my predecessor gave on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 125W.

Military Aircraft: Spare Parts

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times a *(a)* C17A Globemaster, *(b)* Hercules C-130K, *(c)* Hercules C-130J, *(d)* Tristar, *(e)* VC-10 and *(f)* Nimrod MR2 has been cannibalised for spare parts. [148270]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The removal of serviceable parts from one aircraft for use on another is a routine and temporary measure to ensure that the maximum number of aircraft are available to the front line.

The number of these instances over the last 12 months (June 2006-May 2007), by donor aircraft, is given in the following table.

Aircraft type	*Number of cannibalisations*
C17	25
C130J	781
C130K	156
TriStar	188
VC10	116
Nimrod MR2	307

Military Bases: Wales

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of the Special Forces Support Unit at MOD St Athan; and if he will make a statement. [147284]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK Joint Special Forces Support Group (SFSG) is an integral part of the UK Special Forces Group and falls under the operational command of the Director of Special Forces. It is our established policy not to comment on special forces matters.

However, I can say that since the SFSG was stood up in April 2006 it has served with distinction in the field and is already providing the UK Special Forces Group with a significantly enhanced capability as envisaged.

Navy: Defence Equipment

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* escort ships, *(b)* major ships and submarines, *(c)* minor war vessels and *(d)* RFA ships were commissioned into the Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary in each year since 2000; and how many in each category are planned to be commissioned in each of the next 10 years. [147859]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In the last 10 years the following ships have entered service with the Royal Navy:

In-service date	*Vessel*
2000	1 Type 23 Frigate 2 Sandown Class Mine Hunters
2001	1 Type 23 Frigate 1 Sandown Class Mine Hunter
2002	1 Type 23 Frigate 1 Sandown Class Mine Hunter
2003	1 Landing Platform Dock 3 River Class Patrol Vessels 2 Survey Ships 2 Auxiliary Ships
2004	—
2005	1 Landing Platform Dock
2006	3 Auxiliary Ships

In-service dates for ships are only fixed when the main investment decision has been taken. Of the ships planned to enter service over the next 10 years, the following have agreed in-service dates:

In-service date	*Vessel*
2007	1 Auxiliary Ship 1 River Class Patrol Vessel (Helicopter)
2008	—
2009	1 Type 45 Destroyer
2010	1 Type 45 Destroyer 1 Astute Class Nuclear Submarine
2011	2 Type 45 Destroyers 1 Astute Class Nuclear Submarine
2012	1 Type 45 Destroyer

In-service date	*Vessel*
2013	1 Type 45 Destroyer 1 Astute Class Nuclear Submarine
2014	—
2015	1 Astute Class Nuclear Submarine

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the planning assumption is for the service life of *(a)* Type 23 frigates, *(b)* Type 45 destroyers and *(c)* future surface combatants. [147860]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Our current planning assumptions are that on average the Type 23 frigates will be in service for 27 years and the Type 45 anti-aircraft destroyers for 25 years. The programme for the procurement of the future surface combatant is still at an early stage and the service life for these ships has yet to be determined.

Navy: Military Bases

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his timetable is for publishing the results of the naval bases review. [148526]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We have said from the outset of the naval base review (NBR) that its outcome needs to be coherent with other key maritime industrial strategy projects and programmes. It is of paramount importance that we do this in order to determine an overall 'best for Defence' outcome and the best value for the taxpayer.

The Ministry of Defence is therefore engaging with other Government Departments to assess the wider implications for the different NBR options. While this complex work is progressing well, further work is required before final conclusions can be reached.

University Officer Training Corps

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* establishment and *(b)* strength of the University Officer Training Corps was at 1 March. [148567]

Derek Twigg: The total establishment of the 19 units of the University Officers Training Corps (UOTC) is 3,500 of which 2,946 are officer cadets and 554 Territorial Army staff instructors.

As at 31 March 2007, the actual strength of the UOTCs was 5,031 of which 4,429 were from the student body including approximately 500 Army Bursars who have already passed officer selection and who are committed to join the Army; these officer cadets are on strength but are not counted against the establishment. These figures include all officer cadets who are no longer actively training, but have yet to be discharged from the Service.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Member for East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow (Mr. Ingram) gave on 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1292W, to the hon. Member for Colchester (Bob Russell).

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other assistance was provided to the Government of Afghanistan to tackle the narcotics industry in that country in each year since 2002; and if he will make a statement. [149213]

Dr. Howells: The total financial assistance provided by the Government to the Afghan Government to tackle the narcotics industry each year since 2002 is as follows:

Total Afghan counter-narcotics spend

Financial year	*£ million*
2002-03	23.1
2003-04	31.3
2004-05	33.2
2005-06	92.8
2006-07	82

Our support comprises direct financial assistance and practical support, such as developing law enforcement and criminal justice institutions, mentoring police and judges, and technical assistance to build the capacity of government institutions. Of this year's £82 million, £37.6 million will be invested in alternative legal livelihoods and development. As Afghanistan's G8 partner nation on counter-narcotics, the UK lobbies for continued and increased international assistance and support for the Afghan Government's National Drug Control Strategy (NDCS). We are also helping the Afghans to sharpen the implementation of the NDCS which has four priorities: targeting the trafficker; strengthening and diversifying legal rural livelihoods; reducing demand; and developing state institutions.

Colombia: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Colombia. [149177]

Dr. Howells: Colombia has suffered from 40 years of internal conflict, fuelled by the illegal drugs trade. In his five years as President, Alvaro Uribe has achieved remarkable advances: security is much improved; violent crime is hugely reduced; 35,000 paramilitaries have demobilised; and the economy is prospering.

President Uribe's Colombia is a key UK ally in the region. UK co-operation with Colombia focuses on the fight against drugs and improving the difficult human rights situation. It is one of constructive engagement rather than uncritical support. We support the efforts of President Uribe to tackle the country's serious inter-connected problems, but we can and do remind the government of Colombia of the need to address areas of concern vigorously.

On drugs, co-operation is close and effective. President Uribe's Government are committed to improving the difficult human rights situation. But serious concerns remain: illegal armed groups commit wide-ranging abuses, and threats to trade unionists and

human rights defenders continue, and are unacceptable. Extra-judicial killings are rising. 49 per cent. of Colombians live in poverty.

We welcomed President Uribe's decision in June to release a number of Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) operatives, including Rodrigo Granda, as a positive step forward for a path to lasting peace in Colombia. It has been disappointing that the FARC have not responded positively to President Uribe's bold move. Along with EU partners and others in the international community, we have expressed our outrage at the killings in June of 11 Colombian hostages held by the FARC, and extended our condolences to all those affected by this tragedy.

Convention on Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the United Nations Convention on Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism entered into force; when the United Kingdom *(a)* signed and *(b)* ratified the convention; what responsibilities signatory states have to report on implementation of the convention in (i) member states and (ii) their overseas territories; and what steps the Government are taking to encourage non-signatory states to sign. [149504]

Dr. Howells: The International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism entered into force on 7 July. The UK signed the Convention on 14 September 2005. The legislation required to implement the Convention is now in place in the UK, and the Government are currently preparing the necessary documents to be laid before Parliament prior to ratification. The Convention imposes an obligation on States Parties to report to the UN Secretary-General the final outcome of criminal proceedings undertaken in respect of the offences set out in the Convention. States Parties will also be expected to report to the committees of the UN Security Council that monitor implementation of States' counter-terrorism and non-proliferation obligations, on the implementation of their obligations under the Convention in a more general sense. While the Overseas Territories will not be included at the time of the UK's ratification, there remains the possibility of extending the Convention to the Overseas Territories following consultation with them and the passing of any necessary legislation in each Territory. With our international partners, the UK has strongly encouraged all States to sign and ratify the Convention. Most recently, in a joint statement on counter-terrorism issued at the Heiligendamm Summit on 8 June, the leaders of the G8 called on all States to ratify the Convention.

Cuba: Biological Weapons

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with his Cuban counterpart on Cuba's biological warfare programme. [149470]

Dr. Howells: The Government keep under review the potential military capability of other states, but it is not our practice to divulge the details including relevant discussions with other states.

Departments: Internet

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to publish a record of his activities on the Department's website; what estimate he has made of the *(a)* cost and *(b)* staff time involved; and if he will make a statement. [148207]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's key activities are published on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website on a regular basis. Costs for this are covered as part of the general maintenance of the FCO website; a specific breakdown of which is not available as it would incur disproportionate cost to obtain this information. There are also plans to publish a blog on the same website.

Departments: Publicity

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the cost-effectiveness of advertising commissioned by his Department in the last 12 months. [148519]

Mr. Jim Murphy: In 2006, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) conducted a review of recruitment procedures, which identified the most effective advertising media. At the end of each recruitment competition, information from applicants is assessed to determine the performance of each advertising medium and determine the most appropriate publications for advertisements.

The FCO makes use of cost savings offered by the Central Office of Information.

In accordance with Cabinet Office and Civil Service Commissioners' guidance, the FCO is moving towards placing the majority of job adverts online, although there will still be a need for press advertisements as not all the potential candidate pool will have access to the internet.

Departments: Racial Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [149253]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Informal complaints of any sort are dealt with through the line manager in the first instance and central figures are not held for those. Only if the issue cannot be resolved through the informal route are they logged centrally and dealt with as part of the formal grievance process.

There have been no formal complaints by Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff of racial abuse in the last 12 months.

Electronic Warfare

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his NATO counterparts on cyber-warfare. [149300]

Mr. Jim Murphy: This issue has not been raised by NATO Foreign Ministers, but it was discussed by NATO Defence Ministers at their meeting on 14-15 June, who agreed to work to enhance the ability to protect infrastructure systems of critical importance to the Alliance from cyber-attacks. Cyber-defence is also the subject of discussion at official level in NATO.

Entry Clearances

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guidance is given to embassies and consulates on dealing with requests from people wishing to enter the UK. [149410]

Dr. Howells: All guidance given to embassies and consulates on dealing with applications from people wishing to enter the UK is published on the following websites:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/lawandpolicy/immigrationrules/.

http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1034241195847.

http://www.fco.gov.uk/Files/kfile/ECBPMarch07.pdf.

The best practice guidance is currently under review and will be published through the same channels in due course.

EU Reform: Treaties

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Portuguese counterpart on the EU constitutional treaty. [148179]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The treaty establishing a constitution for Europe, on which the Government proposed a referendum, is now defunct. The mandate for a reform treaty agreed by the European Council states clearly:

"The constitutional concept, which consisted in repealing all existing Treaties and replacing them by a single text called "Constitution", is abandoned".

As my right hon. Friend the then Prime Minister (Mr. Blair) set out in his statement to Parliament on 25 June, the reform treaty will differ fundamentally from the constitutional treaty in its substance.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has discussed a range of issues with his Portuguese counterpart, Portuguese Foreign Minister Luis Amado, including EU institutional issues.

Indonesia: Terrorism

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on counter-terrorism operations in Indonesia. [149175]

Dr. Howells: We have regular discussions with international partners who share our commitment to countering the terrorist threat in Indonesia. I visited Indonesia in March this year and had the opportunity to discuss these issues with Foreign Minister Hasan Wirajuda and Indonesian National Police Chief Sutanto.

Internet: Censorship

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings he and Ministers in his Department have had with the EU on internet censorship; and what was discussed. [148444]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 10 July 2007]:* Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers have not, to date, had any EU meetings on internet censorship.

We are aware of the European Commission's plans to publish a proposal, in the autumn, to make it a criminal offence to place bomb-making instructions on the internet. A conference was held by the European Commission in March to discuss these proposals, at which officials from the Home Office and the FCO participated.

Israel

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to Arab Governments to secure an end to attacks on Israel; what response has been received; and if he will make a statement. [149355]

Dr. Howells: The UK holds regular discussions with Arab Governments on ways to reduce violence in the Middle East, including attacks against Israel. These are often focused on efforts to implement UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs), including those aimed at preventing attacks on Israel. In May we lobbied a number of regional Governments, drawing their attention to the provisions of UNSCR 1747 and seeking their support in implementing the provisions more effectively. Among other things, this resolution imposed a legally binding embargo on the export/transfer of all arms from Iran, including to Hezbollah and Palestinian rejectionist groups. We also regularly raise the implementation of UNSCR 1701, which brought an end to the conflict between Hezbollah and Israel in 2006. We enjoy the support of many Arab partners in our efforts to implement relevant UN Resolutions.

Pakistan: Human Rights

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to the Pakistani authorities on the treatment of lawyers and the families of lawyers who defend those accused of apostacy, with particular reference to the Lahore area; and if he will make a statement. [149655]

Dr. Howells: We have not made any representations to the Pakistani authorities about the treatment of defence lawyers. We do receive regular updates from legal aid groups in Pakistan, including in Lahore, on the progress of their cases and the difficulties faced by the lawyers representing those accused.

In our latest representation to the Pakistani authorities in June, together with the EU, we raised our concerns about the proposed Apostasy Bill. The UK strongly supports freedom of religion and condemns

instances where individuals are persecuted because of their faith or belief, wherever this occurs and whatever the religion of the individual or group concerned.

Pakistan: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Pakistani Government on the conflict at the Red Mosque in Islamabad. [149656]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed the crisis in the Red Mosque in Islamabad with Pakistan's Foreign Minister Kasuri on 4 July. Officials from our high commission in Islamabad have also had regular discussions with the Ministry of Interior, the National Crisis Management Cell and the police forces, to be briefed on the situation.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what measures he has put in place to ensure that there is a Darfur-Darfur dialogue in place before the forthcoming peace talks in Mombasa. [149374]

Meg Munn: The peace talks in Mombasa are intended to bring together factions of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) to agree a common position on the Darfur political process. Not all factions have agreed to attend the Mombasa meeting.

The Sudan People's Liberation Movement has scheduled a meeting of all the rebel groups, including the SLM, and Darfuri civil society to take place in south Sudan in August. This will build on the Darfur-Darfur dialogue.

We, and our partners, are pressing all sides to commit to this renewed political process and to implement their commitments to the international community.

Venezuala: Oil

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on Venezuela's oil supply offer to Iran. [149176]

Dr. Howells: On his recent visit to Iran, President Chavez signed a large number of co-operation agreements with the Iranian Government, including a number in relation to oil exploration and petrochemical production. It appears that the two Governments are now working on the exact detail of those agreements.

Our embassies in Caracas and Tehran will continue to monitor what emerges from this partnership.

Zimbabwe: Conferences

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has sought clarification of the policy of the Government of Portugal on whether to invite Robert Mugabe and other representatives of the Government of Zimbabwe to attend the EU-Africa summit in Portugal in December 2007. [149102]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister met Prime Minister Socrates of Portugal on 9 July and discussed the EU-Africa summit. They agreed that a diplomatic solution was needed regarding the matter of Zimbabwean representation.

MINISTER FOR WOMEN

Departments: Public Transport

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what incentives she has considered to encourage staff to use public transport. [148807]

Mrs. McGuire: I have been asked to reply.

The main incentive the Department offers are interest-free loans for season tickets for travel to work. Use of public transport is encouraged by departmental policies including limited car parking, flexible working, using public transport during the course of travel and making use of travel websites and information services, such as Transport Direct. Staff are also informed about local transport initiatives and promotions. Where the location or nature of the work makes public transport use impractical for staff, car sharing is encouraged.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Committee on Standards in Public Life

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will make a statement on the future role of *(a)* the Committee on Standards in Public Life and *(b)* the Business Appointments Committee. [149231]

Edward Miliband: Both the Committee on Standards in Public Life and the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments continue to play important roles in upholding standards in public life. The Ministerial Code published on 3 July strengthened the provisions relating to business appointments, making clear that Ministers must seek the advice of the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments and that they will be expected to abide by its advice. The Committee on Standards in Public Life is currently in discussion with Government about its forward programme of work.

Contracts for Services: Religion

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will estimate how many faith-based organisations *(a)* received grants and *(b)* were contracted to deliver (i) local authority and (ii) central Government services in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [148710]

Phil Hope: This information is not held centrally. The Government recognise the role which faith-based organisations play in delivering public services through grants and contracts with central and local government. The Government want to ensure that the range of community-based organisations, including faith-based groups, can access the support available to perform

their multiple roles of providing voice to citizens and in building communities. The Office of the Third Sector's Strategic Partners programme includes funding to some faith-based organisations to enable them to provide representative 'voice' for the third sector, or an element of third sector activity, at national level, including on public service delivery issues.

The Third Sector Review, conducted jointly by HM Treasury and the Cabinet Office, as part of the 2007 comprehensive spending review, looking at the future role of the third sector in economic and social regeneration, held targeted events for faith groups as part of its consultation process in 2006. The review also received written representation from faith groups. The Government will seek to ensure continued dialogue with these and other groups and that all of the measures in the Third Sector Review, including the £80 million small grants fund announced in the Budget, will be as accessible as possible to a wide range of organisations.

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people in the former Deputy Prime Minister's Department were *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for (i) inappropriate use of the internet while at work and (ii) using work telephones to access premium rate telephone numbers in the last 12 months. [149198]

Edward Miliband: None.

Departments: Freedom of Information

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will list the requests made to the Cabinet Office under the *(a)* Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000 and *(b)* Environmental Information Regulations in the last six months; and what the (i) FOI case reference number, (ii) request summary, (iii) request outcome and (iv) where appropriate, reason for exemption was in each case. [148868]

Edward Miliband: Information relating to Freedom of Information and Environmental Information requests is published on a quarterly basis by the Ministry of Justice. Information for January—March 2007 was published on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 10WS. Copies of the document are in the Libraries of the House. Information for April—June 2007 is due to be published in the autumn.

Government: Standards

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what overarching studies he plans to undertake as part of his responsibility to make Government work better. [149224]

Edward Miliband: The Prime Minister has already taken several steps to make Government work better. The Prime Minister announced Machinery of Government changes on 27 June, creating the Department for Children, Schools and Families, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. On 3 July the Prime Minister announced a series of constitutional reform measures in the Green Paper entitled "The Governance of Britain". On 12 June the Cabinet Secretary also announced changes to structures within the Cabinet Office designed to strengthen policy, strategy and co-ordination at the centre of Government.

The Cabinet Office has an overarching purpose of making Government work better. As Minister for the Cabinet Office, I and the Prime Minister will keep this under review, and I will provide the Prime Minister with advice as I see fit.

Ministerial Policy Advisers: Standards

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he expects to issue a revised version of the Special Advisers' Code. [149230]

Edward Miliband: A revised version of the Model Contract for Special Advisers, incorporating the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, will be published in due course.

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister: Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how the *(a)* officials and *(b)* budget of the former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister are deployed. [149229]

Edward Miliband: The Deputy Prime Minister's Office has been disbanded and its residual responsibilities and its functions have been transferred to the Cabinet Office.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many complaints have been received concerning possible breaches of the regulation protecting the use of the Olympic symbol, motto and other words relating to the Olympics; and how many prosecutions have been initiated for breaches of the regulations protecting the use of the Olympic symbol, motto and other words relating to the Olympics. [148584]

Tessa Jowell: Prosecutions and actions for infringement are initiated by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Limited (LOCOG) and other bodies. To date, no prosecutions or actions for infringement have resulted in any judgments of the court in favour of or against LOCOG. LOCOG has written "cease and desist" letters to a number of organisations to remind them of the provisions in place under the London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Act 2006 and the Olympic Symbol etc. (Protection) Act 1995 which provides protection for the Olympic symbol and other words and representations relating to the Olympics, Paralympics and London 2012.

The Government Olympic Executive (GOE) within DCMS has also had informal exchanges with a number of organisations to give them information about the provisions.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what plans she has to visit the National Sports Academy at Lilleshall in preparation for the 2012 Olympic Games. [149036]

Tessa Jowell: I will be pursuing a programme of visits to the English regions and Devolved Administrations and plan to include Lilleshall in that programme.

Social Exclusion Unit: Pilot Schemes

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1673W, on the social exclusion unit: pilot schemes, what pilot projects were *(a)* initiated and *(b)* supported by the social exclusion unit and the social exclusion task force prior to the publication of the Reaching Out action plan; and which of those since have been implemented on a national basis. [147565]

Edward Miliband: Prior to the publication of the social exclusion task force (SETF) report 'Reaching Out: An Action Plan on Social Exclusion', the social exclusion unit (SEU) produced over 40 reports. Many of these refer to piloting new approaches which have been initiated and taken forward by various Government Departments, local authorities and the voluntary and community sector. Important SEU documents include reports on rough sleeping, neighbourhood renewal and teenage pregnancy.

The SETF supports the piloting and testing of new approaches which may help tackle social exclusion either on a local or national scale. We recognise the need for good evaluation of pilot programmes so that findings and best practice can be disseminated and implemented.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

British Film Institute: Archives

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make a statement on the future of the British Film Institute and its role in conserving archive material. [149613]

Margaret Hodge: The British Film Institute (BFI) has a unique role in providing education and promoting knowledge and understanding of film. BFI also leads on the conservation of film and TV in the UK. In response to the challenges and opportunities faced by the moving image archive sector, the BFI, in partnership with the UK Film Council and film agencies across the UK, has developed a strategy to secure the UK's screen heritage and increase access to it. This strategy is currently undergoing consultation.

Departmental Studies

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1360W, on departmental studies, when he intends to place the rest of the requested documents in the Library. [148948]

Margaret Hodge: The following studies have been published and can now be placed in the Library:

Economic Impact of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Cultural Investment (renamed "A Framework for Evaluating Cultural Policy").

Assessing the Readiness of the Social Housing Sector for Digital Switchover.

Governance of Non-Departmental Government Bodies.

The following studies are not yet complete but will be placed in the Library on completion:

Casino Impacts Scoping Study.

Sport's Contribution to Achieving Wider Social Benefits.

Measuring Elasticity of Tourism Demand.

International Dimension of the Creative Economy.

Exploring Creative Industry Spillovers.

Museums Indicators Revisions (renamed "Review of Performance Indicator Framework for National Museums and Galleries").

Review of Evidence Base for Delivering SP2/ PSA3 (renamed "Culture on Demand").

Departments: Crime

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what criminal offences have been created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since October 2006. [149595]

Margaret Hodge: Section 3 of the Digital Switchover (Disclosure of Information) Act 2007 creates two new criminal offences. The offences relate to the Digital Switchover Help Scheme and make it an offence to disclose information supplied under the Act without lawful authority. The offence under section 3(1) makes it an offence for a "relevant person" to make such a disclosure and the offence under section 3(2) makes it an offence for a range of persons connected with the relevant person to make such a disclosure.

Departments: Non-departmental Public Bodies

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 90W, on Departments: non-departmental public bodies, what the *(a)* capital costs and *(b)* revenue operating costs were of each of the non-departmental public bodies for which her Department is responsible in each of the last five years; and what change this represented in each case from the previous year. [146118]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested is drawn from the Department's records and is shown in the following tables.

Operating grant allocated to DCMS non-departmental public bodies

£000

	Revenue costs								
	Final outturn						*Provisional outturn*		*Plans*
Body	*2003-04*	*+/-*	*2004-05*	*+/-*	*2005-06*	*+/-*	*2006-07*	*+/-*	*2007-08*
British Museum	31,304	-7,874	23,430	13,130	36,560	3,028	39,588	1,985	41,573
Natural History Museum	29,618	991	30,609	8,944	39,553	-1,811	37,742	4,173	41,915
Imperial War Museum	13,544	7,403	20,947	-761	20,186	-3,430	16,756	2,171	18,927
National Gallery	11,606	-5,442	6,164	11,495	17,659	-2,281	15,378	6,938	22,316
National Maritime Museum	13,912	162	14,074	319	14,393	864	15,257	154	15,411
National Museums Liverpool	14,565	2,452	17,017	-1,302	15,715	3,688	19,403	-427	18,976
National Portrait Gallery	5,278	-393	4,885	560	5,445	-113	5,332	1,536	6,868
National Museum of Science and Industry	33,355	792	34,147	-1,349	32,798	-576	32,222	2,012	34,234
National Coal Mining Museum of England	2,410	260	2,670	-244	2,426	102	2,528	131	2,659
Tate Gallery	27,124	-3,231	23,893	931	24,824	2,630	27,454	4,225	31,679
Victoria and Albert Museum	28,197	-2,789	25,408	3,105	28,513	3,257	31,770	7,500	39,270
Wallace Collection	1,861	842	2,703	-443	2,260	222	2,482	174	2,656
Museum of Science and Industry Manchester	3,099	310	3,409	-839	2,570	1,139	3,709	62	3,771
Museum of London	6,274	232	6,506	-174	6,332	-375	5,957	1,252	7,209
Sir John Soane's Museum	2199	-1,405	794	-4	790	364	1,154	-82	1,072
Horniman Museum	3281	228	3,509	23	3,532	200	3,732	218	3,950
Geffrye Museum	1,256	95	1,351	-20	1,331	63	1,394	162	1,556
Royal Armouries	5,775	486	6,261	-894	5,367	1,297	6,664	748	7,412
National Football Museum	100	0	100	0	100	0	100	0	100
People's History Museum	150	0	150	0	150	6	156	8	164
Tyne and Wear Museums	1,100	100	1,200	10	1,210	651	1,861	465	2,326
Design Museum	200	68	268	72	340	143	483	-80	403
British Library[1]	397,936	-316,922	81,014	1,463	82,477	-9,761	72,716	19,623	92,339
Public Lending Right	7,292	149	7,441	-68	7,373	318	7,691	-9	7,682
Museums Libraries and Archives Council	13,547	-227	13,320	89	13,409	1,333	14,742	-271	14,471
Arts Council of England	325,873	38,957	364,830	31,843	396,673	-373	396,300	20,655	416,955
Football Licensing Authority	2,035	-936	1,099	32	1,131	19	1,150	111	1,261
UK Sports Council	23,578	1	23,579	5,153	28,732	22,852	51,584	11,387	62,971
Sport England	30,748	40,227	70,975	10,104	81,079	-23,489	57,590	22,073	79,663
Royal Household	17,157	-1,600	15,557	650	16,207	-100	16,107	0	16,107
English Heritage[1]	313,986	-193,709	120,277	4,150	124,427	2,561	126,988	-3,252	123,736
National Heritage Memorial Fund	5,000	0	5,000	2	5,002	-6,940	-1,938	1,938	0
Churches Conservation Trust	3,000	0	3,000	626	3,626	-122	3,504	-442	3,062
Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment	2,979	858	3,837	645	4,482	-793	3,689	1,001	4,690
Visit Britain	48,758	-945	47,813	845	48,658	83	48,741	859	49,600
UK Film Council	18,733	3,917	22,650	-1,959	20,691	3,337	24,028	-1,668	22,360
The National Film and Television School	2,600	0	2,600	100	2,700	0	2,700	0	2,700
National Lottery Commission	-99	1,600	1,501	7,372	8,873	-555	8,318	5,683	14,001
Spaces for Sport and Arts	0	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gaming Board for Great Britain/Gambling Commission	2,342	1,362	3,704	5,762	9,466	4,548	14,014	-9,794	4,220

[1] 2003-04 transferring pensions costs

Capital costs

£000

	Final outturn						*Provisional outturn*		*Plans*
Body	*2003-04*	*+/-*	*2004-05*	*+/-*	*2005-06*	*+/-*	*2006-07*	*+/-*	*2007-08*
British Museum	5,058	2,729	7,787	-3,039	4,748	878	5,626	-2,376	3,250
Natural History Museum	5,812	1,952	7,764	-13,283	-5,519	12,271	6,752	-3,502	3,250
Imperial War Museum	300	3,174	3,474	-3,474	0	1,434	1,434	1,816	3,250
National Gallery	6,973	-3,324	3,649	-725	2,924	-1,092	1,832	1,418	3,250
National Maritime Museum	1,030	1,222	2,252	-1,308	944	1,517	2,461	539	3,000
National Museums Liverpool	1,865	-732	1,133	1,790	2,923	-523	2,400	450	2,850
National Portrait Gallery	666	-288	378	-162	216	963	1,179	-1,009	170
National Museum of Science and Industry	123	7,662	7,785	-7,930	-145	1,603	1,458	2,792	4,250
National Coal Mining Museum of England	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tate Gallery	-28	5,823	5,795	-1,228	4,567	-216	4,351	-101	4,250
Victoria and Albert Museum	4,215	3,086	7,301	-5,884	1,417	-297	1,120	2,130	3,250
Wallace Collection	711	-581	130	449	579	550	1,129	371	1,500
Museum of Science and Industry Manchester	200	-200	0	300	300	50	350	50	400
Museum of London	300	-300	0	0	0	1,095	1,095	505	1,600
Sir John Soane's Museum	350	-350	0	325	325	-255	70	-70	0
Horniman Museum	0	0	0	150	150	50	200	200	400
Geffrye Museum	0	1,616	1,616	-1,516	100	462	562	-162	400
Royal Armouries	407	-407	0	1,993	1,993	-1,371	622	278	900
National Football Museum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
People's History Museum	150	-150	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tyne and Wear Museums	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	1,000
Design Museum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	100
British Library	1,826	10,614	12,440	-2,588	9,852	25,588	35,440	-23,368	12,072
Public Lending Right	0	19	19	3	22	-2	20	-20	0
Museums Libraries and Archives Council	72	8	80	53	133	-82	51	-1	50
Arts Council of England	2,656	-1,610	1,046	4,647	5,693	29,857	35,550	-34,550	1,000
Football Licensing Authority	51	-33	18	-17	1	6	7	-7	0
UK Sports Council	155	267	422	117	539	-307	232	-198	34
Sport England	2,385	596	2,981	-2,393	588	41,666	42,254	-5,954	36,300
Royal Household	0	0	0	0	0	314	314	15,793	16,107
English Heritage	2,166	368	2,534	6,671	9,205	1,114	10,319	-919	9,400
National Heritage Memorial Fund	0	0	0	0	0	5,000	5,000	5,002	10,002
Churches Conservation Trust	0	0	0	25	25	-18	7	-7	0
Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment	0	0	0	1,538	1,538	-1,524	14	-14	0
Visit Britain	386	136	522	-224	298	9	307	-7	300
UK Film Council	1,750	-1,552	198	2,155	2,353	1,691	4,044	-2,294	1,750
The National Film and Television School	200	-200	0	200	200	0	200	0	200
National Lottery Commission	0	171	171	-104	67	58	125	-125	0
Spaces for Sport and Arts	40,850	-40,850	0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gaming Board for Great Britain/Gambling Commission	25	-16	9	564	573	3,160	3,733	-3,733	0

Films: Violence

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the change in the level of violence portrayed in films, particularly of torture, in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [149647]

Margaret Hodge: None. Under the terms of the Video Recordings Act, I have designated the president and vice presidents of the British Board of Film Classification as the authority responsible for considering content and classifying videos. They also consider cinema films on behalf of local authorities. The Board addresses the nature and degree of violence through the classification system.

Gun Sports: Olympic Games

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress is being made in discussions with the Home Department on Olympic target pistol shooters; and if he will make a statement. [150098]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Following discussions between officials from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Home Office, a proposal has been put forward to Ministers at the Home Office and a decision remains pending.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1178W, on the Olympic Games, in what form the ongoing advice provided by KPMG on the cost of the Olympics was received. [146541]

Tessa Jowell: I have been asked to reply as Minister for the Olympics.

KPMG provided advice under contract as part of a team within the then Interim Olympic Delivery Authority and later the Olympic Delivery Authority.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1783W, on Olympic Games: Greater London, in what ways the advice remains pertinent to the formulation of Government policy. [146950]

Tessa Jowell: I have been asked to reply as Minister for the Olympics.

The advice provided by KPMG is being used to inform our ongoing strategy for managing the Olympic project and costs which will be kept under close scrutiny throughout.

Royal Opera House: Directors

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what mechanisms are in place to monitor the fulfilment by the chief executive of his contractual obligations as full-time chief executive of the Royal Opera House (ROH); and whether the contract requires that the ROH is informed of the hours spent by the chief executive in employment outside the ROH. [149525]

Margaret Hodge: This is a matter for the chair and board of the Royal Opera House.

Sports: Finance

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what public funding has been made available for sports clubs and facilities in Ribble Valley; and what proportion of these funds is earmarked for Paralympic sports. [149064]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has allocated £3.6 million to a wide range of community sports projects in the Ribble Valley. This funding has attracted an additional £3.1 million of inward investment into sport.

The Ribble Valley sports projects are designed for use by everyone in the community and, as such, no fixed proportion of the Sport England funding has been earmarked specifically for Paralympic sports.

The projects do, however, cover a number of different sports, including rugby, athletics, tennis and sailing, that are included in the lists of both Olympic and Paralympic sports for 2012.

Sports: Governing Bodies

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will list the sport national governing bodies attending the Labour Party fundraiser at Wembley on 12 July. [150096]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS does not hold the information requested.

Sportsgrounds: Seating

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make it his policy to change the regulations to allow safe standing at football grounds; and if he will make a statement. [149500]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We currently have no plans to amend the policy of requiring grounds in the top two divisions in England to be all-seater.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to meet the Football Supporters' Federation to discuss its report on safe standing at football grounds; and if he will make a statement. [149501]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS has met and is in regular contact with the Football Supporters' Federation but we have no plans to meet the FSF to discuss their report.

It is Government's view that all-seater stadiums, along with effective stewarding and policing, is the most effective way to ensure spectator safety in the top two English divisions.

Tickets: Touting

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he plans to extend the existing protection from ticket touts to other sports; and if he will make a statement. [150097]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The restriction on sale of tickets for the 2012 London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games is a requirement of the International Olympic Committee. Sales of tickets for football matches are regulated to maintain the segregation of fans for reasons of public disorder. The Department is not planning to extend these measures or propose new legislation at this stage, but will consider a case for events of national significance and the future recommendations arising from the recent Select Committee inquiry.

Tourists: Expenditure

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by *(a)* domestic and *(b)* foreign tourists in England in each year since 1997. [148828]

Margaret Hodge: The tables show expenditure on visits to England by *(a)* UK residents where this included an overnight stay and *(b)* overseas residents.

Expenditure by UK residents on overnight visits in England

	Current prices (£ million)
1997	17.3
1998	16.4
1999	19.1
2000	19.9
2001	20.3
2002	20.8
2003	20.6
2004	19.0
2005	17.5
2006	16.2

[1] The methodology for the UKTS changed in 2005 meaning that comparisons with previous years should be treated with caution. This change occurred due to concerns with the quality of 2004 data, which are thought to be an under-representation of the true position. There was also a change in survey methodology in 2000, though figures for 1997-99 have been reworked to allow comparisons with later data.

Source:
UK Tourism Survey (National Tourist Boards)[1]

Expenditure by overseas residents during visits to England

	Current prices (£ million)
1997	10.0
1998	10.5
1999	11.0
2000	11.4
2001	9.9
2002	10.3
2003	10.4
2004	11.3
2005	12.3
2006 (provisional)	13.2

Source:
International Passenger Survey (ONS)

In addition, a substantial number of day visits are made to, or within, England. In 2005 an estimated £37 billion was spent on tourism day visits in England by English residents. It is not possible to provide a time series for this information as the surveys are run intermittently.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service: Finance

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if his Department will provide funding for the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service to enable dispute resolution services to be made available to parties in employment disputes at an earlier stage. [149495]

Mr. McFadden: The Government's proposals for the way forward on all aspects of dispute resolution, including the provision of ACAS conciliation services in the early stages of disputes, will be published in due course.

Conditions of Employment: Parents

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which business leaders he and the former Secretary of State for Trade and Industry have met in the last 12 months to discuss family-friendly working practices. [148463]

Mr. McFadden: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State and other Ministers regularly discuss aspects of family-friendly working practices and legislation with business leaders, both in formal meetings and in the margins of other discussions.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will provide the revised budget for his newly-formed Department for 2007-08, broken down by main budget heading. [147612]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 4 July 2007]:* The revised budget for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform will be set out in the Winter Supplementary Estimate.

Departments: Public Transport

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what incentives he has considered to encourage staff in his Department to use public transport. [148797]

Mr. Thomas: The main incentive the Department offers are interest-free loans for season tickets for travel to work. Use of public transport is encouraged by Departmental policies including limited car parking, flexible working, encouraging use of public transport during the course of business travel and making use of travel websites.

Disciplinary Proceedings: Regulation

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if his Department will bring forward proposals to simplify the rules governing employment disciplinary procedures. [149472]

Mr. McFadden: My Department has recently consulted on simplifying employment dispute resolution, and will publish its proposals in due course.

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what percentage of distributors of electrical and electronic equipment are members of a distributor take-back scheme. [149072]

Malcolm Wicks: Over 2,500 retailers have joined the distributor take-back scheme accounting for more than 75 per cent. of EEE retailing by sales.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what percentage of distributors of electrical and electronic equipment have initiated a take-back yourself scheme. [149074]

Malcolm Wicks: All retailers of electrical and electronic equipment are obliged to offer in-store take-back if they are not a member of the distributor take-back scheme. Over 2,500 distributors have joined the DTS representing around 75 per cent. of electrical and electronic equipment sales.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance his Department provided on the waste electrical and electronic equipment regulations to distributors of electrical and electronic equipment before 1 July; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of that guidance. [149075]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department published a distributor factsheet and non-statutory guidance on the UK WEEE regulations in February 2007. Further guidance on the role of distributors was issued in April to explain how distributors can fulfil their obligations under the WEEE system. We will continue to update the guidance in light of experience by distributors, who have not raised any significant concerns over the guidance as it stands.

Google: Doubleclick

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he has had discussions with *(a)* the Information Commissioner on the issues of privacy and data protection in the context of Google's proposed acquisition of Doubleclick and *(b)* the Office of Fair Trading on monitoring of the online marketplace and its effect on consumers, innovation and prices; and if he will make a statement. [149526]

Mr. Timms: I have had no such discussions; either with the Information Commissioner or the Office of Fair Trading. Privacy and data protection are matters for the Ministry of Justice. The regulatory control of mergers is a matter for the independent competition authorities with cases considered on the grounds of impact on competition in the relevant market.

The Office of Fair Trading has recently completed a study on internet shopping. Their report available at http://www.oft.gov.uk/advice_and_resources/resource_base/market-studies/internet concludes that the rapid growth of internet shopping is a success story that benefits both consumers and businesses across a range of markets, but that both could do more to make the most of opportunities it provides.

Government Shareholding

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1283-84W, on Government Shareholding, what the nature and status is of the special shares held by his Department in *(a)* Rolls Royce plc and *(b)* British Aerospace plc. [148946]

Mr. Timms: The information is as follows.

(a) The Solicitor for the Affairs of Her Majesty's Treasury, as nominee for the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, holds the Government's special share in Rolls Royce Group plc, going back to when the Company was privatised in 1987.

The purpose of the Rolls Royce special share, which has a nominal value of £1, is to protect the UK's national security interests. These include security of supply issues associated with its nuclear business (nuclear propulsion for Royal Navy submarines) and for other defence equipment (mainly aero-engine and ship propulsion). The provisions of the special share are tailored as narrowly as possible and kept under review.

Key features of the Rolls-Royce special share are:

A 15 per cent. limit on the percentage of foreign shares in Rolls Royce Group plc (the holding company) that can be held by a single foreign shareholder, or foreign shareholders acting in concert. (A foreign shareholder includes an EU national.)

A requirement that the chief executive and the majority of directors of Rolls Royce Group plc (the holding company) are British.

A requirement that disposals of the whole or a material part of the nuclear business, or the group as a whole, require the consent of the Special Shareholder.

(b) The Solicitor for the Affairs of Her Majesty's Treasury, as nominee for the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, holds the Government's special share in BAE Systems plc (then known as British Aerospace plc). The purpose of the special share, created in 1985, and which has a nominal value of £1, is to protect the UK's national security interests. The provisions of the special share are tailored as narrowly as possible and kept under review.

Key features of the BAE Systems' special share are:

A 15 per cent. limit on the percentage of shares that can be held by any individual foreign shareholder, or group of foreign shareholders acting in concert, in the company; (A foreign shareholder includes an EU national.)

A requirement that the chief executive and the majority of the board are British;

A requirement that any executive chairman is to be British and, if both the chairman and the deputy chairman are non-executives, that at least one of them is British.

Heating: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the low carbon potential of electric heating is realised. [148655]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 10 July 2007]:* The Government are committed to addressing both the causes and consequences of climate change. As announced in the Energy White Paper we are considering a number of policy options to reduce the carbon impact of heat, including electric heating from low carbon sources, and its use in order to determine a strategy for heat.

Industrial Disputes: Mediation

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the merits of making mediation a compulsory step in employment disputes. [149471]

Mr. Timms: The Government are currently developing their plans for the way forward on the resolution of employment disputes including the role of mediation, in the light of Michael Gibbons' review and the Government consultation "Resolving Disputes in the Workplace". These plans will be published in due course.

Iran: Export Credit Guarantees

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 26 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 621W, on Iran: export credit guarantees, whether his Department has received information from other European countries to the effect that they have limited the provision of export credit guarantees to Iran; and if he will make a statement. [148973]

Malcolm Wicks: ECGD receives information about the cover policies operated by other Export Credit Agencies (EGAs) in various international and bilateral fora but this is made known on a confidential basis. However, some EGAs post their current cover policies on individual countries on their public websites. Each EGA is responsible for taking its own decisions on cover policy for individual countries, taking account of its own risk assessments and any international arrangements and/or agreements that exist which may inform what the policy should be.

Maternity Leave

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of mothers eligible for maternity leave have taken maternity leave in the last 12 months; and what the average length of maternity leave was. [148701]

Mr. McFadden: The most recent estimates are based on the Maternity and Paternity Rights and Benefits in Britain: Survey of Parents, conducted in 2005. The survey is based on a random sample of mothers who had a baby in December 2003 and their partners. Of mothers in paid work, all took at least some of their entitlement to maternity leave, and 98 per cent. received some form of maternity pay; approximately 2 per cent. of mothers in paid work did not receive maternity pay. The survey found that the average length of maternity leave taken was six months.

Minimum Wage: Personal Income

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* Tamworth whose income rose on the introduction of the minimum wage. [149270]

Mr. McFadden: The Department estimates that around 1 million people in the UK stand to benefit from the 2007 uprating of the national minimum wage in October, 110,000 of whom are in the West Midlands. Data at the parliamentary constituency level are not available.

Parental Leave: Industrial Disputes

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department holds figures on the number of employment disputes with *(a)* paternity leave and *(b)* maternity leave as a primary cause of action; and if he will make a statement. [148708]

Mr. McFadden: During the year 2005-06, 155 employment tribunal claims related to a person claiming to suffer a detriment and/or dismissal due to requesting or taking paternity or adoption leave or time off to assist a dependant.

During the same year there were 1,501 employment tribunal claims made related to a person claiming to suffer a detriment and/or dismissal on grounds of pregnancy, childbirth or maternity.

Parental Leave: Low Incomes

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate his Department has made of the number of people from low income families taking *(a)* paternity leave and *(b)* maternity leave in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [148697]

Mr. McFadden: The most recent estimates of take-up of maternity and paternity leave are based on the Maternity and Paternity Rights and Benefits in Britain: Survey of Parents, conducted in 2005. The survey is based on a random sample of mothers who had a baby in December 2003 and their partners. Of mothers in paid work, all took at least some of their entitlement to maternity leave. 93 per cent. of fathers took some time off around the time of the birth. Of the 93 per cent. who took some time off, 79 per cent. took paternity leave.

The Department does not collect data on low income families so has not estimated the number of low income families which have taken up paternity or maternity leave.

Paternity Leave

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of fathers eligible for paternity leave have taken paternity leave in the last 12 months; and what the average length of paternity leave was. [148700]

Mr. McFadden: The most recent data available on take-up of paternity leave are from the Maternity and Paternity Rights and Benefits: Survey of Parents 2005. The report of findings is available at the House of Commons Library and at www.berr.gov.uk/files/file27446.pdf. Statistics in this report are based on responses from a sample of mothers and fathers who had a child in December 2003 who were surveyed approximately 17 months after the child's birth.

The survey found that 93 per cent. of fathers took some time off around the time of the birth. Of the 93 per cent. who took some time off, 79 per cent. took paternity leave and the average duration was 9.3 days. Table 9.1 in the cited report provides further information.

Post Offices: WH Smith

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many representations Post Office Ltd. received in response to the consultation on moving the Carlisle Crown Post Office to W.H. Smith; and how many of the responses raised problems about access. [149626]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. Alan Cook the Managing Director has been asked to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Telecommunications

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of households and businesses with a telephone connection provided using a line concentrator or other line sharing device due to shortages of line capacity; what steps he is taking to reduce the number of such households; and what discussions he has had with telecommunications companies on this issue. [149441]

Mr. Timms: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom). I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Tidal Power: Severn Estuary

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans his Department has to commission an independent strategic evaluation of all the options for exploiting tidal power in the Severn estuary; and if he will make a statement. [147987]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* A study of 'Tidal Power in the UK' currently under way and led by the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) working together with my Department, Welsh Assembly Government, the devolved Administrations and the South West Regional Development Agency is looking in some detail at the issues arising on tidal power.

The study will provide a strategic, independent and evidence-based consideration of all the environmental, social and economic aspects of and options for tidal power both in the Severn estuary and the wider UK from a sustainable development perspective.

The final report is expected to be published in September and will help inform any future consideration of these issues. Further details of the study can be seen at

www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/tidal/html.

Unfair Dismissal

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if his Department will undertake an assessment of the law of procedural unfairness in unfair dismissal employment disputes. [149473]

Mr. McFadden: The consultation "Resolving Disputes in the Workplace" covered this area, and in light of early responses the Government issued a supplementary review on procedural unfairness in unfair dismissal. The conclusions of this review and the Government's plans for the way forward will be published, alongside those for the main consultation, in due course.

Warwick Manufacturing Group

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 136W, on the Warwick Manufacturing Group, whether the payments were intended to fund in whole or part the Warwick Manufacturing Group. [148851]

Mr. Timms: The payments detailed in the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 136W, were made in respect of specific services provided by Warwick University, of which the Warwick Manufacturing Group is part, on projects designed to improve the performance of UK industry.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the Government provide financial support to the Warwick Manufacturing Group; and if he will make a statement. [148871]

Mr. Timms: The Government do not provide general financial support to the Warwick Manufacturing Group. They have however engaged the services of the University of Warwick, of which the Warwick Manufacturing Group is part, to provide specific services on a range of projects designed to improve the competitiveness of UK industry.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Boris Berezovsky

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons Boris Berezovsky was granted political asylum. [147793]

Mr. Byrne: It is the policy of the Border and Immigration Agency not to comment publicly on individual cases.

Children: Internet

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on which social networking sites have *(a)* adopted and *(b)* not adopted mechanisms to prevent child abuse. [149443]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not held centrally.

However, the Home Secretary's Taskforce for Child Protection on the Internet has set up a working group which includes representatives from social network providers, law enforcement and children's charities. This group is looking at the safety issues for children caused by the development and growth of social networking sites and is developing good practice guidelines.

Crime: Banks

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what redress is available to a UK citizen against alleged criminal activities by Swiss banks with subsidiary offices located in London. [150234]

Mr. Coaker: Without knowing the full circumstances of a case it is difficult to assess what redress may be available. There may be a case for civil action, or where a criminal offence has been committed in the UK this should be reported to the police for them to decide on appropriate action.

Crime: Drugs

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much and what proportion of anti-drugs spending the Government allocated to the monitoring and evaluation of the performance of the UK drugs strategy in *(a)* reducing the availability of illicit drugs, *(b)* educating young people, *(c)* drug addiction treatment and *(d)* tackling drug-related crime; [148712]

(2) how much and what proportion of anti-drugs spending the Government allocated to research to inform the UK drug strategy on *(a)* availability of illicit drugs, *(b)* young people's attitudes to drugs, *(c)* treatment and *(d)* drug-related crime in each year since 2002. [148713]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office allocated £11.4 million between 2002-03 and 2006-07 on monitoring and evaluation. A further £0.9 million is allocated for the current financial year.

The success of the strategy will be measured by the Drug Harm Index, which captures a range of social and health harms caused by drugs. This is published annually by the Home Office. In terms of research and evaluation, the complex nature of drug misuse and its associated problems means that research projects often address a range of substantive issues. As such, it is difficult to break down funding into discrete themes. However key projects since 2002 have been around assessing the impact of interventions to tackle the availability and problems caused by drugs, measuring the relationship between drugs and crime, estimating the trends in drug consumption and the number of problematic users, and the relationship between drug consumption and young people. Completed projects are published on the Home office Research, Development and Statistics web page.

Crime: Victims

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on the information given to British victims of crime when their assailant is released from prison outside the UK. [149345]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

The statutory victim contact scheme operates in cases where the offender has been convicted of a sexual or violent offence and sentenced to 12 months imprisonment or more, in England and Wales only. In the case of life sentences, the probation service will be told of any decision to repatriate a foreign national prisoner, so that arrangements can be made to inform the victim or the victim's family of the impending transfer. Ministers have no record of receiving any representations about the provision of information to British victims of crime when the offender is subsequently released from prison outside the United Kingdom.

Departments: Common Purpose

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department paid to Common Purpose in each of the last five years; for what purpose; and what the outcome of the expenditure was. [147602]

Mr. Byrne: The amount paid to Common Purpose UK by the Home Office in each of the last five years is detailed in the following table.

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Training	4,406	—	7,150	11,909	9,694
Conference fees	—	—	529	—	—
Grants	—	36,500	—	—	—
Total	4,406	36,500	7,679	11,909	9,694

The purpose and outcome of this expenditure was:

Training expenditure: to raise awareness of leadership issues within the community.

Grants: to fund a project on the under- representation of refugee and black minority ethnic groups in board level appointments.

The spend covers the core Home Office, including what is now the Border and Immigration Agency, and the National Offender Management Service and Office of Criminal Justice Reform, both of which are now part of the Ministry of Justice.

Essex Police: Prosecutions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of legal action brought against Essex police are awaiting a hearing; and how many cases against Essex police were *(a)* settled out of court and *(b)* won by the police in each of the last five years. [149335]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office does not hold this information which is a matter for the Essex Police.

Immigration

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times she has used discretionary powers to allow an individual *(a)* to come to the UK and *(b)* to remain in the UK in each of the last five years. [147782]

Jacqui Smith: Under the Nationality and Immigration Act 2002, the Secretary of State was given discretionary powers to allow an individual to *(a)* come to the UK and *(b)* remain in the UK. Officials from the Border and Immigration Agency act on behalf of the Secretary of State to implement decisions based upon the use of these discretionary powers.

Each asylum and human rights claim is considered on its individual merits in accordance with our obligations under the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and European convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Claimants who meet the definition of a refugee in the 1951 convention are granted asylum. If they do not qualify for asylum but there are other circumstances which make them particularly vulnerable and engage our obligations under the ECHR, they are granted humanitarian protection or discretionary leave. If their application is refused, they have the right of appeal to the independent Asylum and Immigration tribunal. In this way, we ensure that we provide protection of those who need it.

Information provided in the table relates to grants of exceptional leave to remain, humanitarian protection (HP) and discretionary leave (DL) made on asylum applications received in the UK, 2002 to 2006. Humanitarian protection (HP) and discretionary leave (DL) replaced exceptional leave to remain from 1 April 2003.

Principal applicants UK

	Exceptional leave to remain	Grants of humanitarian protection	Grants of discretionary leave
2002	20,135	n/a	n/a
2003	3,975	140	3,095
2004	n/a	160	3,835
2005[1]	n/a	120	2,675
2006[1]	n/a	60	2,260

n/a = not applicable
[1] Provisional

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to nearest five.
2. Humanitarian protection (HP) and discretionary leave (DL) replaced exceptional leave to remain from 1 April 2003.

Distinct from discretionary leave and humanitarian protection policy, it is possible to grant someone limited leave to enter outside the rules. However, it is also possible to grant someone limited leave to enter the United Kingdom under the category of "leave outside the rules". There are two circumstances in which "leave outside the rules" will be considered in non-asylum and non-protection cases:

where someone qualifies under one of the immigration policy concessions; or

for reasons where there are particularly compelling circumstances.

Circumstances in which leave outside the rules is granted are rare and are only approved following ratification by a senior caseworker.

Figures for LOTR can only be obtained by the examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Industrial Health and Safety: Coroners

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1713-14W, on industrial health and safety: coroners, what steps she has taken to ensure that health and safety regulations requiring employers to make a suitable and sufficient assessment of risks to health and safety to which employees are exposed while at work have been carried out by those responsible for coroners' officers. [149168]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 July 2007]*: The responsibility for health, safety and welfare policy for police officers and staff transferred from the Home Office to the National Policing Improvement Agency on 1 April 2007. Coroners are appointed and funded by the relevant local authority. Coroner's officers are police staff members employed by local police authorities. The health and safety of coroners and coroner's officers are the responsibility of the relevant local authority, police authority and chief constable. No central data are maintained.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to answer the letter to her predecessor of 16 May 2007 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr. M. Akhtar. [147548]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 4 July explaining the details of this case.

Police: BNP

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the cost of policing the British National Party Red, White and Blue Festival in Sawley, Lancashire in each of the last four years. [149460]

Mr. McNulty: This is an operational matter for the chief officer and the Police Authority and the information is not held centrally.

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers and other police staff were involved in policing *(a)* during and *(b)* in preparation for the British National Party Red, White and Blue Festival in Sawley, Lancashire in each of the last four years. [149461]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not held centrally. The deployment of police personnel to specific duties is an operational matter for the chief constable of Lancashire constabulary.

Police: CCTV

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of custody offices in police stations are equipped with fully functioning audio and visual CCTV in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* England and Wales. [150010]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for the chief constable of the Lancashire constabulary.

Police: Complaints

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was to police forces in (a) Essex, *(b)* Southend and *(c)* England and Wales of defending (i) complaints and (ii) litigation taken against the police in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [149336]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office does not hold this information; these are matters for the forces concerned.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) about its target for conclusion of a complaint against the police from the date of registration of the complaint and the average time taken per case since the IPCC was set up; and if she will make a statement. [149337]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) which is responsible for the management of the police complaints system.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information is collected by her Department about complaints made against police officers; what changes are planned; what recent representations she has received about complaints against police officers; and if she will make a statement. [149338]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office does not collect this information, which is a matter for the Independent Police Complaints Commission. Any representations about complaints against police officers are also matters for the Independent Police Complaints Commission, to which complainants are referred.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps are taken by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* police forces in England and Wales to learn any necessary lessons from cases investigated by the Independent Police Complaints Commission; and if she will make a statement. [149359]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) which is responsible for the management of the police complaints system.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Southend police on (i) own force investigations, (ii) supervised investigations, (iii) managed investigations and (iv) independent investigations in each of the last three years for which information is available. [149360]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office does not hold this information; these are matters for Essex police.

Police: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of funding of additional year-on-year posts of *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers in Gloucestershire was provided by (i) Central Government and (ii) local authorities in each year since 1997. [149368]

Mr. McNulty: The recruitment of police officers and police community support officers is a matter for the chief constable, in consultation with the police authority, in the light of their budget provisions.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the ratio of regular police officers to residents is in *(a)* Southend, *(b)* each borough in Essex and *(c)* England and Wales; and what each figure was in (i) 1997, (ii) 2001 and (iii) 2005. [149357]

Mr. McNulty: Information is available from 2003 in terms of numbers of officers per 100,000 population for each Basic Command Unit in Essex, including Southend, and is contained in the following table.

Total police officers (full-time equivalent) per 100,000 population, as at 31 March

	1997	2001	2003	2005	2006
Essex Basic Command Units[1]					
Basildon	[2]—	[2]—	150	158	160
Braintree	[2]—	[2]—	111	113	117
Chelmsford	[2]—	[2]—	94	103	109
Colchester	[2]—	[2]—	124	126	134
Harlow[3]	[2]—	[2]—	133	137	149
Rayleigh	[2]—	[2]—	89	98	102
Southend	[2]—	[2]—	170	179	192
Tendring	[2]—	[2]—	122	129	127
Thurrock	[2]—	[2]—	161	175	183
England and Wales[4]	241	234	254	267	267

[1] Excluding Stansted airport and central services Basic Command Units, where comparisons with residential population are inappropriate.
[2] Figures not collected centrally prior to 2003.
[3] Re-named Essex Western in 2006, without change in boundary.
[4] Officers in all 43 police forces, excluding secondments to National Crime Squad, National Criminal Intelligence Service and other central services. Figures prior to 2003 exclude officers on career breaks and maternity leave.

Police: Motorways

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice is issued by her Department on the circumstances and manner in which it is safe to set up a rolling police road block on motorways; and if she will make a statement. [149649]

Mr. Coaker: None; this is an operational matter for the police who will decide how best to intervene in particular circumstances. The Association of Chief Police Officers' Guidance on Policing Motorways is available on the ACPO website at

www.acpo.police.uk.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many forward facing speed cameras were deployed in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* Essex police force area in the last year for which figures are available. [149351]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not collected centrally. I understand however, from Essex police, that they currently possess 10 front facing cameras. Further information as to their deployment is not available.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of forward facing speed cameras in *(a)* reducing accidents and *(b)* reducing the number of persons attempting to pervert the course of justice; and if she will make a statement. [149353]

Mr. Coaker: The Department for Transport commissioned an independent four-year evaluation of the National Safety Camera programme. This included, in its assessment, the success of cameras within the programme in reducing the number of accidents and casualties. The report, a copy of which is in the Library, did not distinguish between front and rear facing cameras. Photographs from front facing cameras may make it easier to identify the driver of a vehicle at the time it was detected committing a speeding offence, thereby making it possible to offer a fixed penalty to or bring a prosecution against that person. Guidance on the use of speed camera photographs is issued by the Association of Chief Police Officers.

Stop and Search: Arrests

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will commission a study of the final outcomes of arrests that follow stop and searches under the Terrorism Act 2000. [147764]

Jacqui Smith: All counter terrorism legislation, including section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 (stop and search), is kept under constant review. Reviewing the effectiveness of section 44 stop and search, its impact on communities and its role as a deterrent is an important part of this work.

Lord Carlile, the independent reviewer of counter-terrorism legislation, noted that work continues to improve the usage of section 44 powers in his report into the operation of the Terrorism Act 2000 in 2006. He also comments on the usage and effectiveness of stop and search and we take his recommendations very seriously.

National guidance for the police on the use of stop and search was published in July 2006. One of the key aims of the guidance is to set out a framework for the use of section 44 powers to ensure that they are used appropriately by officers on the ground. The guidance clearly states that the powers should only be used for searching for articles which could be used in connection with terrorism and that officers should have regard to the full range of other stop and search powers which may be more appropriate.

Terrorism: Detainees

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many terrorist suspects have been detained for more than 14 days since the implementation of the relevant legislation; and if she will make a statement. [147889]

Mr. McNulty: The maximum period of detention pre-charge was extended to 28 days with effect from 25 July 2006. Statistics compiled from police records show that from 25 July 2006 to 06 July 2007, 10 individuals were held for over 14 days in pre-charge detention. The following table provides a breakdown of this information:

Terrorism Act pre-charge detention statistics

Period of detention	*No of persons held*	*Charged*	*Released w/o charge*	*Other result*
14-15 days	1	1	—	—
15-16 days	—	—	—	—

Terrorism Act pre-charge detention statistics

Period of detention	*No of persons held*	*Charged*	*Released w/o charge*	*Other result*
16-17 days	—	—	—	—
17- 8 days	—	—	—	—
18-19 days	—	—	—	—
19-20 days	3	3	—	—
20-21 days	—	—	—	—
21-22 days	—	—	—	—
22-23 days	—	—	—	—
23-24 days	—	—	—	—
24-25 days	—	—	—	—
25-26 days	—	—	—	—
26-27 days	—	—	—	—
27-28 days	6	3	3	—

Traffic Officers: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were employed on speed enforcement duties in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* Essex police in each of the last three years. [149350]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not collected centrally.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many representations she has received from *(a)* the Black Women's Rape Action Project and *(b)* Legal Action for Women on (i) conditions inside Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre and (ii) the treatment of detainees, with particular reference to their treatment on route to airports; and if she will make a statement. [148928]

Mr. Byrne: We have received three letters directly from Black Women's Rape Action Project (BWRAP) and one jointly from BWRAP and Legal Action for Women (LAW). We have also received a number of letters via Members of Parliament from BWRAP and jointly from BWRAP and LAW. All the letters refer to the conditions inside Yarl's Wood IRC and the treatment of detainees both within the centre and under escort.

PRIME MINISTER

Delivery Unit

Mr. Heald: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the future of the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit and Strategy Unit within the Cabinet Office. [146875]

Edward Miliband: I have been asked to reply.

The Prime Minister's Delivery Unit will report jointly to the Prime Minister and to the Chancellor and will be based in the Treasury. The Strategy Unit will continue to be based in the Cabinet Office and will report to the Prime Minister through the Minister for the Cabinet Office.

TREASURY

Cornwall

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the gross value added of Cornwall was in each year since 1979. [149361]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 July 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about Gross Value Added (GVA) for Cornwall in each year since 1979. (149361)

Regional Gross Value Added[1] (GVA) data are produced using the official statistical geographies known as NUTS (Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics). GVA data exist for the NUTS2 region of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly for the time period 1995-2004. These data are shown in table A. Gross Domestic Product[2] (GDP) data for Cornwall and Isles and Scilly were produced for the years 1993 and 1994. These data are shown in table B. Prior to this biannual GDP data exist for the county region of Cornwall. These data are shown in table C.

The data in tables A, B and C were calculated using different methodologies and cannot be used for a consistent time series. These data are at current prices, meaning that they are not adjusted for changes in prices over time.

[1] Gross Value Added (GVA) is Gross Domestic Product (GDP) less taxes (plus subsidies) on products.

[2] Gross Domestic Product data in table B are based on the National Accounts Blue Book 2000 and table C are based on the National Accounts Blue Book 1997 and are calculated on a different basis from the current data. Therefore they cannot be used to calculate a consistent time series.

Table A: gross value added for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

	£ million
1995	3,207
1996	3,421
1997	3,591
1998	3,777
1999	3,993
2000	4,266
2001	4,625
2002	4,987
2003	5,381
2004	5,741

Table B: gross domestic product for Cornwall and Isles of Scilly

	£ million
1993	3,006
1994	3,107

Table C: gross domestic product for Cornwall

	£ million
1979	926
1981	1,207
1984	1,547
1987	2,105
1989	2,689
1991	2,886

Delivery Unit

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit has conducted a review of financial management in the NHS; [148903]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 747W, on Delivery Unit, if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance on conducting joint reviews for use in training staff; [148939]

(3) what the subject was of all joint reviews carried out by the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit in each financial year since 2001-02. [148978]

Andy Burnham: PMDU has not conducted a review of financial management in the NHS, though it has worked with the Treasury and the Department of Health on a joint review of balancing DH funding and expenditure.

I will ensure a copy of the PMDU's guidance on conducting joint reviews is placed in the Library.

Since its inception in 2001, PMDU has carried out the following delivery related joint reviews with Departments:

Education

2002-03

Key Stage 3

Performance Management in Schools

Key Stage 2

2003-04

Bureaucracy in Schools

Key Stage 3 Follow up

2004-05

Key Stage 4

Single Conversation in Schools

Not in Education, Employment or Training PSA Design Review

School Support Staff Training Review

2005-06

Level 2 attainment at 19

10 Year Childcare Strategy

Unauthorised Absence and Persistent Truancy

2006-07

Primary and secondary school standards National Strategy

Teenage pregnancy

Pupil attendance

Pupil behaviour

Targeted Youth Support

Building Schools for the Future

Delivering 14-19 Reform

Department's Capability Review

Health

2002-03

Accident and Emergency 4 hour target

2003-04

Accident and Emergency: Achieving and Sustaining 100 per cent.

Increasing the Impact of Early Thrombolysis

6 Month Waiting

Achieving the 24/48 Hour Primary Care Access Target

2004-05

Choose and Book

Choice at Six Months

2005-06

Long Term Conditions

MRSA

Cancer Waiting Times

2006-07

Non Elective Demand Management

18 weeks

Choice of four providers

Practice-based commissioning

NHS reform programme

Childhood obesity

Childhood and Adolescent Mental Health

Health Inequalities

2007-08

PCT Capability

NHS Reform Programme

Department's Capability Review

Immigration

2002-03

Increasing the Removals of Failed Asylum Seekers

2004-05

Follow Up Interim findings

IND Redocumentation

Optimising Use of Detention

Solutions that Improve IND Performance in Ensuring Priority Failed Asylum Seeker Cases are Removed

2005-06

Local Enforcement Office Inspections

Visa Issuing Overseas

2006-07

New Asylum Model Evaluation

Crime, Justice and Reoffending

2001-02

Street Robbery

2003-04

Street Robbery Follow Up

2004-05

Improving the Criminal Justice System in London

Increasing Sanction Detections

2005-06

Improving the Criminal Justice System in London—follow up

Increasing Sanction Detections—follow up

Drug Treatment
Community Penalties
2006-07
Asset Recovery
Antisocial Behaviour
Reducing Reoffending
Citizen Focused Policing
Respect Action Plans
High Crime Causing Drug Users
National Offender Management
Non-Custodial Sentences
Department's Capability Review
Communities and Local Government
2005-06
Local Authority Development Control
Evidence Base to Support Housing Delivery
2007-08
Cross Government Delivery of Local Area Agreements
Transport
2003-04
Intra-Urban Congestion
2004-05
Rail
Rail Follow Up
Other Projects
2006-07
Neighbourhood Renewal Unit approach to delivering floor targets
Access to the Arts
Government Offices
Sustainable Procurement

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in his Department have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for (i) inappropriate use of the internet while at work and (ii) using work telephones to access premium rate telephone numbers in the last 12 months. [149181]

Angela Eagle: The number of people who have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for (i) inappropriate use of the internet while at work and (ii) using work telephones to access premium rate telephone numbers in the last 12 months is nil.

Departments: Freedom of Information

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the requests made to his Department under the *(a)* Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000 and *(b)* Environmental Information Regulations in the last six months; and what the (i) FOI case reference number, (ii) request summary, (iii) request outcome and (iv) where appropriate, reason for exemption was in each case. [148869]

Angela Eagle: Information relating to Freedom of Information and Environmental Information requests is published on a quarterly basis by the Ministry of Justice. Information for January to March 2007 was published on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 10WS. Copies of the document are in the Libraries of the House. Information for April to June 2007 is due to be published in the autumn. The Treasury website has a section dedicated to FOI releases.

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criminal offences have been introduced by his Department in primary legislation since October 2006. [149694]

Angela Eagle: No criminal offences have been included in primary legislation receiving Royal Assent between October 2006 and 11 July 2007.

Departments: Public Transport

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what incentives he has considered to encourage staff in his Department to use public transport. [148804]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 4 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1067W.

Departments: Racial Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [149241]

Angela Eagle: The procedures for investigating complaints of racial abuse have been initiated fewer than five times in the last 12 months. Numbers are therefore not available on the grounds of confidentiality.

European Union Solidarity Fund

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what applications the UK made to the European Union Solidarity Fund in each of the last five years. [150107]

Kitty Ussher: The UK has made a single application to the European Union Solidarity Fund in the past five years. The application was submitted in 2006 following the Buncefield fuel depot explosion. However, the total damage did not meet the strict criteria for mobilising the fund.

Finance: Iraq

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what mechanisms were put in place in his Department prior to March 2003 to estimate the likely cost of military operations in Iraq; [148895]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the value-for-money of expenditure on *(a)* military operations and *(b)* reconstruction in Iraq; [148896]

(3) how much was allocated in the 2004 Spending Review to be spent on reconstruction in Iraq, broken down by *(a)* the Department to which it was allocated and *(b)* (i) capital and (ii) resource spending; [148897]

(4) what procedures his Department has in place for assessing the amount to place in the Special Reserve each year to cover the cost of operations in Iraq; [148898]

(5) what estimate his Department made before the 2003 Budget of the cost of the *(a)* war and *(b)* reconstruction in Iraq in each of the subsequent five financial years. [148899]

Andy Burnham: By their nature the total cost of military operations are difficult to estimate from the outset. Pre-Budget report 2002 set aside £1 billion for the cost of operations in Iraq. On the basis of MOD forecasts this was increased to £3 billion at Budget 2003 as a prudent contingency.

The nature of operations, whether in Iraq or elsewhere, means that they cannot be time-limited from the outset. As a result, HM Treasury maintains a rolling annual estimate of the cost of operations and reviews the costs of and provision for military operations at the time of the pre-Budget report and the Budget. Military operations are routinely evaluated in order to measure progress and capture lessons learnt.

By Budget 2003 a total of £240 million had been committed for humanitarian assistance in Iraq, and in addition, Budget 2003 announced a further $100 million to back up the UN and the work of reconstruction and international development. At the Madrid Conference in October 2003, the UK pledged $900 million (£544 million) for reconstruction in Iraq over the period 2003-04 to 2005-06. The 2004 Spending Review allocated funds to enable this commitment to be fulfilled. At the launch of the International Compact for Iraq in Sharm El Sheikh on 3 May 2007, the Foreign Secretary announced that the UK will spend at least £200 million over and above the Madrid pledge, to be disbursed over the next three years.

The Iraq reconstruction programme is subject to the standard internal DFID guidelines for the monitoring and evaluation of all programmes and projects. DFID has reporting arrangements in place for each of the projects it runs in Iraq, which means that funding is tracked and monitored throughout the process.

Effective performance management and lesson learning is key to how DFID assesses its progress against its value for money target.

Identity Cards: Freedom of Information

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* legal and *(b)* other costs have been of dealing with Freedom of Information requests for the publication of the Gateway review on the identity cards scheme. [149771]

Angela Eagle: OGC has received 14 Freedom of Information requests specifically for OGC Gateway™ information on the Home Office's national identity scheme programme. Two of these are being appealed at the High court, and one is being appealed at the Information Tribunal.

The total legal costs incurred in handling these requests so far has been approximately £60,000.

Staff time or other overheads in relation to FOI requests are not recorded by OGC.

Life Expectancy

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the life expectancy was of *(a)* men and *(b)* women in each primary care trust area of England for the most recent year for which figures are available. [149513]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 July 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the life expectancy was of (a) men and (b) women in each primary care trust area of England for the most recent year for which figures are available. (149513)

The most recent available figures for period life expectancy at birth in primary care organisations[1] (PCOs) are for 2001-03, and were provided in the Answer to Question 84021 which can be found in Hansard of 12th July 2006, col. 1840W. A copy of the figures provided is available in the House of Commons Library.

Please note that these figures refer to the names and boundaries of PCOs as they existed before the NHS organisational changes of October 2006. ONS expects to publish life expectancy figures for PCOs for years after 2001-03 based on the current (2006) boundaries.

[1]Primary care organisations consist of Primary Care Trusts and Care Trusts.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the life expectancy of *(a)* men and *(b)* women in England was in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [149514]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 16 July 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question regarding what the life expectancy of (a) men and (b) women in England was in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. I am replying in her absence. (149514)

The table below shows life expectancies at birth for males and females in England for the years 1994-1996 to 2003-2005 inclusive. These are 'period' expectation of life figures, which are calculated from the mortality rates actually experienced in the given years. They do not allow for possible changes in mortality in future years.

Period expectation of life at birth

		Years
	Males	*Females*
1994-96	74.3	79.5
1995-97	74.5	79.6
1996-98	74.8	79.8
1997-99	75.0	79.9
1998-2000	75.3	80.1
1999-2001	75.7	80.4
2000-02	76.0	80.6
2001-03	76.2	80.7
2002-04	76.6	80.9
2003-05	76.9	81.2

'Cohort' life expectancy figures, which do allow for projected changes in mortality at later years, are available from the Government Actuary's Department's website at:

http://www.gad.gov.uk/Life_Tables/Period_and_cohort_eol.htm

Mr. Byers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the life expectancy is of *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each of the 25 (i) most and (ii) least deprived electoral wards; and how many, on average, of these years will be spent with a disability. [149945]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 July 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the life expectancy is of (a) males and (b) females in each of the 25 (i) most deprived electoral wards and (ii) least deprived wards; and how many on average of these years will be spent with a disability. (149945)

The attached table provides the period life expectancy at birth in the 25 (i) most deprived and (ii) least deprived wards in England and Wales, as a five-year average for 1999-2003 (the only period available). The figures are presented for (a) males, (b) females and (c) all persons, as some wards are too small for the calculation of life expectancies for males and females separately.

These figures are experimental statistics—that is, statistics which are in a testing or consultation phase and are not fully developed—and should therefore be treated with caution. Because life expectancies for wards can be based on very small numbers of deaths and small populations, they are subject to large variations even when averaged over five years, and extreme results may be due only to chance.

Based on these life expectancy figures, ONS will release experimental statistics on disability-free life expectancy at birth for wards on 23rd August 2007. These will provide a breakdown of the period life expectancy estimate for each ward into years spent without a disability (or disability-free) and years spent with a disability.

A recently published analysis showed that on average, males could expect to spend 18 out of 71 years (25 per cent.) of life with a disability in the most deprived twentieth of all wards in England and Wales grouped together, and 11 out of 79 years (14 per cent.) in the least deprived twentieth. Females could expect to spend 21 out of 78 years of life (27 per cent.) with a disability in the most deprived twentieth of wards, and 13 out of 82 years (16 per cent.) in the least deprived twentieth.[1]

[1] Rasulo D, Bajekal M, Yar M (2007). Inequalities in health expectancies in England and Wales—small area analysis from the 2001 Census. Health Statistics Quarterly 34, 35-45

Table 1. Period life expectancy at birth by sex[1,2] for the 25 most deprived and 25 least deprived[3] wards in England and Wales, 1999-2003[4]

Rank order	*Local authority*	*Ward*	*Years of life*			
			Males	*Females*	*Persons*	*Communal establishment indicator[5]*
	Most deprived					
1	Oldham	Coldhurst	72	77	74	1
2	Tower Hamlets	Bromley-by-Bow	72	80	75	2
3	Birmingham	Sparkbrook	70	78	74	5
4	Tower Hamlets	Bethnal Green South	72	81	76	0
5	Tower Hamlets	Spitalfields and Banglatown	72	79	75	4
6	Birmingham	Aston	72	80	75	2
7	Tower Hamlets	Shadwell	73	79	76	1
8	Middlesbrough	Middlehaven	65	72	68	0
9	Tower Hamlets	Whitechapel	73	79	76	5
10	Tower Hamlets	Mile End East	72	79	76	1
11	Bradford	Bradford Moor	71	74	72	0
12	Tower Hamlets	St. Dunstan's and Stepney Green	73	77	75	2
13	Tower Hamlets	Weavers	74	81	77	1
14	Bradford	University	71	76	73	2
15	Knowsley	Princess	68	77	72	5
16	Leicester	Spinney Hills	74	80	77	1
17	Liverpool	Granby	67	74	70	0
18	Newham	Green Street East	76	81	78	0
19	Newham	Green Street West	76	79	77	2
20	Kensington and Chelsea	Golborne	74	82	78	1
21	Newham	Little Ilford	72	77	75	0
22	Redcar and Cleveland	Grangetown	70	78	74	0
23	Knowsley	Longview	73	80	76	2
24	Birmingham	Small Heath	72	79	76	0
25	Birmingham	Nechells	70	77	74	2
	Least deprived					
1	Chiltern	Austenwood	76	82	78	5
2	Surrey Heath	St. Pauls	79	80	80	5
3	South Bucks	Gerrards Cross South	83	95	87	0
4	Macclesfield	Prestbury	78	84	81	4
5	Macclesfield	Knutsford Norbury Booths	85	87	86	0
6	East Staffordshire	Little Aston	77	79	78	4
7	Three Rivers	Chorleywood East	80	83	81	4
8	Lichfield	Nonsuch	80	82	81	2

Table 1. Period life expectancy at birth by sex[1,2] for the 25 most deprived and 25 least deprived[3] wards in England and Wales, 1999-2003[4]

Rank order	Local authority	Ward	Males	Females	Persons	Years of life Communal establishment indicator[5]
9	Winchester	Whiteley	79	81	83	0
10	Cardiff	Lisvane	83	83	83	0
11	Wealden	Crowborough St. Johns	74	78	76	3
12	Reading	Mapledurham	84	86	85	0
13	Waverley	Godalming Holloway	82	86	84	0
14	Daventry	Brampton	—	—	84	0
15	Durham	Shincliffe	—	—	82	5
16	Waverley	Farnham Bourne	82	88	85	1
17	Tandridge	Woldingham	—	84	82	2
18	Sedgemoor	Axe Vale	83	82	82	1
19	Rushcliffe	Wolds	—	82	78	5
20	Woking	Mayford and Sutton Green	78	86	82	0
21	Monmouthshire	Shirenewton	77	—	81	0
22	Wokingham	Barkham	78	85	81	0
23	Wokingham	Finchampstead North	80	88	84	1
24	Mole Valley	Ashtead Park	80	83	82	3
25	Three Rivers	Moor Park and Eastbury	80	80	80	5

[1] Period life expectancy at birth is an estimate of the average number of years a newborn baby would survive if he or she experienced the area's age-specific mortality rates for that time period throughout his or her life. The figure reflects mortality among those living in the area in each time period, rather than mortality among those born in each area. It is not therefore the number of years a baby born in the area in each time period could actually expect to live, both because the death rates of the area are likely to change in the future and because many of those born in the area will live elsewhere for at least some part of their lives.

[2] Wards for which life expectancy for one or both sexes could not be calculated due to small numbers are marked by '—'. Life expectancy for all persons combined is given for all wards.

[3] Deprivation was measured using the Carstairs deprivation score, which reflects levels of household overcrowding, male unemployment, low social class and car ownership.

[4] Five year averages, based on deaths registered in each year, and experimental ward population estimates based on the 2001 Census. The ward names and boundaries used are 2001 Census Standard Table wards.

[5] The presence of medical and care communal establishments; such as nursing homes and hospices, can artificially depress the average life expectancy of the ward in which they are located. To aid interpretation of the figures, this indicator shows the proportion of the population of each ward, aged 65 and over, who were resident in such establishments in 2001. For this purpose, all wards in England and Wales (not only the wards in these boroughs) were divided into six groups which are numbered from 0 to five:

'0' means that none of the over-65 population lived in medical and care communal establishments;

'1' means that the proportion of the over-65 population in such establishments was in the lowest fifth of all wards;

'5' means that the proportion of the over-65 population in such establishments was in the highest fifth of all wards.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will reply to the letters dated 23 April and 23 May from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton to the Chairman of HM Revenue and Customs on Mr. Tallat Ayub. [149155]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC replied to my right hon. Friend on 10 July 2007.

Ministerial Policy Advisers: Council of Economic Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to continue the arrangements for special advisers to work on a Council of Economic Advisers. [148923]

Angela Eagle: Policy experts will continue to be employed on the Council of Economic Advisers on special adviser terms.

National Income

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* gross domestic product and *(b)* gross value added per head was in each (i) region and (ii) county of the UK in each year since 1998. [149490]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 16 July 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question about gross value added (GVA) and gross domestic product (GDP) per head in each region and county in the UK in each year since 1998.1 am replying in her absence. (149490)

The Office for National Statistics publishes regional GVA[1] using official statistical geographies known as Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS)[2]. NUTS1 includes Government Office Regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. NUTS2 and NUTS3 include county level data but do not fully correspond to the counties of the United Kingdom. Regional GVA estimates are expressed at current basic prices and do not allow for changes in prices over time (inflation) or differences in regional price levels (purchasing power).

The full range of regional GVA estimates is available on the ONS website:

http/www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14650

[1] Gross Value Added (GVA) is Gross Domestic Product (GDP) less taxes (plus subsidies) on products.

[2] The Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS) provides a single uniform breakdown for the production of regional statistics for the European Union. Regional GVA data are produced at three levels of NUTS in the UK. These are:

NUTS1: Government Office Regions and Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

NUTS2: 37 areas—sometimes referred to as sub-regions.

NUTS3: 133 areas—generally groups of unitary authorities or districts, also known as local areas.

National Insurance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many national insurance cards are in circulation in the United Kingdom. [149970]

Jane Kennedy: It is not possible to state how many national insurance cards are in circulation. Once a national insurance number (NINO) has been allocated to an individual, HMRC IT systems issue them with a plastic NINO card to act as a permanent reminder of the number. The card clearly states that it is not proof of identity. The card itself is purely a notification card and is not considered to be a secure document and as such the card is not numbered or controlled.

Remittances

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's mechanisms for the monitoring of agencies specialising in international money transfers; and if he will make a statement. [149162]

Kitty Ussher: The Treasury conducted an assessment of the supervision of money service businesses by HMRC for anti-money laundering purposes in autumn 2006. Its conclusions are currently being implemented as part of the UK's criminal and terrorist finance strategy, launched in February this year.

The Government have also committed, following agreement reached on the EU Payment Services Directive (PSD) in April 2007, to bring money transfer companies into regulation from November 2009. The Treasury will launch a public consultation on the implementation of the PSD in autumn 2007.

Revenue and Customs: Personal Records

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) with which *(a)* Government Departments and *(b)* local authorities HM Revenue and Customs shares (i) individual tax liability records and (ii) capital gains tax liability records; [148872]

(2) what assessment he has made of the merits of *(a)* cross checking and *(b)* sharing (i) all tax liability records and (ii) capital gains tax liability records with those (A) Government Departments and (B) local authorities for which such data would assist them with the efficient discharge of their responsibilities; [148873]

(3) what rules govern the exchange and sharing of tax data and capital gains tax records with *(a)* officials in other Government Departments and *(b)* officials in local authorities. [148874]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC may only disclose information in accordance with the provisions of section 18 of the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005.

Statutory gateways provide HMRC with the lawful authority to share its information with others. Gateways detail with whom the information may be shared and for what purpose. All disclosures must be fully compliant with the provisions of the Data Protection and Human Rights Acts.

These gateways permit HMRC to disclose relevant, necessary and appropriate information in limited and defined circumstances to enable them to efficiently discharge their responsibilities. A list of the most commonly used gateways can be accessed via the following link:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/idgmanual/IDG60000.htm.

Taxation: Casinos

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the increase in casino taxation on existing small and medium sized casinos; [149992]

(2) what taxation rates and duties are paid by *(a)* bookmakers, *(b)* casino operators, *(c)* bingo operators and *(d)* online gambling operators in the UK. [149993]

Angela Eagle: The rates of taxation for betting, gaming and lotteries are published in the HM Revenue and Customs Betting and Gaming Factsheet, available at http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=factbetting.

The Government take all relevant factors into consideration when establishing and maintaining fair regimes for the gambling taxes.

Unemployment: Young People

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of 19 to 21-year-olds were *(a)* economically inactive and not in full-time education and *(b)* unemployed in each year since 1997, broken down by local education authority. [149097]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 16 July 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about persons aged 19 to 21 who are either economically inactive and not in full-time education or unemployed. I am replying in her absence. (149097)

The Office for National Statistics compiles statistics of economic inactivity and unemployment for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows the numbers and percentages of persons aged 19 to 21 who are economically inactive and not in full-time education, resident in each local education authority in Great Britain, for the 12 months ending in February from 1999 to 2004 from the annual local area LFS and for the 12 months ending in March 2005 to 2006. Data for the 12 month periods ending in February 1997, February 1998 and February 2000 are not readily available for local education authorities.

Table 2, attached, shows the numbers and percentages of persons aged 19 to 21 who are unemployed, resident in each local education authority in Great Britain, for the 12 months ending in February from 1999 to 2004 from the annual local area LFS and for the 12 months ending in March 2005 to 2006. Data for the 12 month periods ending in February 1997, February 1998 and February 2000 are not readily available for local education authorities.

Note that the percentages provided, as requested, are proportions of the 19 to 21 population. This is not the official unemployment rate which is defined as the number of unemployed expressed as the percentage of the economically active population.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. In this case, the sample sizes are not sufficient to give an accurate estimate of even the direction of the change over time.

As the information provided is extensive, a copy of the tables has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* households were in receipt of either child tax credit or working tax credit in each year for which figures are available. [148909]

Jane Kennedy: The average number of households benefiting from either child or working tax credits in each year, or receiving the equivalent support through out-of-work benefits, is shown in 'Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics: Finalised annual awards' for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. These are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

These publications also show the number of couple and single adult households benefiting from tax credits, as well as the average number of children in these households.

Welfare Tax Credits: IT

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the technical issues are which are affecting tax credit IT systems entitlement calculations. [148690]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to paragraph 2.39 of the Comptroller and Auditor General's Standard Report, which is available on the NAO website at:

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/nao_reports/06-07/0607626.pdf

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departments: Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of staff in her Department are making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions; and what steps she has taken in the last 12 months to encourage more people to make such contributions. [147531]

Mr. Iain Wright: Forty-two members of staff in Communities and Local Government (1.9 per cent. of the total number of staff employed by the Department) currently make additional voluntary pension contributions through deductions from their pay. Pension scheme members receive an annual benefit statement showing the pension built up to date, and also a projection of pension on retirement if the member continues in service to scheme pension age. The benefit statement provides details of the Civil Service Pensions website where staff can obtain further information, including on options for making additional voluntary contributions to boost their pension.

Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether her Department has had discussions with the Community Development Foundation on the appropriateness of religious groups receiving grants from the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund where allegations of cultish behaviour have been made against them; [147208]

(2) what representations her Department has received on cultish behaviour in the *(a)* Friends of the Western Buddhist Order, *(b)* New Kudampa Tradition and *(c)* Soka Gakkai International. [147209]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has received correspondence from a member of the public regarding the alleged cultish behaviour of the Friends of the Western Buddhist Order, New Kadarnpa Tradition and Soka Gakkai International. No other representation has been received by the Department. Communities and Local Government has commissioned the Community Development Foundation to administer the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund. Officials made the Community Development Foundation aware of the existence of the allegations. The Department considered whether these allegations had any relevance when set against the Fund's stringent criteria and guidelines. The decision was made that the criteria were satisfied and the award of funding was made.

Fire Services

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which fire services provide no whole-time fire cover at night across their entire service area. [148983]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 11 July 2007]:* The information requested is not held centrally.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of levels of night-time fire cover across the country; and if she will make a statement. [148984]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 11 July 2007]:* Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) are required by the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework to have in place and maintain an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) which reflects local need and sets out plans to tackle effectively both existing and potential risks to communities. The IRMP enables the Authority to tailor cover, to fire and other incidents, to local circumstances by evaluating where risk is greatest and allocating resources accordingly.

It is not the role of Ministers to intervene in the operational proposals of an authority's IRMP; that is for elected members of the authority concerned to determine following full consultation with the local community. The local authority is best placed to act on the professional advice of principal officers and to balance the competing local demands on available resources for the benefits of the communities they serve.

Floods: EU Grants and Loans

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether an application has been made to the European Union Solidarity Fund as a result of the recent flooding across the UK. [150088]

John Healey: We are keen to access appropriate sources of funding to help deal with the flooding that has so badly affected some of the English regions. We are urgently investigating whether the recent flooding would meet the criteria set by the European Commission for applying for support to the European Union Solidarity Fund.

Floods: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* Milton Keynes Council and *(b)* Stoke Goldington Parish Council will be eligible following the severe flooding in Stoke Goldington, Milton Keynes to apply for part of the £14 million emergency fund for flooded communities recently announced by the Prime Minister. [149169]

John Healey *[holding answer 12 July 2007]:* The £14 million package of aid announced by the Prime Minister comprises three elements.

Firstly, there is a £10 million Flood Recovery Grant Scheme administered by my Department to support local authorities in their work within communities affected by the flooding, and in particular to enable them to help those in greatest and most immediate need get back on their feet. This is funding for lower-tier local authorities, so Stoke Goldington Parish Council is not eligible.

I announced on 13 July a series of initial payments to local authorities under this scheme, based on the information available to me at the time about the number of households affected by flooding and on my judgment as how to best share the available funding to the best benefit of affected communities. Milton Keynes was considered for, but has not received, an initial payment. We will be making allocations in due course of the remaining funding, and are encouraging all affected local authorities to work closely with their Government Office on assessing the impact of the recent flooding. I will consider the case for payments to all eligible councils on the basis of the information I have at that time.

Secondly, there is £3 million from the Department for Transport to assist emergency capital works needed to restore the functionality of the highway network. This is for highways authorities, which means that Milton Keynes can apply but Stoke Goldington cannot. Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis, depending on the nature and urgency of the repairs, and the availability of resources.

Finally, there is £1 million which can be drawn on as contingency reserve by the Department for Work and Pensions for use by Jobcentre Plus to support additional demand for Social Fund Community Care Grants. This is not funding for local authorities but for individuals, who should apply direct to Jobcentre Plus in the usual way.

Floods: Northern Region

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of the residential properties affected in the recent flooding in the north of England were built in the last 10 years. [149174]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is not held centrally.

Homelessness: North East region

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress is being made towards tackling homelessness on Wearside; and if she will make a statement. [148529]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities on Wearside have made good progress in tackling homelessness since 2003. Collectively they have already met the 2010 temporary accommodation reduction target and homeless acceptances have dropped by over 30 per cent. during that period.

Local authority	*Homelessness acceptances*	*Temporary accommodation*
Sunderland		
2003-04	894	12
2004-05	597	15
2005-06	593	9
2006-07	579	9
Chester Le Street		
2003-04	134	68
2004-05	109	108
2005-06	81	89
2006-07	82	15
Durham		
2003-04	212	42
2004-05	271	29
2005-06	245	2
2006-07	219	8
Wear Valley		
2003-04	172	22
2004-05	124	9
2005-06	117	9
2006-07	94	10

Housing: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department has to increase targets for future house building in Bournemouth. [149981]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 11 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1471-72W. The draft South West Regional Spatial Strategy, which recently completed its examination in public, states a range for 2006-26 of between 680 and 780 dwellings per annum for Bournemouth.

Future housing targets for Bournemouth will be set out in the Local Development Framework for the district, and will need to be in accordance with the Regional Spatial Strategy when finalised.

Housing: Essex

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many vulnerable households lived in non-decent homes in Essex in the latest period for which figures are available; [147371]

(2) how many vulnerable households in non-decent homes there are in Essex. [147961]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on the number of vulnerable households living in non-decent homes in each local authority district is not available centrally. A

Decent Home: Definition and guidance for implementation (June 2006-Update) advises local authorities, as part of their strategic management of housing in their area, to carry out periodic surveys to, amongst other things, assess the number of vulnerable households living in non-decent homes who own or privately rent their accommodation. Individual local authorities are best placed to advise on their latest assessment. The guidance referred to above is available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1152190

Housing: Low Incomes

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes were built in Windsor in each year since 1997. [148786]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 12 July 2007]:* The number of affordable homes provided through new build and acquisitions on behalf of Windsor and Maidenhead local authority are in the following table. These figures include 'social for rent' and 'low cost home ownership'.

	Number of affordable housing dwellings provided
1997-98	164
1998-99	184
1999-2000	270
2000-01	123
2001-02	117
2002-03	118
2003-04	87
2004-05	120
2005-06	69

Source:
Housing Corporation and returns from local authorities

Housing: Multiple Occupation

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of domestic residential properties in multiple occupation as a percentage of the total number of individual properties in each local authority area. [148887]

Mr. Iain Wright: A table detailing the latest estimates of the number of all houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) as a percentage of the total number of dwellings in each local authority area has been placed in the Library of the House. The data were provided by local authorities to the Department as part of their Annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Abortion

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will take steps to seek the views of the Northern Ireland Assembly before any legislation is brought forward at Westminster which would change the law relating to abortion in Northern Ireland. [148566]

Paul Goggins: The Government have no plans to amend the law on abortion in Northern Ireland. We believe the best forum for discussion of these questions is the Northern Ireland Assembly, once it has assumed responsibility for the criminal law.

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what powers Parliament retains to legislate on abortion in Northern Ireland. [149805]

Paul Goggins: The legislation governing abortion in Northern Ireland falls within the field of criminal law and, as such, remains a reserved matter in Northern Ireland under the terms of paragraph 9(a) of Schedule 3 to the Northern Ireland Act 1998. This means that any legislation on it would fall to Parliament at Westminster to take forward, although, as with all reserved matters, under the terms of section 8(b) of the 1998 Act, the Northern Ireland Assembly may legislate on this matter with the consent of the Secretary of State.

Community Policing

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made on community policing in Northern Ireland. [149418]

Paul Goggins: My Department continues to work closely with PSNI in relation to the development of community policing. In September 2006, PSNI set up a dedicated branch to develop its approach to policing with the community. A review of neighbourhood policing was also undertaken, drawing on best practice from other police services.

In his final report of 19 May 2007, the Oversight Commissioner for Police Reform indicated that five of the eight recommendations on policing with the community were complete and that substantial progress had been made on the remaining three.

On 18 June 2007 the chief constable and his senior staff approved the corporate framework for neighbourhood policing. The 25 recommendations contained therein will now begin to be implemented throughout all police districts. Workshops to inform officers about the 25 recommendations and the way ahead are currently being held within the eight police districts and will be completed by 27 July 2007.

A Corporate Implementation Team (whose role it will be to deliver the recommendations) has been selected. A project plan is being prepared; however all eight districts are already implementing those recommendations that can be implemented now.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 515W, on Departments: official hospitality, if he will provide a breakdown by main budget heading of his Department's *(a)* agencies and *(b)* NDPBs expenditure on official hospitality for each of the last three years. [146803]

Paul Goggins: The following table indicates how much the Northern Ireland Office's agencies and executive NDPBs spent on official hospitality for each of the last three years:

£

	(a) Hospitality spend—agencies	(b) Hospitality spend—executive NDPBs
2004-05	44,807	122,313
2005-06	41,191	141,088
2006-07	77,555	228,380

Departments: Racial Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [149246]

Paul Goggins: During the last 12 months the NIO has not received any official complaints of racial abuse. All staff joining the NIO undergo mandatory equal opportunities awareness training as part of their induction, which includes guidance on appropriate behaviour in the workplace. A new diversity course, which concentrates on treating others with dignity, is due to be rolled out to the whole Department in the coming months.

Police: County Armagh

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the Police Service of Northern Ireland on *(a)* policing and *(b)* the security situation in South Armagh; and if he will make a statement. [149524]

Paul Goggins: My Department has regular discussions with the PSNI on a variety of topics related to policing and security, including matters relating to South Armagh. For security reasons, it would not be appropriate to comment further on the exact nature of such discussions.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been paid to prisoners who were released early from prison under the terms of the Belfast Agreement. [149807]

Paul Goggins: Each prisoner released under the terms of the Northern Ireland Sentence Act (1998) were given a discharge grant, maximum £103.81, in line with that given to all persons released from prison. There was no special provision for these prisoners.

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been paid to prisoners under the provisions for the resettlement of offenders since 1998. [149808]

Paul Goggins: Under the provisions for the resettlement of offenders, there was no special provision made for individual prisoners released under the terms of the Northern Ireland Sentence Act (1998). On their release these prisoners were given a discharge grant in line with that given to all persons released from prison. In addition, various Northern Ireland Departments and the Northern Ireland Office made funding available to ex-prisoner groups. This included Peace and Gap funding.

Proscribed Organisations

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many paramilitary-style assaults took place in Northern Ireland in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available, broken down by group deemed responsible; and if he will make a statement. [149522]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Casualties as result of paramilitary-style assaults

	Perceived attribution[1]		
	Loyalists	Republicans	Total
2006			
July	5	1	6
August	2	5	7
September	1	2	3
October	1	2	3
November	2	0	2
December	1	0	1
2007			
January	3	1	4
February	6	0	6
March	6	0	6
April	3	0	3
May	0	1	1
June	0	1	1

Casualties as result of paramilitary-style shootings

	Perceived attribution[1]		
	Loyalists	Republicans	Total
2006			
July	3	0	3
August	1	1	2
September	2	1	3
October	0	5	5
November	0	1	1
December	0	0	0
2007			
January	0	1	1
February	0	0	0
March	0	0	0
April	0	0	0
May	0	0	0
June	0	0	0

[1]Please note that the PSNI capture these incidents as Loyalists or Republicans, they are not broken down into specific groups. Attribution is as perceived by PSNI based on the information available and does not necessarily indicate the involvement of a paramilitary organisation.

Note:
Statistics are provisional and may be subject to minor amendment.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many acts of criminality took place in Northern Ireland by paramilitary groups in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available, broken down by group deemed responsible; and if he will make a statement. [149523]

Paul Goggins: The information is not available in the format requested. However, since April 2004 the Independent Monitoring Commission has monitored

and reported on paramilitary-style crimes and involvement in organised crime. The Commission has presented 15 reports to date with detailed analysis of paramilitary activity.

In addition, the Police Service of Northern Ireland holds up-to-date and comprehensive statistical analysis on crime and security in Northern Ireland. The information can be accessed on PSNI's website at www.psni.police.uk.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency: Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much was spent on *(a)* managing the Child Support Agency's (CSA) corporate identity in each year since 1997-98 and *(b)* branding of the CSA in each of the last two years; [133913]

(2) how much was spent by the Child Support Agency on *(a)* staff parties, *(b)* newspapers, magazines and periodicals, *(c)* stationery and *(d)* other promotional merchandise branded with the name of the Child Support Agency in each of the last five years; [133914]

(3) how much was spent by the Child Support Agency on branding in each year since 1997. [136014]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 16 July 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions:

How much was spent on (a) managing the Child Support Agency's (CSA) corporate identity in each year since 1997-98 and (b) branding of the CSA in each of the last two years. [13393]; and

How much was spent by the Child Support Agency (CSA) on (a) staff parties (b) newspapers, magazines and periodicals (c) stationery and (d) other promotional merchandise branded with the name of the CSA in each of the last five years.[133914]; and

How much was spent by the Child Support Agency on branding in each year since 1997. [136014]

The Child Support Agency is an Executive Agency of the Department for Work and Pensions (and prior to 8th June 2001 formed part of the Department of Social Security). The Agency uses the Department's accounting system to record and report expenditure. While the accounting system does not have the functionality to report separately the discreet activities and day-to-day costs associated with either managing the Agency's corporate identity, or branding, and the information is therefore not available in the format you requested, we can identify external consultancy cost of approximately £60,000 on researching brand development incurred in September 2005.

In response to your other question:

Staff Parties—The Agency has incurred no expenditure on staff parties in any of the last five years.

Newspapers, magazines and periodicals—The Department for Work and Pensions accounting system does not enable us to provide an analysis of spending on these products. As such, the information is not available in the requested format.

Stationery—As the Department's accounting system combines spend on both printing and stationery, I am therefore unable to provide a breakdown of Stationery only. The total costs for printing and stationery are included in the table below.

Other promotional merchandise branded with the name of the Child Support Agency—The Agency spend on branded material is included in the table below. The Department's accounting system is unable to provide a separate breakdown of branded products (forms, leaflets etc) compared to non-branded items (routine stationery i.e. pens, paper etc).

The printing and stationery costs included in the table all cover posters, leaflets, letters, printing supplies, paper, pens etc. used by the Child Support Agency in a given year. The costs for printing and stationery over the last 5 years are as follows:

Financial year	*Printing and stationery (£ million)*
2002-03	2.2
2003-04	1.8
2004-05	1.8
2005-06	2.1
2006-07	2.2
Total	10.1

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Poverty

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answers of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 450W and 455W, to the hon. Member for Birkenhead, on children: poverty, if he will give the equivalent data for the north-east region in each case. [148208]

Mrs. McGuire: Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2005-06 (Revised)".

Figures on the 30 per cent. of median income threshold and any lower thresholds, and on the number of children removed from relative poverty due to payment of child support in the north-east, are not statistically robust as the sample sizes are too small.

The available information has been placed in the Library.

Departments: Departmental Records

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many files *(a)* Capita and *(b)* other private contractors are holding for his Department and its agency; what the cost is of this service; and if he will make a statement. [147189]

Mrs. McGuire: The number of files Capita is holding for the Department for Work and Pensions and its agencies at July 2007 is approximately 52.7 million. No files are held by other private contractors.

The record storage contract with the Department was competitively let to Capita in June 2004. Capita is the only approved file store service provider to the Department and its agencies. It is now the principal method of storing benefit claims, once discharged from the processing office, and other paper records and registered files. The contract with Capita is until June 2010 with an option to extend up to June 2014. The current annual cost of this service is about £15.5 million. Since 2004 the contract has realised value for money savings, both in service efficiencies and reduced estates costs, in the region of £16.5 million.

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in his Department have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for (i) inappropriate use of the internet while at work and (ii) using work telephones to access premium rate telephone numbers in the last 12 months. [149179]

Mrs. McGuire: The information on the number of people disciplined and dismissed for inappropriate use of the internet for the period January 2006 to December 2006 is shown in the following table. We are in the process of collating information for 2007.

January 2006 to December 2006

	Number
Dismissed	8
Disciplined	53

No information is held on the number of disciplinary actions or dismissals for using work telephones to access premium rate numbers.

Departments: Early Retirement

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of his staff took early retirement in the last five years; at what cost; what grades of staff took early retirement; and what percentage of each grade took early retirement. [148808]

Mrs. McGuire: The number of staff from the Department for Work and Pensions who took early retirement and early severance, unconnected to early retirement, in each of the last five years together with the associated cost is in Table 1. The cost and the number of each individual category is not separately identifiable.

The grade of these staff and the percentage of each grade is in Table 2.

Table 1

	Number of early retirements and severances	*Total cost (£ million)*
2002-03	270	19.4
2003-04	316	16.1
2004-05	927	29.6
2005-06	3,027	140.0
2006-07	2,306	55.8
Total	6,846	260.9

Note:
Staff numbers are full time equivalent (rounded)

Table 2

		SCS	*G6*	*G7*	*SEO*	*HEO*	*EO*	*AO*	*AA*
2002-03	Number of early retirements and severances	5	1	6	3	18	45	151	41
	Percentage of grade	2.3	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3
2003-04	Number of early retirements and severances	4	1	6	6	12	69	185	33
	Percentage of grade	1.8	0.2	0.	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3
2004-05	Number of early retirements and severances	2	7	17	21	68	230	472	110
	Percentage of grade	0.9	1.6	1.4	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.9	1.3
2005-06	Number of early retirements and severances	8	22	50	183	565	744	1,148	307
	Percentage of grade	3.3	5	4.3	7.4	8.1	1.9	2.1	4.3
2006-07	Number of early retirements and severances	10	10	7	36	113	634	1,215	281
	Percentage of grade	3.7	2.0	0.5	1.5	1.6	1.7	2.4	4.8

Note: Staff numbers are full time equivalent (rounded)

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants within his Department's areas of responsibilities in the last 12 months. [149059]

Mrs. McGuire: Within the last 12 months £11.7 million was spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants within the Department for Work and Pensions.

This expenditure was procured through the contracted service provider. There were additional accommodation costs incurred where staff booked their own accommodation independently to the contracted service and re-claimed the costs as expenses. Identifying these costs would exceed the disproportionate threshold.

Departments: Pay

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employees in his Department and its agencies are paid more than £100,000 per annum. [150056]

Mrs. McGuire: There are currently 62 DWP employees paid more than £100,000 per annum,

including base pay and non-consolidated, non-pensionable bonuses. This represents less than 0.1 per cent of the Department's employees.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total cost is of all private finance initiative projects for which his Department has responsibility completed since 1997; and what the projected cost is of such projects commissioned or under way. [148027]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department has only one PFI route to obtain estates services under the private sector resource initiative for the management of the estate (PRIME) contract.

PRIME is a 20-year PFI partnership deal, competitively let to Trillium (now Land Securities Trillium) on 1 April 1998 by the then Department of Social Security and expanded in 2003 to cover the former Employment Service estate. The estimated NPV for the original contract was £2.008 billion. The estimated NPV for the expansion was £1.2 billion.

The Department currently has no plans to use PFI in new areas, but the option will be considered for future services, except IS/IT which under Government policy are not considered suitable for PFI.

A list of all signed PFI deals with unitary charges is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

Departments: Public Transport

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what incentives he has considered to encourage staff in his Department to use public transport. [148805]

Mrs. McGuire: The main incentive the Department offers is interest-free loans for season tickets for travel to work. Use of public transport is encouraged by departmental policies including limited car parking, flexible working, using public transport during the course of travel and making use of travel websites and information services, such as Transport Direct. Staff are also informed about local transport initiatives and promotions. Where the location or nature of the work makes public transport use impractical for staff, car sharing is encouraged.

Departments: Racial Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [149260]

Mrs. McGuire: The information currently held centrally by the Department is the number of complaints of racial abuse investigated by the Department's central team of investigators.

During the last 12 months (for the period July 2006-June 2007) the Department has one reported case, which is currently under investigation.

Departments: Redundancy

Mr. Alan Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employees of his Department were made compulsorily redundant in each year since it was established. [149371]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 12 July 2007]:* The Department for Work and Pensions was established in June 2001, bringing together the former Department of Social Security and Employment Service.

As part of its Efficiency Programme, the Department has run a number of staff early release schemes in each year since its formation. All but two early releases under these schemes have been on a voluntary basis. One member of staff was made compulsorily redundant in December 2005; one member of staff was made compulsorily redundant in May 2007.

Mr. Alan Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employees in each service or agency of his Department were made compulsorily redundant in each year since it was established. [149620]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions was established in June 2001, bringing together the former Department of Social Security and Employment Service.

As part of its Efficiency Programme, the Department has run a number of staff early release schemes in each year since its formation. All but two early releases under these schemes have been on a voluntary basis. One member of staff from Jobcentre Plus was made compulsorily redundant in December 2005; one member of staff from the Child Support Agency was made compulsorily redundant in May 2007.

Departments: Scotland

Mr. Alan Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the headcount target figure is for the number of employees in his Department in Scotland for 2007-08; and how many staff are in post. [149621]

Mrs. McGuire: Based on current plans, the Department for Work and Pensions has an overall headcount target for March 2008 of 103,468 Full Time Equivalents (FTE). There is no specific headcount target for Scotland as a whole but current work force plans indicate that staffing levels in Scotland will be in the region of 11,000 FTE by March 2008.

As at 31 March 2007 overall staffing in the Department stood at 108,472 FTE of which 11,697 FTE were in Scotland.

Hazardous Substances: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which sites in Castle Point the Health and Safety Executive considers to be potential hazards due to storage of combustible materials; and when each was last inspected. [149917]

Mrs. McGuire: There are two sites within the area of Castle Point that are covered by the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990 and the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations (COMAH) 1999 by virtue of the quantity and nature of flammable substances stored or processed on the site. These are:

Calor Gas Ltd (last visited May 2007);

Oikos Storage Ltd (last visited March 2007).

Incapacity Benefit: Bedfordshire

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many incapacity benefit claimants there were in south west Bedfordshire constituency *(a)* at the latest date for which figures are available and *(b)* in each of the last five years. [149315]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 12 July 2007]:* The available information is in the following table.

Number of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants in south west Bedfordshire parliamentary constituency

Quarter ending November each year	*Number of claimants*
2002	2,720
2003	2,860
2004	2,900
2005	2,820
2006	2,860

Notes:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. WPLS

Natural Gas

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to make public liability insurance a legal requirement for Corgi-registered gas installers. [148180]

Mrs. McGuire: There are no plans to introduce legislation in this area. However, the proposed new regime for domestic gas safety, announced by the Government in March, will include provision for consideration of, and advice to HSE on, the role of public liability insurance for gas installers by the new provider of the gas installer registration scheme.

Pension Service

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps in response to the shortcomings in the Pension Service identified by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman) in the report of 31 May 2007 (reference PA-3021) into the complaint of John and Jeanne Fawcett; and what steps he is taking to ensure future avoidance of similar errors. [147945]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* The administration of the Pension Service is a matter for the Chief Executive of the Pension Service, Alexis Cleveland. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Alexis Cleveland, dated 16 July 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about the steps taken in response to the Ombudsman's Report of 31 May 2007 (reference PA-3021) into the complaint of John and Jeanne Fawcett; and what steps he is taking to ensure future avoidance of similar errors. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of The Pension Service.

Mr and Mrs Fawcett's complaint was a difficult and complex case and I regret that it took so long to resolve.

The inaccurate advice was provided in 1994 through a predecessor organisation. When we receive Ombudsman reports they are forwarded to the Pension Centre manager concerned to highlight any errors and ensure the correct training is given to staff to prevent any reoccurrence. The findings of all Ombudsman cases are captured in a Lessons Learned Log issued by The Pension Service's Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration/Independent Case Examiner Focal Point. The shortcomings identified in this particular case feature in the Log and have been sent to all nominated customer service staff within our Pension Centres for cascading to staff to avoid similar errors occurring in future.

A wide range of action has been taken to ensure staff are fully equipped to be able to provide customers with the information they need on deferring State Pension. We have also provided detailed deferral information to customers on The Pension Service website as well as in the form of posters in GPs' surgeries, Post Offices and Libraries.

The Pension Service operates a robust three-tier process for handling complaints:

Resolution at front line point of contact

Resolution by Business Unit Manager

Resolution by Chief Executive

If the customer remains unsatisfied, from April 2007 we have introduced an Independent Case Examiner who can look at their complaint. The customer can also go to their MP, who may refer their case to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman).

Complaints are recorded on a database to assist complaint management and provide Management Information on performance and causes of complaints. Staff are encouraged to take ownership of complaints and resolve them at the point of contact wherever possible and there are good examples of using complaint data to improve services in The Pension Service.

I hope this is helpful.

Poverty: Children

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of children living in poverty in Cornwall; and if he will make a statement. [148970]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available below the level of Government office region.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* start and *(b)* end date was of the Prime Minister's delivery unit's review of the Building Schools for the Future programme; and on what date a final report was produced. [148855]

Jim Knight: The Prime Minister's Delivery Unit's review of the Building Schools for the Future began in October 2006, and was concluded when the final report was issued on 16 January 2007.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will list the parties to whom the Prime Minister's delivery unit's recent review of the Building Schools for the Future programme made recommendations. [148856]

Jim Knight: The recommendations were made to DFES and HMT, as joint commissioners of the review.

The reports and other associated documentation following joint PMDU reviews are confidential advice to Ministers and are not put into the public domain. This includes all documentation connected with the substance of the review.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* total value and *(b)* estimated cost is to the public purse in each financial year until 2050 of private finance initiative contracts signed under the Building Schools for the Future programme. [148900]

Jim Knight: Information on schools private finance initiative contracts, including balance sheet treatment and unitary charges, is included in HM Treasury's PFI Signed Projects List, which is available through

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.

This is a working document containing information on current signed PFI projects. It is updated on a six-monthly basis to reflect the updates HM Treasury receives from Departments at Budget and pre-Budget report.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on progress on Building Schools for the Future. [149069]

Jim Knight: Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is a hugely ambitious programme. Just three years into the programme, 49 local authorities, one third of all authorities in England, are now firmly engaged with BSF. Eight local authorities have now reached financial close, covering 65 schools and £1.1 billion worth of capital investment. There are currently 51 schools in construction, and it is anticipated that by the end of the year, a further 70 will be under way. Beyond 2010-11, we expect that around 200 new or remodelled schools will open each year.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 537W, on the Building Schools for the Future programme: how much his Department has allocated in private finance initiative credits to each Building Schools for the Future project that has been agreed; and how much the local authority contributed towards the cost of each project. [148850]

Jim Knight: Initial allocations of PFI credits to support projects in Building Schools for the Future currently total £3.3 billion, and are set out as follows:

Local authority	*PFI (£ million)*
Bradford	116.9
Bristol	157.2
Greenwich	183.5
Knowsley	250.0
Lancashire	246.4
Leeds	185.7
Leicester	151.3
Lewisham	63.0
Newcastle	81.4
Newham	65.5
Sheffield	89.0
Solihull	86.8
South Tyneside and Gateshead	112.6
Waltham Forest	53.9
Wave 1 Total	1,843.2
Birmingham A	92.4
Islington	103.9
Kingston on Hull	158.8
Nottingham	66.6
Wave 2 Total	421.6
Barnsley	324.3
Durham (East)	79.5
Derbyshire (NE)	55.4
Kent	98.8
Lewisham	102.3
Salford	131.6
Sandwell	59.8
Southwark	40.9
Tameside	96.9
Wave 3 Total	989.7

These allocations may change as the project scopes are finalised. Full information on how much local authorities' contributions will be are not held by the Department.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many schools are in the process of being *(a)* built and *(b)* refurbished under the Building Schools for the Future programme; and how many in each category are being built or refurbished under the private finance initiative; [148853]

(2) how many schools have been *(a)* built and *(b)* refurbished under the (i) Academies and (ii) Building Schools for the Future programme; and how many in each category were built or refurbished under the private finance initiative. [148854]

Jim Knight: Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is a core part of the Department's capital strategy, providing a new approach to capital investment in secondary schools. BSF aims to create world-class, 21st-century schools—environments which will inspire learning for decades to come and provide exceptional assets for the whole community. Subject to future public spending decisions, the intention is to achieve this aim for every secondary school pupil within 15 waves from 2005-06 onwards.

To date, four BSF schools have been completed. Of these, three are newly built and one refurbished. None was procured under PFI arrangements.

There are currently 51 BSF schools in construction. Of these, 30 are new build projects and 21 are refurbishment projects. Of the 30 new build schools, 23 are being procured as part of PFI schemes.

There are 27 academies open where construction work has been completed. Of these, 22 are predominantly new build projects and five are predominantly refurbishment projects. None was procured under PFI arrangements.

Children: Poverty

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department will assume lead responsibility for policy on reducing child poverty; and if he will make a statement. [149135]

Kevin Brennan: The Department will have a key role, alongside the Department for Work and Pensions and HM Treasury, in delivering the Government's strategy for ending child poverty by 2020. It will lead on ensuring that there is a strong focus on services and support that will help break intergenerational cycles of poverty as well as actions that help raise this generation of families out of poverty levels of income. Budgets and activities held elsewhere in Government that support these services—for example, those for improving the quality of housing for families and for homelessness held by the Department for Communities and Local Government—will be identified and jointly managed through the programme arrangements for the child poverty target.

Children: Protection

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many individuals registered on List 99 have home addresses in Wales. [146285]

Kevin Brennan [*holding answer 29 June 2007*]: The addresses held by the Department of individuals on List 99 were recorded at the time these people were placed on the list. Identifying the number of individuals who had home addresses in Wales at the time of listing would require individual case records to be checked and this would incur disproportionate cost.

Once an individual is on List 99, a standard or enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) disclosure will reveal the barred status of that individual to an employer together with details of any criminal convictions. Information on an individual's address at the time of listing is not necessary in order to check whether that person is barred.

City Academies: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools are being *(a)* built and *(b)* refurbished under the Academies programme; and how many in each category are being built or refurbished under the private finance initiative. [148901]

Jim Knight: There are no Academies being built or refurbished under PFI arrangements. The level of new build and refurbishment required by an Academy is determined during the feasibility study. 48 projects have completed this feasibility study but have not yet completed construction, of these 36 are predominantly new build projects and 12 are predominantly refurbishment projects.

City Academies: Sponsorship

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance documents his Department has issued to local authorities on co-sponsorship of schools under the academies programme. [148919]

Jim Knight: The Department welcomes and values the input and influence of local authorities in academy projects as partners and/or co-sponsors. Seven local authorities are already co-sponsoring academies, including Sunderland and Kent. Where local authorities express an interest in academy sponsorship, the Academies Prospectus and general guidance on academy sponsorship are also made available.

Departments: Atkins

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* date, *(b)* value and *(c)* purpose was of each payment by his Department to Atkins (formerly WS Atkins) since 1997. [148870]

Jim Knight: This information could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Flags

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance he has given to schools on the flying of the Union flag on a daily basis; and if he will make a statement. [150119]

Jim Knight: No guidance has been issued to schools on this issue. Schools are free to fly the Union flag on any day they choose, but it is for individual schools to choose whether to do so or not.

Departments: Ministerial Duties

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the departmental responsibilities are of each Minister in his Department; and if he will make a statement; [149137]

(2) if he will make a statement on his Department's responsibilities. [149138]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the list of ministerial responsibilities which can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/aboutus/whoswho/ministersresp.shtml

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his estimate is of the real terms increases in his Department's budgets for *(a)* all spending, *(b)* spending on schools and *(c)* spending on schools capital projects for each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [149144]

Jim Knight: The Spending Review settlement provided for a significant increase in DfES funding over the next three years to reach £75.5 billion by 2010-11, approximately £11 billion higher than in 2007-08. DCSF is still agreeing the exact split of budgets with DIUS so it is not possible to give an exact total for my Department's budgets at this moment. We will publish the DCSF's budget in due course.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the education budget is for 2007-08, broken down by main budget heading; what percentage of the budget is allocated to schools; and if he will make a statement. [149406]

Jim Knight: It is not possible to provide the 2007-08 education budget at present as the Department for Children, Schools and Families is still agreeing the exact split of budgets with the Department of Innovation Universities and Skills. However, the estimated plans for 2007-08 for the Department for Education and Skills can be found in Table 8.2 of the 2007 Departmental Annual Report.

Departments: Publications

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will list the departmental circulars, guidance notes and other communications sent by his Department and its predecessors to *(a)* primary school head teachers and governors and *(b)* secondary school head teachers and governors since 1 April 2004, indicating in each case the (i) purpose and (ii) contents of the communications; and if he will make a statement. [149145]

Jim Knight: The Department sends information automatically to schools in England only in exceptional cases, having stopped regular paper mailings in December 2004.

Discussions with head teachers and detailed research showed that schools wanted to be able to choose the printed publications they needed, when they needed them, and to be able to order multiple copies.

Instead, the Department has successfully introduced an online ordering service where schools are able to either download or order paper based copies of publications including guidance. A regular fortnightly email is sent to schools to inform them of new publications. In addition, "Spectrum" provides schools, head teachers and chairs of governors with a summary of all the latest resources, publications, guidance and regulations. It is available online and can also be requested in paper copy.

Copies of "Teachers Magazine" are distributed to all schools six times each year. The "Governors Newsletter" is available on subscription only. Both products offer news and information, and point readers to further details available online or in other publications.

I do not intend to make a statement. An annual report is presented to Parliament each year, listing the documents sent from the Department and its agencies to all schools.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will list the data releases planned to be made by his Department over the next 12 months; what the expected date is of each; and if he will make a statement. [149346]

Jim Knight: The readily available information relates to the release of National Statistics publications. No record is centrally held of all data releases. The process for setting dates for National Statistics publications runs on a six-monthly cycle with dates being set in March and September for the following six months (firm commitments) and the six months after that (expected publications). In the run-up to each separate month, exact dates are set for publications in that month. The date setting process is managed by the Department's Head of Profession for Statistics and the published Compliance Statement can be found at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/nat-stats.shtml

The following table lists the statistical first release (SFRs) and statistical bulletins that will be issued from now through to September 2007. The exact dates for August and September have not been set, other than for the attainment publications which have fixed dates agreed in advance. The list replicates the original pre-announced schedule of publications published in March 2007 which can be found at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000720/index.shtml

and as such contains publications which have now transferred to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS).

		Publication
24 July 2007	SFR:	Children accommodated in secure children's homes, year ending 31 March 2007 England and Wales
August 2007	SFR:	National curriculum assessments at key stage 2 in England, 2007 (provisional). This SFR will be published on the first Tuesday in August (7 August 2007)
	SFR:	National curriculum assessments at key stage 3 in England, 2007 (provisional). This SFR will be published on the second Tuesday in August (14 August 2007)
	SFR:	National curriculum assessments at key stage 1 in England, 2007. This SFR will be published on the last Thursday in August (30 August 2007)
	Bulletin:	School destinations of secondary school pupils resident in London boroughs, 2007 (internet only).
September 2007	SFR:	Schools and pupils in England: January 2007 (final)
	SFR:	School work force in England (including pupil: teacher ratios and pupil: adult ratios), January 2007 (revised)
	SFR:	Referrals, assessments and children and young people who are the subjects of child protection plans: year ending 31 March 2007
	SFR:	Children looked after in England (including adoptions and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2007
	Volume:	Higher education statistics for the UK: 2005-06[1]

[1] Prepared and published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency, in consultation with DIUS statisticians.

The following statistical first releases (SFRs), statistical bulletins and statistical volumes are provisionally scheduled to appear in the following six months from October 2007 to March 2008.

		Publication
October 2007	SFR:	GCSE and equivalent results in England, 2006-07 (provisional). This SFR will be published on the third Thursday in October (18 October 2007)
	SFR:	GCE/VCE A/AS and equivalent examination results in England, 2006-07 (provisional). This SFR will be published on the third Thursday in October (18 October 2007)
	SFR:	Foundation stage profile 2007: national results (provisional)
	SFR:	Neighbourhood statistics—announcement of the release of small area national curriculum assessment, GCSE and equivalent attainment and post-16 attainment by pupil characteristics in England, 2005-06
November 2007	SFR:	Private fostering arrangements in England, year ending 31 March 2007
	SFR:	Youth cohort study: the activities and experiences of 19 year olds: England and Wales 2007
	SFR:	National curriculum assessment, GCSE and equivalent attainment and post-16 attainment by pupil characteristics in England 2006-07 (provisional)
	SFR:	Student support for higher education in England, academic year 2007-08 (provisional)[2]
	Volume:	Education and training statistics for the United Kingdom: 2007 (internet only)
December 2007	SFR:	Further education, work-based learning and adult and community learning—learner numbers in England: 2006-07[3]
	SFR:	National curriculum assessments at key stage 2 and key stage 1 to key stage 2 value added measures in England 2006-07 (revised)
January 2008	SFR:	GCE/VCE A/AS and equivalent examination results in England, 2006-07 (revised)
	SFR:	GCSE and equivalent results and associated value added measures in England, 2006-07 (revised)
	SFR:	Higher education enrolments and qualifications obtained at higher education institutions in the UK in the academic year 2006-07[1]
	SFR:	Foundation stage profile 2007 national results (final)
February 2008	SFR:	Level 2 and 3 attainment by young people in England measured using matched administrative data: attainment by age 19 in 2007 (provisional)
	SFR:	Vocational qualifications in the UK: 2006-07
	SFR:	Pupil absence in schools in England, 2006-07
	SFR:	National curriculum assessments at key stage 3 and key stage 2 to key stage 3 value added for young people in England, 2006/-07 (revised)
	SFR	The level of highest qualification held by adults: England 2007
March 2008	SFR:	Further education, work-based learning and personal and community development learning—learner numbers in England on 1 October 2007[3]
	SFR:	Participation rates in higher education: academic years 1999-2000 to 2006-07 (provisional)
	Volume:	Children looked after by local authorities year ending 31 March 2007 (internet only)

[2] Prepared and published by Student Loans Company, in consultation with DIUS statisticians.
[3] Prepared and published by the Learning Skills Council in consultation with DCSF and DIUS statisticians.

Departments: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what priorities have been set for his Department by the Prime Minister; and if he will make a statement. [149153]

Jim Knight: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children Schools and Families set out his priorities in a statement to the House on 10 July 2007.

Education: Children

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children did not reach a good level of development at the end of the Foundation Stage, defined as a score of six points on all the assessment scales for personal, social and emotional development and communication, language and literacy of the Foundation Stage Profile, in the latest period for which figures are available. [149235]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 12 July 2007]:* The latest figures for 2006 indicate that 56 per cent. of children in maintained schools were not achieving a good level of development, defined as a score in the Foundation Stage profile of a minimum of 6 points in each of the assessment scales relating to the two key areas of communication, language and literacy and personal, social and emotional development. This estimate is subject to a margin of statistical sampling error as the figures were derived from a sample of individual child records submitted by each local authority. The level of sampling error calculated by analysts within my Department indicates a probability of 0.95 that the true value will be between 55.5 per cent. and 56.4 per cent.

The latest figures on the percentage of children on the Foundation Stage Profile were published in a Statistical First Release (SFR) 03/2007 "Foundation Stage Profile 2006: National Results" on 25 January 2007. A copy of this release is available on my Department's website at:

www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway

Education: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was allocated for capital expenditure on education in Tamworth in each year since 1997. [148795]

Jim Knight: Allocations of capital expenditure are made on a local authority rather than a constituency basis, and central records are maintained by local

authority. Capital allocations to Staffordshire in each year since 1997, including Tamworth, are set out in the following table.

	£ million
1997-98	7.4
1998-99	28.4
1999-2000	18.5
2000-01	34.1
2001-02	27.4
2002-03	32.9
2003-04	35.5
2004-05	41.1
2005-06	29.2
2006-07	41.2
2008-08	33.2

In recent years, the £41.1 million allocated in 2004-05 includes targeted capital funding (TCP) of £3.6 million, and the £41.2 million in 2006-07 TCP of £8.7 million.

Education: Young People

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of *(a)* 16 year olds, *(b)* 17 year olds and *(c)* 18 year olds were in full-time education or training in each year from 1997 to 2007. [149133]

Jim Knight: The figures provided in the table are for 16, 17 and 18-year-olds in 'total education and training' in each year from 1997 to 2007 in England, and will include some learners in part-time training.

Young people in education and training in England

Percentage

	16	*17*	*18*
1997	86.9	80.3	62.7
1998	86.3	80.2	62.1
1999	87.1	80.9	62.4
2000	86.4	80.5	62.3
2001	85.7	78.3	61.1
2002	86.4	78.4	60.7
2003	86.9	79.5	60.6
2004	87.6	79.6	60.7
2005	88.7	80.3	61.5
2006 (provisional)	89.7	81.5	61.1

Where 'total education and training' includes those in full-time education (maintained schools, further education, higher education), LSC funded work-based learning (minus WBL in full-time education), employer funded training and other education and training.

Faith Schools: Admissions

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if he will bring forward measures to abolish the practice of maintained faith schools of giving priority to children on the grounds of religious belief and practice in admissions criteria; and if he will make a statement; [149264]

(2) what the legal basis is for maintained schools to give priority in their admissions arrangements and criteria to children on the grounds of religious belief and practice. [149266]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 11 July 2007]:* We have no plans to prevent faith schools that are oversubscribed from giving priority in admissions to children of their faith. Faith schools play an important role in ensuring diversity of provision and there is a high demand for faith-based education from parents.

It is unlawful under section 49 of the Equality Act 2006 for a school to discriminate against a child on the grounds of his religion or belief in the terms on which it offers to admit him or by refusing to accept an application for a place. However, schools designated as having a religious character under section 69 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 are exempt from this prohibition by virtue of section 50 of the Equality Act 2006 and may, therefore, give priority, when oversubscribed, to children on the basis that they are members of or practise their faith.

Faith Schools: Finance

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of its *(a)* revenue and *(b)* capital funding each maintained secondary school designated as having a particular religious character or ethos, and which gives priority in admissions on such grounds, received from the public purse in 2006-07. [149265]

Jim Knight: Schools with a religious character receive their revenue funding from local authorities on the same basis as other maintained schools. It is a matter for each local authority—in consultation with their Schools Forums—to determine the level of funding between different providers, based on an assessment of local circumstances.

Capital funding for schools with a religious character depends on their category. Voluntary controlled and foundation schools with a religious character receive their capital funding from local authorities.

The governing bodies of voluntary aided schools are responsible for capital expenditure at their schools, normally supported by grant from the Secretary of State.

I shall arrange for details of capital grant paid by the Secretary of State to the governing bodies of voluntary aided schools, over 93 per cent. of which have a religious character, to be placed in the Library of the House. The Government do not collect data on capital expenditure on individual schools by local authorities and governing bodies.

Financial Services: Curriculum

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether financial education in schools will be delivered through personal, social and health education; and if he will make a statement. [149928]

Beverley Hughes: Opportunities for the teaching and learning of financial capability occur across the curriculum. It is for schools to decide how to organise their provision but commonly it is delivered through personal social and health education (PSHE) or across subject areas including maths, citizenship, business studies and enterprise education. My Department has

published curriculum guidance for all key stages to help teachers identify where financial capability sits within the curriculum and the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority has published units of work to help teachers with lesson planning and assessment of pupil progress.

The revised curriculum for secondary schools, launched last week, includes a new dedicated programme of study for "Economic Well Being and Financial Capability" as part of a revised personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education. The new curriculum will begin teaching from September 2008 and will add a new focus on financial education in schools. We are revising curriculum guidance for schools in light of these changes and will publish the updated guidance in due course.

Foster Care: Gravesend

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many foster parents are required in the Gravesham area to meet current demand for placements. [149303]

Kevin Brennan: Data on the number of foster parents which are required in the Gravesham area to meet the current demand for placements are not collected centrally by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

Further Education: Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which aspects of further education in England are the responsibility of his Department; and if he will make a statement. [149134]

Jim Knight: The Department will take on responsibility for policy and funding for the education of children and young people up to age 19 from the Department for Education and Skills. Sponsorship of the FE service will sit with the new Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. Both Departments will work closely together to ensure strategic objectives and policy pre and post-19 are coherent and consistent.

GCE A Level

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what records his Department holds on the number of students at *(a)* state comprehensive schools, *(b)* state grammar schools, *(c)* state secondary modern schools, *(d)* other state secondary schools, *(e)* further education colleges, *(f)* state sixth form colleges and *(g)* independent schools and colleges who were taking at least two A-levels in the last four years for which figures are available. [147892]

Jim Knight: The Department holds two different records on the achievement of Advanced level qualifications. The first is a list of candidates who have been entered for any Level 3 qualification during the academic year and the second is a list of all Level 3 qualification entries and the grades awarded for these. There are common variables on each list that allow them to be linked together to determine which qualifications were taken by each candidate.

The Department uses this information to publish the School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables, and from this exercise, figures for the number of candidates taking at least one A-level or equivalent are readily available and are presented in the following table.

16 to 18-year-olds attempting at least one GCE/VCE A-level or VCE Double Award in summer of academic year

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Comprehensive schools	111,565	113,013	116,452	116,545
Selective schools	18,844	19,322	19,980	20,057
Modern schools	3,490	3,416	3,805	3,966
Other maintained schools	33	292	309	304
Independent schools	34,106	34,846	33,586	33,763
Sixth form colleges	47,821	47,738	49,913	50,093
Other FE sector colleges	52,812	46,630	39,590	33,563
All schools and colleges	268,671	265,257	263,635	258,291

Figures for those taking two or more A-levels are not readily available and can be produced only at disproportionate cost.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils in maintained mainstream schools who gained *(a)* five, *(b)* six, *(c)* seven, *(d)* eight and *(e)* nine or more good GCSEs in 2006 gained (i) five, (ii) four and (iii) three C grades. [148691]

Jim Knight: This information can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Gender

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the reasons for girls performing on average more highly than boys in GCSE examinations; and if he will make a statement. [149080]

Jim Knight: Girls have out-performed boys since GCSE examinations were introduced in 1988. In 2006 63.4 per cent. of girls and 53.8 per cent. of boys achieved five plus A*-C grade GCSEs. Girls are ahead of boys at all stages of education from early years and foundation onwards. The gap in England has been broadly stable over two decades, and is in line with that in other OECD countries.

The reasons are complex but appear mainly related to biological differences, differences in maturation, and differences in attitudes to learning and reading at different ages. The Department's recently published research paper "Gender and education: the evidence on pupils in England", of which there is a copy in the Library of the House, sets out the research evidence.

Two points should however be noted: first, boys' GCSE attainment has improved sharply over the past decade, broadly keeping pace with that of girls; second, gender gaps can be minimised by good teaching practice and by the encouragement of reading, ensuring that pupils of both genders make good progress.

The Department is planning a programme of school-level investigations and action research activities designed to identify good practice in raising boys' motivation and attainment, particularly in the field of literacy. This will build on existing Departmental initiatives such as "Boys Into Books", which has enabled every state-funded secondary school to select for its library 20 free books targeted at teenage boys. It will also feed into the forthcoming National Year of Reading which will promote reading both for leisure and school attainment purposes.

Grammar Schools

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will list the grammar schools in England as at 1 January 2007, broken down by local education authority. [149149]

Jim Knight: There are 164 grammar schools in England, as shown in the following table:

LA name	*School names*
Barnet (3)	The Henrietta Barnett School
	Queen Elizabeth's School
	St. Michael's Catholic Grammar School
Bexley (4)	Bexley Grammar School
	Townley Grammar School for Girls
	Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School
	Beths Grammar School
Birmingham (8)	Sutton Coldfield Girls' School
	Bishop Vesey's Grammar School
	Handsworth Grammar School
	King Edward VI Handsworth School
	King Edward VI Five Ways School
	King Edward VI Camp Hill Girls' School
	King Edward VI Camp Hill School (Boys)
	King Edward VI Aston School
Bournemouth (2)	Bournemouth School
	Bournemouth School for Girls
Bromley (2)	Newstead Wood School for Girls
	St. Olave's and St. Saviour's Grammar School
Buckinghamshire (13)	John Hampden Grammar School
	Burnham Grammar School
	Aylesbury High School
	Dr. Challoner's High School
	Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School
	Chesham High School
	Aylesbury Grammar School
	The Royal Latin School
	Wycombe High School
	Dr. Challoner's Grammar School
	Sir William Borlase's Grammar School
	Beaconsfield High School
	Royal Grammar School
Calderdale (2)	The North Halifax Grammar School
	Crossley Heath School
Cumbria (1)	Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School
Devon (1)	Colyton Grammar School
Enfield (1)	The Latymer School
Essex (4)	Chelmsford County High School for Girls
	King Edward VI Grammar School
	Colchester Royal Grammar School
	Colchester County High School for Girls
Gloucestershire (7)	Sir Thomas Rich's School
	High School for Girls
	Ribston Hall High School
	Marling School
	Stroud High School
	Pate's Grammar School
	The Crypt School
Kent (33)	Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School
	Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys
	Weald of Kent Grammar School
	Invicta Grammar School
	Highsted School
	Highworth Grammar School for Girls
	The Harvey Grammar School
	Dover Grammar School for Girls
	Clarendon House Grammar School
	Maidstone Grammar School
	Maidstone Grammar School for Girls
	Borden Grammar School
	The Norton Knatchbull School
	Simon Langton Girls' School
	The Judd School
	The Grammar School for Girls Wilmington
	Wilmington Grammar School for Boys

LA name	School names
	Dartford Grammar School
	Dartford Grammar School for Girls
	Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys
	Cranbrook School
	The Skinners' School
	Oakwood Park Grammar School
	Sir Roger Manwood's School
	The Folkestone School for Girls
	Tonbridge Grammar School for Girls
	Barton Court Grammar School
	Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School
	Dover Grammar School for Boys
	Dane Court Grammar School
	Chatham House Grammar School for Boys
	Gravesend Grammar School for Boys
	Gravesend Grammar School for Girls
Kingston upon Thames (2)	The Tiffin Girls' School
	Tiffin School
Kirklees(1)	Heckmondwike Grammar School
Lancashire (4)	Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School
	Lancaster Royal Grammar School
	Lancaster Girls' Grammar School
	Clitheroe Royal Grammar School
Lincolnshire (15)	Kesteven and Grantham Girls' School
	Kesteven and Sleaford High School
	Boston High School for Girls
	Spalding High School
	Queen Elizabeth's High School
	Bourne Grammar School
	Spalding Grammar School
	Skegness Grammar School
	Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School
	The King's School
	Carre's Grammar School
	King Edward VI School
	Caistor Grammar School
	The Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School—Horncastle
	Boston Grammar School
Liverpool (1)	The Liverpool Blue Coat School
Medway Towns (6)	Chatham Boys' Grammar School
	Fort Pitt Grammar School
	Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
	Rainham Mark Grammar School
	Chatham Girls' Grammar School
	The Rochester Girls' Grammar School
North Yorkshire (3)	Ripon Grammar School
	Skipton Girls' High School
	Ermysted's Grammar School
Poole (2)	Parkstone Grammar School (Girls)
	Poole Grammar School
Plymouth (3)	Devonport High School for Girls
	Plymouth High School for Girls
	Devonport High School for Boys
Reading (2)	Reading School
	Kendrick Girls Grammar School
Redbridge (2)	Ilford County High School
	Woodford County High School
Stoke-on-Trent (1)	St. Joseph's College
Slough (4)	St. Bernard's Convent School
	Langley Grammar School
	Herschel Grammar School
	Slough Grammar School
Southend (4)	Westcliff High School for Boys
	Westcliff High School for Girls
	Southend High School for Girls
	Southend High School for Boys
Sutton (5)	Wilson's School
	Nonsuch High School for Girls
	Sutton Grammar School for Boys
	Wallington High School for Girls
	Wallington County Grammar School
Torbay (3)	Torquay Grammar School for Girls
	Churston Grammar School
	Torquay Boys' Grammar School
Trafford (7)	Altrincham Grammar School for Girls
	Stretford Grammar School
	Urmston Grammar School
	Sale Grammar School
	Altrincham Grammar School for Boys
	St. Ambrose College
	Loreto Grammar School
Telford and Wrekin (2)	Newport Girls' High School
	Adams' Grammar School
Walsall (2)	Queen Mary's High School
	Queen Mary's Grammar School

LA name	School names
Warwickshire (5)	Stratford-upon-Avon Grammar School for Girls
	King Edward VI Grammar School
	Lawrence Sheriff School
	Rugby High School for Girls
	Alcester Grammar School
Wiltshire (2)	South Wilts Grammar School for Girls
	Bishop Wordsworth's Grammar School
Wirral (6)	Wirral County Grammar School (Girls)
	West Kirby Grammar School for Girls
	Calday Grange Grammar School
	Wirral Grammar School for Boys
	St. Anselm's College
	Upton Hall Convent School FCJ
Wolverhampton (1)	Wolverhampton Girls' High School

Local Education Authorities: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the performance of local education authorities in England; which authorities have been assessed by his Department as having unsatisfactory performance; and if he will make a statement. [149078]

Jim Knight: The performance of local authorities and their partners in improving outcomes for children and young people is assessed by Ofsted and other inspectorates. Since 2005, they have made an annual performance assessment of children's services in each local authority, and have been undertaking a programme of joint area reviews which will include every local authority area in England once between 2005 and 2008. Ofsted's April 2007 publication "Narrowing the Gap: The Inspection of Children's Services" found an improving picture, with children's services in 107 out of the 139 authorities covered by the report making a good or excellent contribution towards delivering better outcomes for children and young people.

A number of areas have been assessed, by either an annual performance assessment or a joint area review, to be making an inadequate contribution to improving one or more aspects of children's services. They are Bristol, Cornwall, Devon, Herefordshire, Isle of Wight, Isles of Scilly, Medway, North East Lincolnshire, Nottingham, Peterborough, Plymouth, Sandwell, Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent and Thurrock.

The Government support and challenge all local authorities to improve their performance, with activity co-ordinated through the appropriate Government Office. Where a local authority is failing to perform functions to an adequate standard, the Secretary of State will, as a last resort, consider use of his statutory powers to secure the proper performance of functions. This can include directing that functions are performed in a particular way or by a specified person on behalf of the authority.

Partnerships for Schools: City Academies

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which academies that *(a)* have opened have been and *(b)* are under development will be delivered through Partnerships for Schools. [148920]

Jim Knight: 47 Academies are now open; of these 27 have completed construction. None of these buildings were delivered/are being delivered by Partnerships for Schools (PfS). We expect that all Academies which have yet to enter into development will be delivered by PfS. There are currently 100 academies in development. 55 of these buildings are being delivered through PfS and these are:

Birmingham, an Academy to replace Heartlands
Birmingham, a new Academy in the East
Birmingham, an Academy to replace Shenley Court
Bolton, an Academy to replace Withins
The Stadium Academy, Brent
Palmer Academy, Brighton
Oasis Academy, Bristol
The Bristol Brunei Academy, Bristol
Colston's Girls' Academy, Bristol
Swanswell, Coventry
Cumbria, an Academy to replace Ehenside
Cumbria, an Academy to replace North Cumbria
Eastbourne Church of England Academy, Darlington
Derbyshire, an Academy to replace Shirebrook
Essex, an Academy in East Basildon
Essex, a second Academy in East Basildon
Hackney Skinners Academy
Hammersmith and Fulham Academy
Herefordshire, an Academy to replace Wyebridge
Isle of Sheppey, Kent
Kent, an Academy to replace Cornwallis
Kent, an Academy to replace Oldborough
Lancashire, an Academy to replace Accrington Moorhead
Lincolnshire, an Academy to replace Priory, Joseph Rushton, City of Lincoln
Lincolnshire, a second Academy to replace Priory, Joseph Rushton, City of Lincoln
Barnfield West Academy, Luton
Barnfield South Academy, Luton
Manchester Digital Communications Academy
Manchester Construction and the Built Environment Academy
Manchester Creative Media Academy
Manchester Finance and Professional Service Academy
Manchester Business Enterprise Academy
Manchester Health Academy
Milton Keynes, an Academy to replace Sir Frank Markham
The Open Academy, Norfolk
Havelock Academy, North East Lincolnshire
North Lincolnshire, an Academy to replace High Ridge
Hirst Academy, Northumberland
Nottingham Bulwell Academy
The Samworth University Academy, Nottingham
The Samworth Church Academy, Nottinghamshire
The Oxford Academy

St Anne's Academy, Rochdale
Salford, an Academy to replace Hope High
Shireland Collegiate Academy, Sandwell
George Salter Collegiate Academy, Sandwell
Walworth Academy, Southwark
St Michael's and All Angels CofE, Southwark
St Helens, an Academy to replace St Aelred's
Pennywell/Quarry View Academy, Sunderland
Castle view Academy, Sunderland
Red House Academy, Sunderland
New Charter Academy, Tameside
Telford and Wrekin, an Academy to replace Abraham Darby
Wellesley Academy, Wiltshire

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter sent by the Department for Education and Skills to Partnerships for Schools asking it to take on the delivery of academies. [148921]

Jim Knight: The announcement that Partnerships for Schools (PfS) would take on delivery of the academies buildings programme was made on 23 March 2006 by written statement in the House of Commons and House of Lords, *Official Report*, column 28WS. This was then consolidated as part of the PfS business plan which is agreed with the Department.

Performing Arts: Licensing

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what discussions he has had with the entertainment industry on the effectiveness of child performance licensing by local authorities; [149123]

(2) what guidance his Department issues to local authorities on child performance licensing. [149124]

Kevin Brennan: The Department has not had recent discussions with the entertainment industry on the effectiveness of child performance licensing by local authorities and has not issued guidance to local authorities on child performance licensing. Local authorities are responsible for licensing children who take part in performances and for the enforcement of child performance legislation.

Playing Fields: Sales

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what area of school playing fields in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* Ribble Valley has been sold in the last 10 years. [149062]

Jim Knight: Since October 1998 the Secretary of State has approved 187 applications that involve the sale of an area of land capable of forming a sports pitch of at least 0.2 hectares at schools in England. Of these 89 were in respect of closed schools. The number of these at schools in the north-west is 34 (16 of these at closed schools). There have not been any applications approved that involve the sale of a sports pitch at a school in Ribble Valley. Prior to October 1998 there was no regulation of the sale of school playing fields at local authority schools.

Data on school playing fields were supplied to the Department by local authorities in 2001 and 2003. However, because the data were incomplete, it is not possible to assess accurately the number and area of school playing fields.

Primary Education: Class Sizes

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of Key Stage 2 pupils are in classes of 30 pupils or more. [149067]

Jim Knight: In January 2007, 23 per cent. of Key Stage 2 pupils were in one-teacher classes of 30 pupils or more.

Primary Education: Mathematics

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children achieved *(a)* level 4 and above and *(b)* level 5 in Key Stage 2 (i) mathematics, (ii) English and (iii) science in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [149120]

Jim Knight: Primary standards are at their highest levels ever. Since 1997 there have been significant improvements in the percentage of pupils achieving level 4 and level 5 in the National Curriculum tests.

Last year 79 per cent. of 11-year-olds achieved the target level 4 or above in English and 76 per cent. did so in maths. In 1997 less than two thirds of 11-year-olds reached this level in either subject (63 per cent. in English and 62 per cent. in maths). The proportion of 11-year-olds reaching level 5 has doubled in English since 1997—in 2006 32 per cent. reached this level compared with just 16 per cent. in 1997 and 33 per cent. did so in mathematics compared with 18 per cent. in 1997.

The information is shown in the following table.

Percentage of pupils at KS2 achieving level 4 or above and level 5 or above, 1995-2006—Key Stage 2

	Percentage at Level 4 or above	*Percentage at Level 5 or above*
English		
1995	49	7
1996	57	12
1997	63	16
1998	65	17
1999	71	22
2000	75	29
2001	75	29
2002	75	29
2003	75	27
2004	78	27
2005	79	27
2006	79	32
Mathematics		
1995	45	13
1996	54	14
1997	62	18
1998	59	17
1999	69	24
2000	72	25
2001	71	25
2002	73	28

Percentage of pupils at KS2 achieving level 4 or above and level 5 or above, 1995-2006—Key Stage 2

	Percentage at Level 4 or above	Percentage at Level 5 or above
2003	73	29
2004	74	31
2005	75	31
2006	76	33
Science		
1995	70	22
1996	62	14
1997	69	19
1998	69	16
1999	78	27
2000	85	34
2001	87	34
2002	86	38
2003	87	41
2004	86	43
2005	86	47
2006	87	46

Notes:
1. Figures for 2006 are based on revised data. Figures for all other years are based on final data.
2. Levels W and 1 were valid in 1995 and 1996 only. Level 6 was valid from 1995-2002 only.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if the review of primary and early years mathematics teaching led by Sir Peter Williams will carry out a systematic review or meta-analysis of research literature on mathematics learning; [149631]

(2) if he will list the members of the review of primary and early years mathematics teaching led by Sir Peter Williams; [149632]

(3) whether the review of primary and early years mathematics teaching led by Sir Peter Williams will examine the curriculum standards of foreign countries that outperform England in international comparisons; [149633]

(4) whether the review of primary and early years mathematics teaching led by Sir Peter Williams will make recommendations on the content of the *(a)* primary mathematics curriculum and *(b)* primary national strategy; [149634]

(5) how much funding has been allocated to the review of primary and early years mathematics teaching led by Sir Peter Williams; [149635]

(6) when he expects the review of primary and early years mathematics teaching led by Sir Peter Williams to issue an *(a)* interim and *(b)* final report; [149636]

(7) what the terms of reference are of the review of primary and early years mathematics teaching led by Sir Peter Williams. [149637]

Jim Knight: The maths review will cover all of primary mathematics teaching up to the end of Key Stage 2 and will also look at the teaching of problem solving, reasoning and numeracy to 3 to 5-year-olds, as defined in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

Through examination of the available evidence including international best practice and through engagement with the teaching profession, the review will consider and make recommendations in the following areas:

What is the most effective pedagogy of maths teaching in primary schools and early years settings. That consideration will include instructional methodologies, teaching and learning strategies, and lesson designs that are most effective in helping children to progress in their learning.

What range of provision best supports children across the full ability range, including the most gifted. The highest priority will be given to those who are not progressing fast enough to reach national expectations. The review will specifically make recommendations to inform the development of an early (age 5 to 7) intervention programme for children who are failing to master the basics of numeracy—"Every Child Counts".

What conceptual and subject knowledge of mathematics should be expected of primary school teachers and early years practitioners, and how should initial teaching training and continuing professional development be improved to secure that knowledge.

What is the most effective design and sequencing of the design and sequencing of the mathematics curriculum. Recommendations in this area will inform a future review of the primary curriculum as a whole.

How should parents and families best be helped to support young children's mathematical development.

The review will build on the recent renewal of the primary framework for mathematics and the EYFS.

The review will start in September with an interim report being produced in March and a final report published in June 2008.

We will discuss further details of the conduct of the review as well as potential advisers and funding implications with Sir Peter Williams in due course.

A copy of the letter from the Secretary of State to Sir Peter Williams, setting out the terms of reference for the review, has been placed in the House Libraries.

Private Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children were educated in independent schools in each year from 1997 to 2007. [149079]

Jim Knight: The available information is contained in the following table. These figures are based on children of all ages.

Proportion of children[1] who have been educated in independent schools[2]

	Percentage
1997	6.74
1998	6.73
1999	6.72
2000	6.72
2001	6.80
2002	6.91
2003	6.97
2004	7.04
2005	7.01
2006	7.07
2007	7.09

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[2] Excludes CTCs and academies.
Source:
Schools' Census

Private Education: Playing Fields

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the average area is of playing fields per school for independent schools in *(a)* the North West and *(b)* England; [150012]

(2) what the average area is of playing fields per school for state schools in *(a)* the North West and *(b)* England. [150013]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not held centrally. Data on state school playing fields were supplied to the Department by local authorities in 2001 and 2003. However, because the data were incomplete, it is not possible to assess accurately the number and area of school playing fields.

Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the major causes were of permanent exclusions from English schools in the latest 12 months for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [149154]

Jim Knight: The available information is contained in the following table. Information is not collected for primary schools.

Maintained secondary schools[1, 2]: number and percentage of permanent and fixed period exclusions by reason for exclusion: England, 2005/06

	Number of permanent exclusions[3]	Percentage of all permanent exclusions[3, 4]	Number of fixed period exclusions	Percentage of all fixed period exclusions[4]
Physical assault against a pupil	1,260	16	62,670	18
Physical assault against an adult	740	9	8,240	2
Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against a pupil	330	4	12,730	4
Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult	900	11	79,370	23
Bullying	80	1	5,270	2
Racist abuse	30	0	3,370	1
Sexual misconduct	110	1	2,620	1
Drug and alcohol related	450	6	8,360	2
Damage	170	2	9,390	3
Theft	220	3	7,770	2
Persistent disruptive behaviour	2,370	30	72,340	21
Other	1,340	17	71,720	21
Total (5)	7,990	100	343,840	100

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] For the 2005/06 school year, information on the reason for exclusion was collected via the School Census for the first time for secondary schools only (the Termly Exclusions Survey has discontinued). For exclusions during 2006/07, information on the reason for exclusion will also be collected from primary and special schools.
[3] Estimates based on incomplete pupil level data.
[4] The number of exclusions by reason expressed as a percentage of the total number of exclusions.
[5] There were two permanent and four fixed period exclusions for which circumstance were not known—these were included in the 'total' column only.
Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

This table was published as part of the recent Statistical First Release on exclusions which can be found at

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000733/index.shtml.

Pupils: Medical Treatments

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment he has made of the provision by schools of emergency medical treatment for pupils; and if he will make a statement; [148751]

(2) what *(a)* representations and *(b)* reports he has received on the (i) implementation, (ii) effectiveness and (iii) adequacy of supporting materials of the document Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings; and if he will make a statement; [148752]

(3) what assessment he has made of the cost-effectiveness of arrangements to duplicate sets of emergency medication for children deemed at risk of medical emergency; and if he will make a statement. [148753]

Jim Knight: We have issued guidelines on, but do not assess, English schools' provision of first aid and their management of prescribed medicines, including duplicate sets, for pupils whose health might suffer without routine medication during the school day. Our guidance 'Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings' signposts school staff and parents to information provided by the four leading charities for anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes and epilepsy, with whom my officials meet regularly.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his estimate is of the average level of funding per pupil in *(a)* state funded secondary schools and *(b)* private sector day schools in each year since 1990-91; and if he will make a statement. [149150]

Jim Knight: The information is as follows:

Average level of funding per pupil in (a) state funded secondary schools

The average revenue funding figures per pupil aged 11 to 15 for years 1997-98 to 2005-06 are as follows. These figures are in real terms. Comparable figures are not available for 1990-91 to 1996-97.

	Secondary (11 to 15-year-olds)
1997-98	3,390
1998-99	3,470
1999-2000	3,610
2000-01	3,900
2001-02	4,110
2002-03	4,210
2003-04	4,280
2004-05	4,450
2005-06	4,640

Notes: 1.
Price Base: Real terms at 2005-06 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 27 September 2006.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of Standard Spending Assessment/Education Formula Spending (EFS) settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES departmental expenditure Limits relevant to pupils aged 11 to 15 and exclude education maintenance allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level.
4. The pupil numbers used to convert m figures to per pupil are those underlying the SSA/EFS settlement calculations.
5. Rounding: Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.
6. Status: Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

The revenue per pupil figures shown in the following table are taken from the new dedicated schools grant (DSG) and are in cash terms. They are not comparable with those for the years 1997-98 to 2005-06 because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded. As the DSG is just a mechanism for distributing funding there is not a primary/secondary split available. The figures are for all funded pupils aged three to 15.

DSG	
2005-06 Baseline	3,411
2006-07	3,643
2007-08	3,888

Average level of funding per pupil for (b) private sector day schools

Data for part *(b)* are not collected by the Department. However, the Independent Schools Council Census provides indications of average termly fees, in real terms based on 2005-06 prices, for day pupils as shown in the following table:

(b) Average Fees for Day Pupils in Independent Schools

ISC Census Academic Year	*Termly fees*	*Annual fees (termly fees *3)*
1989/90	1,621	4,864
1990/91	1,691	5,072
1991/92	1,803	5,409
1992/93	1,894	5,682
1993/94	1,885	5,655
1994/95	1,936	5,809
1995/96	1,996	5,989
1996/97	2,026	6,077
1997/98	2,074	6,223
1998/99	2,146	6,437
1999/2000	2,242	6,726
2000/01	2,360	7,079
2001/02	2,486	7,457
2002/03	2,584	7,752
2003/04	2,764	8,291
2004/05	2,852	8,555
2005/06	2,980	8,940
2006/07	3,123	9,368

Pupils: Questionnaires

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the Government's policy is on asking 10-year-olds about drink and drugs in official surveys. [149437]

Jim Knight: The Government are committed to reducing substance misuse-related harm among young people. We know that some young people begin to experiment with smoking, alcohol and drugs at an early age. We also know that, the earlier they start to use drugs and alcohol frequently, the more likelihood there is of long-term harm. Understanding the extent of young people's use of drugs and alcohol at a local level is key to identifying problems early and providing effective prevention.

The Tellus survey conducted by Ofsted asks year 6 (age 10) primary school pupils about smoking and alcohol use, but does not ask about illicit drug use until pupils are in secondary school.

Pupils: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent per pupil in Tamworth in each year since 1997. [148702]

Jim Knight: The requested information is allocated to local authorities and not at constituency level. The Tamworth constituency is part of Staffordshire LA. The revenue funding figures per pupil in Staffordshire in each year since 1997 are provided in the following table:

Staffordshire

	£ *Revenue funding per pupil*
1997-98	2,310
1998-99	2,480
1999-2000	2,510
2000-01	2,650
2001-02	2,940
2002-03	3,100
2003-04	3,360

Staffordshire

	£ *Revenue funding per pupil*
2004-05	3,660
2005-06	4,040

Notes:
1. The combined LA and school based expenditure includes all expenditure on the education of children in LA maintained establishments and pupils educated by the LA other than in maintained establishments. This includes both school based expenditure and all elements of central LA expenditure except youth and community and capital expenditure from revenue (CERA). A sector breakdown for combined LA and school based expenditure is not available from 2002-03 and consequently this table shows the total LA recurrent expenditure (except youth and community) per pupil by LA since 1995-96.
2. 1999-2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the R01 form collected by the ODPM to the section 52 outturn forms collected by the DfES. 2002-03 saw a further break in the time series following the introduction of consistent financial reporting (CFR) and the associated restructuring of the outturn tables. The change in sources is shown by the line.
3. Pupil figures include all pre-primary pupils, including those under-fives funded by the LA and being educated in private settings, pupils educated in maintained mainstream schools and other LA maintained pupils. The pupil data for pupils attending maintained mainstream schools and other LA maintained pupils. The pupil data for pupils attending maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools are taken from the DfES annual schools census. Private voluntary and independent (PVI) under-five pupil numbers are taken from the Early Years census but are only included for 1999-2000 onwards. For 1998-99 onwards other LA maintained pupils are included in the pupil count. This includes all pupils attending schools not maintained by the authority for whom the authority is paying full tuition fees, or educated otherwise than in schools and pupil referral units under arrangements made by the authority drawn from form 8b submitted to the DfES. Also included as other LA maintained pupils are all pupils attending pupil referral units who are not registered at a maintained school drawn from the DfES annual school census. All pupil numbers are adjusted to be on a financial year basis.
4. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and are subject to change by the LA.

School Leaving: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students in the Ribble Valley constituency left full-time education at the age of 16 in each of the last 10 years. [148985]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 11 July 2007]:* Participation of 16-year-olds in education and training is published in the Statistical First Release: Participation in Education and Training by 16 and 17-year-olds in each local area in England. The following table shows the percentage of 16-year-olds participating in full-time education together with the population estimate for Lancashire local authority. Although the remaining young people are not in full-time education, many are in apprenticeships or part-time education. The latest year for which data are available is end 2005.

	Percentage of 16-year-olds in full-time education	*16-year-old population*
2005	71	15,700
2004	69	16,000
2003	66	16,000
2002	66	15,000
2001	65	15,000
2000	66	15,000
1999	66	15,000
1998	64	14,000
1997	65	18,000
1996	65	18,000

These figures are not currently available at parliamentary constituency level.

Schools: Assessments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to give schools additional flexibility on school testing; and if he will make a statement. [149893]

Jim Knight: Schools within the Making Good Progress pilot will be trialling 'single level' tests. There will be tests available from level 3 to level 8 of the national curriculum in reading, writing and mathematics. Teachers in pilot schools will have two opportunities a year to enter pupils in any year group within Key Stage 2 or 3 for a test when they judge that they are performing securely at that level. The pilot will last for two years from September 2007 and for its duration pupils will also continue to sit end-of-Key-Stage tests.

Schools: Capital Investment

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of capital spending in real terms on schools in each year from 1996-97 to 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [149068]

Jim Knight: The Department does not maintain records centrally of capital spending in schools. This is because allocations from the Department are pooled with other resources available to each local authority, which then decides how much should be spent on schools, and on the timing of spend. Particularly, Devolved Formula Capital, which is for schools' own use, can be saved up by schools for three years or longer to finance larger capital projects.

The following table shows capital allocations to local authorities and schools in each year from 1996-97 to 2007-08, using the GDP deflator to adjust to 2005-06 prices.

Allocations have not yet been confirmed for each year in the period 2008-09 to 2010-11 and are not shown. However, in cash terms, they are planned to rise to £8.0 million by 2010-11. The GDP deflator has the effect of increasing cash values before 2005-06, and reducing cash values from 2006-07.

	Capital allocations to local authorities (£ billion)
1996-97	0.7
1997-98	0.9
1998-99	1.1
1999-2000	1.2
2000-01	2.1
2001-02	2.1
2002-03	3.5

	Capital allocations to local authorities (£ billion)
2003-04	4.1
2004-05	4.7
2005-06	5.6
2006-07	5.7
2007-08	6.1

The Department for Communities and Local Government receives information on capital spend from local authorities. This will differ from the allocation figures shown above, due to timing differences.

Schools: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in *(a)* West Chelmsford and *(b)* Chelmsford local authority area are at (i) primary and (ii) secondary school. [149605]

Jim Knight: Chelmsford is not a local authority area. The available information has been provided for West Chelmsford parliamentary constituency and Essex local authority area.

All schools: number (headcount) of pupils [1]—As at January 2007 (provisional)

	Headcount of pupils	
	West Chelmsford parliamentary constituency	*Essex local constituency authority area*
Maintained Nursery	181	291
Maintained Primary	7,934	105,552
Maintained Secondary	8,678	90,503
Maintained Special	238	1,840
Non-Maintained Special	[2]—	102
Pupil Referral Units	[2]—	326
Independent Schools	1,618	11,466
City Technology Colleges and Academies	[2]—	[2]—

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils. Includes pupils with other providers in Pupil Referral Units.
[2] Not applicable, no schools of this type
Source:
School Census

Schools: Curriculum

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what changes there were to the schools curriculum in each year from 1992-93 to 9 July 2007; and if he will make a statement. [149122]

Jim Knight: In 1993 Sir Ron Dearing was asked by the Government to review the National Curriculum and its assessment. As a result, a revised version of the curriculum was produced in 1995. The key changes were:

- a reduction in prescribed content;
- increased flexibility;
- statutory testing being limited to core subjects only;
- the introduction of information and communication technology—to be taught as a subject in its own right and through other subjects;
- a reduction in the number of compulsory subjects at KS4; and
- replacing statements of attainment for teacher assessment with eight level descriptions for each subject and end of key stage statements for art, music and P.E.

The curriculum underwent further revision in 2000. The key principles of the 2000 review included:

- improving the coherence and alignment of subjects—including through a common format for programmes of study;
- reducing duplication and prescription across subjects;
- introducing citizenship as a subject at Key Stages 3 and 4;
- allowing more flexibility at Key Stage 4; and
- developing an overt statement of the aims and purposes of the curriculum.

In September 2004, the Key Stage 4 curriculum was amended to reduce the number of compulsory National Curriculum subjects to six: English, mathematics, science, ICT, citizenship and physical education. We also introduced entitlement areas in languages, design and technology, the arts, and humanities.

In 2006, the Education and Inspections Bill introduced a new statutory entitlement for all Key Stage 4 students to study science programmes leading to at least two GCSEs, and an entitlement to diplomas.

A review of the secondary curriculum is currently under way and will be rolled out to secondary schools from September 2008. The new secondary curriculum will:

- further reduce prescription over subject content;
- create flexibility for teachers to support pupils who are struggling to master the basic skills of English and maths;
- free up time and space for greater personalisation of the curriculum, allowing pupils to study some areas in more depth;
- highlight connections across and between the subjects; and
- give a new emphasis to the development of personal and life skills.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what real terms change in schools funding he plans for each year from 2007-08 to 2015-16; and if he will make a statement. [149109]

Jim Knight: The Spending Review settlement provided for a significant increase in DfES funding over the next three years to reach £75.5 billion by 2010-11, approximately £11 billion higher than in 2007-08. DCSF is still agreeing the exact split of budgets with DIUS so it is not possible to give the real term increases in school funding from 2008-11 at this moment. We will announce the increase in school funding in the autumn. The level of school funding from 2012-16 will not be known until the DCSF receives its allocation in the next Spending Review.

Schools: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations he has received on the health impact of interactive whiteboards. [148759]

Jim Knight: We have received a number of representations from the media, schools, the public and industry over the last few years. Our consistent view is that there are no health risks associated with the use of interactive whiteboards in schools if the boards are used in accordance with the guidelines issued by the British Educational Communications and Technology Agency on behalf of the Department. These guidelines, developed in collaboration with the Health and Safety Executive and the National Radiological Protection Board, are publicly available to all schools and interested parties.

Schools: Teaching Methods

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on the implementation of personalised learning in schools. [148225]

Jim Knight: The Secretary of State announced new plans on Tuesday 10 July to encourage a personalised approach to teaching and learning in schools, with a focus on ensuring that every child has the chance to make the most of their talents and fulfil their potential.

We will be providing £150 million for Assessment for Learning training over the next three years to help teachers better track their pupils' progress and personalise their learning to stretch gifted children and help underachieving children catch up. Assessment for learning plays a critical role in helping teachers monitor the progress of every pupil against their own individual expectations and triggering swift intervention for those pupils whose progress slows.

There will be a major review of maths teaching in primary schools which will seek to define the most effective methods of teaching and learning maths to develop pupils' deeper understanding; and this will inform the design of Every Child Counts, a new intervention programme for young children who are struggling with numeracy.

The Secretary of State has also announced a £265 million extended schools subsidy over the next three years to ensure that children from disadvantaged backgrounds benefit from extra out-of-hours tuition and after-school clubs in sport, music and drama.

Personalised learning means taking a highly structured approach to pupils' progress in the round, encouraging pupils to take ownership of their own learning, and engaging with their parents as partners. These new programmes build on the work already under way, such as the Making Good Progress Pilots and supporting the well-being of children and young people through the roll-out of the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) programme.

Secondary Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the potential impact of the increased flexibility of the proposed Key Stage 3 programmes of study proposed in the report of the secondary curriculum review on the effectiveness of Key Stage 3 assessment. [148137]

Jim Knight: The proposed changes to Key Stage 3 programmes of study will not change the requirements for testing in the Key Stage 3 core subjects of English, maths and science. In its regulatory role, QCA is responsible for ensuring the maintenance of standards over time, taking account of any changes to the curriculum.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average size, by pupil numbers, of English secondary schools was in each year from 1990 to 2007; and if he will make a statement. [149108]

Jim Knight: The available information is given in the following table.

Secondary schools[1]: average size of school based on full-time equivalent pupils[2,3] Position in January each year: 1997 to 2006—England

	Average size of school
1997	852
1998	861
1999	877
2000	890
2001	928
2002	944
2003	962
2004	975
2005	980
2006	982
2007	978

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[3] Part-time pupils are counted as 0.5 full-time equivalents.
Note:
Figures for earlier years are not readily available.
Source:
School Census

Along with the average school size, it is also important to consider the spread of school sizes, information on which is given for 2006 and 2007 in the table as follows:

Maintained secondary schools: number of schools by size[1] At January each year—England

	2006		*2007*	
School size	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Up to 100	3	0	6	0
101 to 200	26	1	31	1
201 to 300	51	2	51	2
301 to 400	100	3	108	3
400 to 500	159	5	152	5
501 to 600	186	6	178	5
601 to 700	233	7	240	7
701 to 800	330	10	345	10
801 to 900	366	11	364	11
901 to 1,000	361	11	337	10
1,001 to 1,100	334	10	359	11
1,101 to 1,200	304	9	268	8
1,201 to 1,300	241	7	243	7
1,301 to 1,400	236	7	226	7

Maintained secondary schools: number of schools by size[1] At January each year—England

	2006		2007	
School size	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
1,401 to 1,500	159	5	149	4
1,501 to 1,600	96	3	97	3
1,601 to 1,700	67	2	70	2
1,701 to 1,800	48	1	50	1
1,801 and over	67	2	69	2
Total	3,367	100	3,343	100

Source:
School Census

Figures included in this response do not include Academies.

Secondary Education: Carlisle

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent discussions officials in his Department have had with Cumbria county council on secondary education provision in Carlisle; and if he will make a statement. [149624]

Jim Knight: Officials from across the DCSF have met with officers from Cumbria county council on a number of occasions to discuss the planned city-wide secondary school reorganisation in Carlisle. There have been ongoing discussions relating to the capital investment in Carlisle in response to the January 2005 floods and how it will be used to raise standards in education across the city. This includes working with the council on the academy proposal to replace St. Aidan's school and about finding sponsorship for a possible second academy in Carlisle, based on the Morton school which is currently in special measures.

Secondary Education: Class Sizes

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of secondary school pupils were in classes with over *(a)* 30 pupils, *(b)* 25 pupils and *(c)* 20 pupils in each year from 1990-91 to 2007-08. [149107]

Jim Knight: The available information is contained in the following table. Data on classes of over 25 and 20 pupils are not readily available. The available relevant data have been italicised. Note that these figures do not include academies.

Maintained secondary schools: classes as taught[1,2]—Position in January each year: 2003 to 2007[3], England

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007[3]*
Secondary schools					
Average class size	21.9	21.8	21.7	21.5	21.3
Total number of classes	142,190	143,650	143,500	144,330	144,420
Percentage of classes with					
1 to 30 pupils	92.0	91.8	92.3	92.4	92.7
31 to 35 pupils	7.9	8.0	7.6	7.4	7.1
36 or more pupils	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Total number of pupils	3,110,570	3,131,910	3,108,020	3,099,160	3,069,470
Percentage of pupils in classes with					
1 to 30 pupils	88.3	88.0	88.6	88.7	89.0
31 to 35 pupils	*11.5*	*11.7*	*11.2*	*11.0*	*10.7*
36 or more pupils	*0.2*	*0.2*	*0.3*	*0.3*	*0.3*

[1] One teacher classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.
[2] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[3] Provisional. Source: School Census

The contents of this table were published as part of the recent Statistical First Release on pupil characteristics which can be found at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000726/index.shtml

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what his most recent estimate is of the pupil-teacher ratios in secondary schools in the *(a)* state and *(b)* private sector; and if he will make a statement; [149110]

(2) what the pupil-to-teacher ratio was in English *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007. [149203]

Jim Knight: In January 2007 the pupil-teacher ratio was 21.8 in English local authority maintained primary schools and 16.5 in secondary schools. These figures are the latest available and are provisional. The equivalent figures for 2006 are 22.0 and 16.6 respectively. This information is from the Department of Children, Schools and Families School Census.

No estimate has been made of pupil-teacher ratios in private sector secondary schools.

Secondary Education: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1218W, on secondary education: Colchester, if he will list the other issues discussed by senior officials from his Department and officers from Essex county council; [149366]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1218W, on secondary education: Colchester, on which dates senior officials from his Department met officers from Essex county council to discuss secondary school provision in Colchester. [149367]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 12 July 2007]:* The officials met officers from Essex county council most recently on 22 May, 20 June, 28 June and 10 July of this year.

In addition to secondary provision in Colchester, issues discussed at these meetings included the primary capital programme (for which Essex is a pathfinder), school organisation plans, sixth form provision in relation to academies, the role of national leaders in education, and schools in other areas in Essex that are in special measures or currently causing concern.

Specialist Schools: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many specialist schools there were in each year from 1997 to 2007; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of specialist schools in raising performance; and if he will make a statement. [149070]

Jim Knight: The number of specialist schools in each year from 1997 to 2007 is as follows:

	Number
1997	221
1998	304
1999	377
2000	513
2001	664
2002	972
2003	1,435
2004	1,945
2005	2,376
2006	2,607
2007	2,807

Research evidence on the impact of the specialist school programme (SSP) to date is positive both in terms of the impact on attainment and in terms of the wider reported benefits on school ethos, teaching and learning and pupil motivation. There have been several independent assessments of the programmes, for example:

London School of Economics (2000);

OFSTED evaluations of the progress of Specialist Schools 2001 and 2005;

"A Study of the Specialist Schools Programme", Institute of Education, University of Warwick 2004.

The evidence shows that specialist schools outperform non-specialist schools. On overall school improvement and value added measures, specialist schools' results have delivered higher standards for children since their inception.

Specialist schools are the future of secondary education in England. We want every secondary school that meets the criteria to attain specialist status. We are well on track to meet our target of 95 per cent. of eligible secondary schools to be specialist by 2008. Currently over 2.8 millions students attend specialist schools.

All specialist schools must work with partner schools and the wider community and we are keen to exploit the strengths of our strongest schools to lead system-wide reform. There are over 550 high performing specialist schools which have taken on additional options extending their partnership working with other schools. We have also a very small scale pilot testing exploring specialism in primary schools.

Teachers: Assessments

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) to which key stage level in the national curriculum each of the qualified teacher status skills tests is roughly equivalent; [148857]

(2) how many times the qualified teacher status skills tests were *(a)* sat and *(b)* passed in each financial year since they were introduced, broken down by type of test; [148858]

(3) what the total cost of administering the skills tests was in each financial year since the qualified teacher status skills tests were introduced. [148859]

Jim Knight: The qualified teacher status (QTS) skills tests equate to key stage 4 of the national curriculum.

The Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) holds data on the number of QTS skills tests attempted by teacher trainees who successfully passed the tests, but not on those who have not successfully passed the tests. The available data on numbers of tests attempted are collected on an academic, rather than financial year, basis. The following table shows for each of the academic years 2000/01 to 2005/06 and for each test, the number of teacher trainees who successfully passed that test in that year, the mean number of attempts taken and, therefore, the total number of tests attempted by them. The table also shows for each year and for each test, the number of teacher trainees who either did not attempt the test or who did not pass the test during that period.

The total cost to the TDA for administering the skill tests in each financial year since their introduction in 1999 is as follows:

Financial year	*Total cost for year (£)*
1999-2000	1,803,000
2000-01	5,245,000
2001-02	5,972,000
2002-03	4,132,000
2003-04	5,349,000
2004-05	4,722,000
2005-06	4,262,000
2006-07	4,024,000
2007-08 (forecast)	3,654,000
Total costs	39,163,000

	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Numeracy						
Passed	22,949	25,984	29,088	31,306	33,247	34,126
Mean number of attempts required to pass	1.28	1.28	1.31	1.36	1.49	1.49
Approximate number of tests sat by those who passed	29,375	33,260	38,105	42,576	49,538	50,848
Literacy						
Passed	23,227	26,326	29,616	32,723	33,902	34,150
Mean number of attempts required to pass	1.14	1.25	1.24	1.23	1.39	1.4
Approximate number of tests sat by those who passed	26,479	32,908	36,724	40,249	47,124	47,810
ICT						
Passed	n/a	25,814	29,172	32,961	33,328	33,247
Mean number of attempts required to pass	n/a	1.11	1.31	1.17	1.38	1.14
Approximate number of tests sat by those who passed	n/a	28,654	38,215	38,564	45,993	37,902
Numeracy						
Approximate number of trainees who did not pass the tests	459	468	582	2,066	702	1,106
Literacy						
Approximate number of trainees who did not pass the tests	232	290	296	1,080	488	536
ICT						
Approximate number of trainees who did not pass the tests	n/a	232	496	659	587	702

Teachers: Pay

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the pay scale was of a qualified teacher with seven years' experience in each year since 1996. [148819]

Jim Knight: The basic pay for a full-time qualified classroom teacher with seven years' experience, and a good honours degree, in each year since 1996 is set out in the following table.

£

	Spine point	Annual salary England and Wales (excluding the London area)	
		Pay spine A (until 30 November)	*Pay Spine B (from 1 December)*
1996	9	20,700	20,901
1997	9	21,318	21,591
1998	9	22,023	22,410
1999	9	23,193	
2000	9	23,958	
2001	9	24,843	
2002	U1	27,861	
2003	U1	28,668	
2004	U1	29,385	
2005	U1	30,339	
2006	U1	31,098	

The table reflects the structural changes to teachers' pay over the years in question, including the introduction of the upper pay scale in 2000, and assumes a rate of progression achieved by the majority of classroom teachers. Some teachers could have progressed to higher pay levels due to excellent performance or relevant previous experience attracting a higher starting point, or may have moved to the Advanced Skills Teacher or Leadership Group spines. The figures are based on the pay rates for England and Wales. Pay rates are higher for the London area. The figures do not include the additional pay teachers may receive which currently include:

Teaching and Learning Responsibility payments—which currently range from £2,306 to £11,275.

Special Educational Needs allowances—currently £1,818 or £3,597.

Recruitment and retention incentives and benefits—as approved by the governing body or local authority.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average salary was of *(a)* a primary school teacher, *(b)* a primary school head teacher, *(c)* a secondary school teacher and *(d)* a secondary school head teacher in (i) cash terms and (ii) real terms in each year since 1995; and if he will make a statement. [149061]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the average salary of nursery, primary and secondary classroom and head teachers in each March between 1995 and 2005, the latest year available. The figures are given in cash terms and adjusted for inflation using the HM Treasury GDP deflator.

Average salary of full-time regular qualified classroom[1] and head teachers in nursery, primary and secondary schools, March of each year—England and Wales

£

	Nursery and primary schools				*Secondary schools*			
	Classroom teachers		*Head teachers*		*Classroom teachers*		*Head teachers*	
	Cash	*Adjusted[2]*	*Cash*	*Adjusted[2]*	*Cash*	*Adjusted[2]*	*Cash*	*Adjusted[2]*
1995	19,300	25,100	28,000	36,300	21,400	27,800	38,500	50,000
1996	19,800	24,900	28,900	36,400	21,900	27,600	39,800	50,200
1997	20,400	24,900	30,100	36,600	22,600	27,600	41,500	50,700
1998	20,900	24,800	31,100	36,900	23,300	27,600	43,000	50,900
1999	21,700	25,100	32,500	37,600	24,200	27,900	44,800	51,700
2000	22,500	25,500	35,100	39,800	25,000	28,300	48,200	54,600
2001	24,000	26,800	37,300	41,600	26,600	29,800	50,600	56,500
2002	25,200	27,500	39,400	43,000	28,000	30,600	54,100	58,900
2003	26,800	28,300	41,800	44,200	29,700	31,400	57,600	60,900
2004[3]	27,800	28,600	44,000	45,200	30,800	31,600	60,500	62,200
2005[3]	28,800	28,800	46,000	46,000	31,800	31,800	63,600	63,600

[1] Classroom teachers include teachers on the main, upper and AST pay scales.
[2] Adjusted for inflation using HM Treasury GDP deflator where 2004/05 = 100
[3] Provisional estimates.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest £100.
Source:
Database of Teacher Records

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the pay scales for a newly qualified teacher were in each year since 1996. [149268]

Jim Knight: The minimum pay rate for full-time newly-qualified classroom teachers, in each year since 1996, is set out in the following tables:

	Spine point	*Annual salary England and Wales (excluding the London area) (£)*	
		Pay spine A (until 30 November)	*Pay spine B (from 1 December)*
1996	0	12,342	12,462
1997	0	12,711	12,873
1998	0	13,131	13,362
1999	1	14,658	

	Scale point	*Annual salary England and Wales (excluding the London area) (£)*	
		Pay spine A (until 30 November)	*Pay spine B (from 1 December)*
2000	1	15,141	
2001	1	16,038	

	Scale point	*Annual salary England and Wales (excluding the London area) (£)*	
		From 1 April 2002	*From 1 September 2002*
2002	1	(1) 16,599	(M1) 17,595

	Scale point	*Annual salary England and Wales (excluding the London area) (£)*	
		From 1 April 2002	*From 1 September 2002*
2003	M1	18,105	
2004	M1	18,558	
2005	M1	19,161	
2006	M1	19,641	

The table reflects the structural changes to teachers' pay over the years in question, including the shortening of the pay scale and assimilation to the new shortened pay scale in 2002. It assumes that all newly-qualified classroom teachers started on the lowest point of the pay scale, though until September 2002 all newly-qualified teachers would have started above the minimum point if they had a good honours degree. In addition, those with relevant previous experience may receive one or more additional points. The figures are based on the pay rates for England and Wales. Pay rates are higher for the London area. No allowances or incentives are included.

Teachers: Qualifications

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect on the educational attainment of pupils of being taught by teachers who have no formal qualification in the subject they are teaching; and how many such teachers there are, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* subject. [148698]

Jim Knight: No assessment has been made of the effect on the educational attainment of pupils of being taught by teachers who have no formal qualifications in the subjects they are teaching.

The following table shows the number of teachers teaching each subject and their highest post A-level qualification in that subject. For example, it shows that in November 2002 an estimated[1] 28,200 teachers were teaching maths and, of these, between 22 per cent. and 26 per cent. held no post A-level qualification in maths. The same information is not available by region.

The information was first published in the 2003 National Statistics Volume "Statistics of Education: School Workforce in England", available at http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000443/WorkforceinEngland.pdf. A copy is available in the House of Commons Library.

The data were collected in the 2002 Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing Survey.

A repeat of the survey was carried out in February 2007 and results should be published towards the end of the summer.

Full-time teachers in maintained secondary schools—highest post A-level qualifications[1] held in the subjects they teach[2] to year groups 7-13, England

Percentage

	Degree[3]	*BEd*	*PGCE*	*Cert Ed*	*Other Qual.*	*No Qual.*	*Total teachers (thousand)*
Mathematics	42 ± 3	15 ± 2	9 ± 2	7 ± 1	2 ± 1	24 ± 2	28.2
English	51 ± 3	15 ± 2	7 ± 1	6 ± 1	1 ± 1	20 ± 2	29.4
Combined/General science	62 ± 3	12 ± 2	10 ± 2	4 ± 1	1 ± 1	11 ± 2	28.3
Biology[4]	71 ± 5	7 ± 3	11 ± 4	3 ± 2	- ± 1	7 ± 3	5.6
Chemistry[4]	72 ± 5	6 ± 3	12 ± 4	1 ± 1	1 ± 1	7 ± 3	5.2
Physics[4]	63 ± 6	11 ± 4	15 ± 4	3 ± 2	- ± -	8 ± 3	4.7
Other sciences[4]	10 ± 6	4 ± 4	5 ± 4	- ± -	- ± -	80 ± 8	1.6
French	54 ± 3	7 ± 2	10 ± 2	3 ± 1	2 ± 1	23 ± 3	16.0
German	47 ± 5	6 ± 3	13 ± 4	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	30 ± 5	6.9
Spanish	37 ± 7	8 ± 4	10 ± 6	- ± -	3 ± 2	33 ± 7	3.6
Other modern languages	18 ± 8	- ± -	9 ± 7	- ± -	3 ± 4	71 ±10	1.4
Design and technology[5]	26 ± 3	20 ± 3	7 ± 2	21 ± 3	2 ± 1	24 ± 3	20.9
ICT[5, 6]	13 ± 2	6 ± 1	8 ± 2	2 ± 1	3 ± 1	69 ± 3	18.9
Other/Combined technology[5]	30± 10	13 ± 8	16 ± 7	18 ± 9	2 ± 3	20 ± 9	1.6
Business studies	30 ± 5	11 ± 4	9 ± 3	4 ± 2	3 ± 2	43 ± 5	6.5
Classics	33 ± 7	- ± -	2 ± 4	2 ± -	- ± -	63 ± 7	1.0
History	57 ± 4	9 ± 2	6 ± 2	6 ± 2	- ± -	23 ± 3	13.7
Religious education	22 ± 3	8 ± 2	8 ± 2	4 ± 1	2 ± 1	57 ± 4	14.2
Geography	53 ± 4	9 ± 2	6 ± 2	5 ± 2	1 ± 1	25 ± 3	13.7
Other social studies	35 ± 5	6 ± 3	2 ± 2	2 ± 1	- ± 1	54 ± 6	4.9
Combined arts/humanities/social studies	5 ± 3	4 ± 2	7 ± 3	1 ± 1	1 ± 1	83 ± 5	5.3
Music	59 ± 5	15 ± 4	5 ± 2	6 ± 3	2 ± 2	13 ± 4	6.3
Drama	25 ± 4	10 ± 3	12 ± 3	6 ± 2	2 ± 1	45 ± 5	8.1
Art and design	54 ± 4	10 ± 3	7 ± 2	9 ± 3	1 ± 1	20 ± 4	9.3
Physical education	25 ± 3	31 ± 3	6 ± 2	13 ± 2	2 ± 1	22 ± 2	21.4
Careers education	2 ± 2	1 ± 2	3 ± 3	4 ± 4	3 ± 4	87 ± 7	1.5
PSHE[6]	1 ± -	1 ± -	2 ± 1	1 ± -	- ± -	95 ± 1	61.4
General studies	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	1 ± 1	- ± 1	- ± -	95 ± 2	7.1
Citizenship	2 ± 1	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	- ± 1	- ± -	94 ± 2	9.0
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	32.8
Total[2, 7]	33 ± -	10 ± -	7 ± -	5 ± -	1 ± -	44 ± -	388.4

'-' = zero or less than 0.5.

[1] Where a teacher has more than one post A-level qualification in the same subject, the qualification level is determined by the highest level reading from left (Degree) to right (Other Qual.). For example, teachers shown under PGCE have a PGCE but not a degree or BEd in the subject, while those with a PGCE and a degree are shown only under Degree.

[2] Teachers are counted once against each subject which they are teaching.

[3] Includes higher degrees but excludes BEds.

[4] Teachers qualified in combined/general science are treated as qualified to teach biology, chemistry, or physics. Teachers qualified in biology, chemistry or physics are treated as qualified to teach combined/general science.

[5] Teachers qualified in other/combined technology are treated as qualified to teach design and technology or information and communication technology. Teachers qualified in design and technology or information and communication technology are treated as qualified to teach other/combined technology.

[6] Information and Communication Technology is abbreviated as ICT and Personal Social and Health Education is abbreviated as PSHE.

[7] 'Other' not included in total percentages.

Source:

Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey 2002.

Teachers: Science

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1099W, on teachers: science, what steps he is taking to ensure that there is a sufficient number of new teachers with a specialism in *(a)* physics and *(b)* chemistry. [149159]

Jim Knight: We are providing a bursary of £9,000 to PGCE trainee teachers in the sciences and a golden hello of £5,000 after their first year of teaching. As a further incentive, providers of teacher training receive an additional 'bounty' of £1,000 for every place on a science course which is taken up by a physics or chemistry graduate.

The Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) funds enhancement courses to increase the number of specialist mathematics, physics and chemistry teachers. These courses have enabled over 1,000 additional people to qualify to teach in these subjects.

Over the last five years we have been running the Student Associate Scheme which focuses on physics and chemistry and places high quality undergraduates in schools for up to 20 days to provide curriculum support for teachers and to carry out project work with pupils. It also gives participants a taste of teaching as a career. The Secretary of State for Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) has just announced that participation in the scheme is to be doubled.

The TDA's highly successful advertising campaign has also contributed significantly to increases in teacher recruitment, and is now concentrating on attracting teachers to priority subjects, including mathematics, physics and chemistry.

Vacancy rates for science teachers in secondary schools have fallen by almost half—from 1.6 per cent. in 2001 to 0.9 per cent. in 2006, when 3,007 people started mainstream teacher training in science. Of these, 12 per cent. were studying physics, 18 per cent. chemistry, 30 per cent. biology and 40 per cent. general science.

Teachers: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* teachers and *(b)* teaching assistants were employed in (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools in Tamworth in (A) 1997 and (B) at the last date for which figures are available. [148793]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of teachers and teaching assistants employed in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in Tamworth constituency in January 1997 and 2006, the latest year for which figures are available at this level.

Constituency level information for 2007 will become available in September.

Full-time equivalent number of regular teachers and teaching assistants in service in nursery/primary and secondary schools in Tamworth constituency, January 1997 and 2006

	Teachers		Teaching assistants	
	Nursery/ primary	*Secondary*	*Nursery/ primary*	*Secondary*
1997	370	360	130	60
2006	360	390	270	150

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Young People: Parents

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to publish his strategy on teenage parents; and if he will make a statement. [149867]

Beverley Hughes: We plan to publish the strategy shortly. The original teenage pregnancy strategy—published in 1999—included action both to reduce the rate of teenage pregnancies and to provide better support for teenage parents. We have made steady progress in reducing the teenage pregnancy rate. The latest data (2005) show that the under-18 conception rate has fallen by 11.8 per cent. since the strategy's baseline year (1998), to its lowest level for over 20 years.

The refreshed 'support' strategy which we will be issuing aims teenage mothers having fewer or to reduce the risk of subsequent pregnancies and to improve the lives of teenage parents and their children, who are at high risk of poor outcomes; including:

- Poor child health outcomes, such as a 60 per cent. higher rate of infant mortality and increased risk of low birth weight;
- Poor emotional health and well-being experienced by teenage mothers; and
- Increased risk that teenage parents and their children will live in poverty.

Better support for teenage parents not only reduces their risk of poor outcomes now, but is also part of our long-term strategy to reduce teenage pregnancy rates in the future—as it will mean that their children will be less likely to experience the factors that increase the risk of teenage pregnancy, such as social deprivation, poor educational attainment and low aspirations. Through better support we can also help teenage parents to avoid second and subsequent unplanned pregnancies—it is estimated that 20 per cent. of births to teenagers are to young women who are already teenage mothers.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Central America: Children

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken to promote the welfare of street children in Central America. [149602]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) is assisting street children in Honduras and Guatemala through our support to the World Bank (WB) and the Inter-American Development

Bank (IDB). DFID funds are being used to strengthen WB and IDB programmes to tackle the factors that force many children onto the street. For example, DFID assistance through the IDB has included $145,000 to build the capacity of Guatemalan non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and public sector officials to reintegrate street children back into society. DFID has also contributed $150,000 to the IDB in Honduras for a programme to better prioritise social assistance to vulnerable groups, such as street children, using better data collection and analysis.

DFID provides core funding to the United Nations Fund for Children (UNICEF) who run programmes throughout Central America aimed at improving children's access to health and education. Street children have also benefited from UNICEF's programmes in the region on HIV and AIDS and to eliminate child labour and violence against children.

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people in his Department have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for (i) inappropriate use of the internet while at work and (ii) using work telephones to access premium rate telephone numbers in the last 12 months. [149189]

Mr. Malik: DFID's Discipline and Dismissal Procedures are fully compliant with UK legislation and apply to home civil servants working in both the UK and overseas. The same procedures apply to our locally appointed staff, who work in our network of overseas offices, unless local law dictates otherwise.

DFID disciplined fewer than five staff for inappropriate use of the internet while at work in the last 12 months. Due to the small numbers involved, a breakdown by type of offence, employment status and outcome is not made public on the grounds of confidentiality. None of these staff was dismissed.

DFID did not discipline or dismiss any staff for using work telephones to access premium rate numbers in the last 12 months.

The arrangements for staff accessing the internet, and the use of office telephones, are described in our response to a similar question raised on 1 May 2006, which covered the preceding five year period.

Departments: Public Transport

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what incentives he has considered to encourage staff in his Department to use public transport. [148799]

Mr. Malik: DFID provides interest-free loans to staff for the purchase of travel season tickets. This is the only direct incentive we provide to staff, although we also publicise public transport alternatives, particularly in London where we do not have any car parking for staff. We also engage with local authorities on the provision of public transport around our East Kilbride office, and monitor and report on trends in our Green Transport Plans.

Departments: Publicity

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the cost effectiveness of advertising commissioned by his Department in the last 12 months. [148514]

Mr. Malik: In the 12 months since July 2006, DFID's main promotional activity was in support of the launch of the Third White Paper on International Development. This was the largest campaign that DFID has run to date. The campaign was evaluated to show which promotional method gave the best rate of response and the best value for money. This showed that e-communications compared favourably with flyer inserts into periodicals and newspapers. This information is being used to inform future campaigns and promotional activity.

DFID's other main area of advertising spend is recruitment and procurement advertising which is assessed in terms of response rate and quality. At present there is no formal system for evaluating the cost effectiveness of each advert. However, DFID is introducing an e-enabled recruitment system that will help with this evaluation in the future.

DFID is committed to reducing the cost of advertising generally by the use of shorter and more focused advertisements and through maximising discounts through the Central Office of Information.

Departments: Racial Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [149249]

Mr. Malik: DFID's Grievance Procedures are fully compliant with UK legislation and apply to civil servants working in the UK and overseas. We also apply them to our locally appointed staff overseas, who work under local contracts, unless local law dictates otherwise.

DFID investigated fewer than five complaints of racial harassment in the last 12 months. Due to the small number, a breakdown by number, employment status and outcome is not made public on the grounds of confidentiality. All complaints were thoroughly investigated by trained staff and appropriate action was taken by senior managers hearing the cases.

Governance and Transparency Fund

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the estimated cost is of administration of the funding distribution mechanism of the Governance and Transparency Fund; and from which budget that funding comes. [148176]

Mr. Malik: Under the agreement reached with the managing agent for the Governance and Transparency Fund (GTF), the exact cost of administration will depend on the number of proposals submitted and the

number of projects supported. We estimate that the administration cost will be approximately £1.6 million. This will come from DFID's administration budget, not from the £100 million programme budget allocated to the GTF.

Iraq: Reconstruction

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what bodies his Department consulted in or before March 2003 on the likely cost of the reconstruction of Iraq in the event of military action being taken against that country; [148904]

(2) what his Department's estimate was in March 2003 of the cost of reconstruction in Iraq in each of the subsequent five financial years. [148905]

Mr. Malik: Before March 2003, the UK Government, together with United Nations agencies, international NGOs and Coalition partners such as the United States and Australia, prepared contingency plans that included the possibility of prolonged urban warfare, large population movements, or the widespread destruction of essential infrastructure. The cost of reconstruction was considered substantial. Iraq had suffered more than 20 years of conflict, mismanagement and underinvestment by the Saddam regime.

From June to October 2003, the World Bank, United Nations and Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) undertook a joint needs assessment and recommended investing some US$56 billion towards reconstruction over four years (this was not divided into financial years). It was expected that oil revenues would make a significant contribution to this reconstruction. Against this, the international community pledged an initial US$32 billion for the reconstruction of Iraq at the Madrid Donors' Conference in October 2003 to which the UK pledged an initial £544 million. Iraq has plenty of resources in its own budget, with forecast oil revenues of $33 billion in 2007. Our priority is therefore to help the Iraqi Government make better use of these resources so that they can deliver better public services.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on reconstruction in Iraq in each financial year since 2002-03. [148972]

Mr. Malik: Since 2002-03, DFID has disbursed the following on bilateral assistance to Iraq:

£000

Financial year	*Reconstruction and development assistance*	*Humanitarian assistance*	*Total DFID bilateral programme*
2002-03	0	18,853	18,853
2003-04	99,261	110,052	209,313
2004-05	27,724	21,383	49,107
2005-06	82,105	4,764	86,869
2006-07	39,483	10,085	49,568
Total	248,573	165,137	413,710

Liberia: Children

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what resources his Department has provided for *(a)* children's services projects and *(b)* child protection programmes in Liberia over the last two years; what further such projects are planned; and if he will make a statement. [148331]

Mr. Thomas: DFID's humanitarian support for Liberia in the last two years has focused on the provision of basic services and on protection issues for the most vulnerable, particularly children, including the internally displaced (IDPs), returning refugees, and those not yet returned.

DFID has provided over £2 million in support of the provision of basic and secondary health care services, through agencies such as Save the Children and Merlin, which have given emphasis to providing free primary health care, including reproductive and sexual health care services to children, adolescents, women and other vulnerable groups recovering after the conflict. DFID support for the return of IDPs and refugees, including food and shelter, has totalled £2.8 million over the last two years.

Our continuing support to Community Development Programmes provides assistance to enterprise and apprenticeship schemes to give skills training opportunities for youth (£1.9 million over the last two years).

DFID's wider programme of support to Liberia will continue at £10 million per annum and will include increased support to the health sector and to water and sanitation services to provide equitable access to the most vulnerable, including children.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects the final decision on the terms for the restoration of EU funding to the Palestinian Authority under the Temporary International Mechanism to be made; and when he expects the delivery of aid under the Mechanism to be resumed. [148957]

Mr. Malik: The Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) has continuously provided support since June 2006 to Palestinian Authority employees and to the poorest Palestinians. The Quartet recently extended the TIM until the end of September 2007. On 9 July the European Parliament Commission approved an additional €90 million for payments through the TIM. This will provide sufficient resources to fund TIM payments until the end of September.

On 18 June, European Union Foreign Ministers discussed the resumption of assistance to the PA. They concluded that the EU should urgently develop the conditions for direct practical and financial assistance. The EU is currently discussing with Prime Minister Salaam Fayyad how best to assist the Emergency Government.

JUSTICE

Bedford Prison: Prisoners Release

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have been released early from HM Prison Bedford in each month since January 2007; and if he will make a statement. [149552]

Mr. Hanson: Under the Criminal Justice Act 1991, those sentenced to determinate sentences of four years or more are eligible for parole halfway through their sentence. If parole is not granted then release occurs at the two-thirds point of the sentence (or at a subsequent parole review if earlier). Numbers of prisoners recommended for parole are shown at table 10.4 of the offender management caseload statistics 2005, a copy of which can be found in the Library. Prisoners sentenced to determinate terms of under four years under the 1991 Act are generally released automatically at the halfway point of their sentence. The Home Detention Curfew scheme (HDC) has been in operation since January 1999. Subject to meeting the eligibility criteria and passing a careful risk assessment, prisoners serving sentences of between three months and less than four years may be released up to four-and-a-half months (135 days) early from prison subject to an electronically monitored curfew normally between 7pm and 7am. Information on the numbers of prisoners released under Home Detention Curfew (HDC), can be found in table 10.3 in the offender management caseload statistics 2005.

The End of Custody Licence was introduced on 29 June 2007. Eligible prisoners serving between four weeks and less than four years may be released under licence from prison up to 18 days before their automatic release date.

Figures on the numbers of releases on Home Detention Curfew from HMP Bedford between January and June 2007 can be found in the following table:

Releases from HMP Bedford on Home Detention Curfew, January to June 2007

	Number
January	6
February	6
March	9
April	9
May	3
June	4

Additionally there were 41 releases from HMP Bedford on End of Custody Licence between 29 June and 5 July 2007, and one release on parole from Bedford Prison in June 2007.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Bombings: Compensation

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints he has received from hon. Members on the level of compensation offered by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board to those injured as a result of the bombing of tube trains and a bus on 7 July 2005. [149276]

Maria Eagle: Victims of the London bombings of 7 July 2005 are eligible for compensation under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme on the same basis as victims of other violent crime in Great Britain. Three MPs wrote of their own volition to say that amounts of compensation payable to 7/7 victims should be increased, and a further two wrote in support of constituents' letters saying that the compensation payable following fatal injury was not enough.

Committal Proceedings

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the average cost of an adjourned committal hearing. [147959]

Maria Eagle: The average cost per hour in a magistrates court in 2005-06 was £415 on a full cost basis including apportionment of central overheads.

While there are other interpretations, this answer is based on that of a Section 6 (1) and Section 6 (2) committal hearing definition. There is anecdotal evidence to suggest these times can vary considerably from one area to another depending on the practices of the Justice's Clerk.

A section 6(1) committal in which the defence object to being committed to the Crown court (e.g. no case to answer on the papers argued). Then the magistrates court adjourns to a convenient date for the prosecution to prepare their case, to enable the Bench to read the papers and to hear the legal argument at the adjourned hearing. This would probably run to 2 if not 3 hours including the time taken by the magistrates to read the papers and hear the legal argument. The estimated cost for a Section 6(1) committal hearing is between £830 to £1,245.

A section 6(2) committal is where the court decides to commit to the Crown court for trial and there is a 6-week adjournment for the prosecution to prepare their case. This type of committal would last on average 30 minutes. The average cost for a Section 6(2) is £207.50.

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants within his Department's areas of responsibilities in the last 12 months. [149050]

Maria Eagle: It is not possible to list the costs spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants in the last 12 months without incurring disproportionate costs as the expenditure is not separately identifiable within the Department's accounts.

All official travel by civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the "Civil Service Management Code", a copy of which is also available in the Library of the House for the reference of Members.

Departments: Publicity

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the cost effectiveness of advertising commissioned *(a)* by his Department and *(b)* in relation to policy areas for which it is now responsible in the last 12 months. [148510]

Maria Eagle: Since 9 May when my Department was created we have commissioned advertising for the Camberwell Green Magistrates Court Payback scheme, magistrates recruitment; recruitment to judicial and executive posts; and recruitment to civil service posts within the Department.

Between 6 July 2006 and 9 May 2007, the Department for Constitutional Affairs commissioned advertising to publicise the Operation Payback initiative targeting fine defaulters, and recruitment advertising for magistrates, for judicial office and for executive posts within the civil service.

Response to the Camberwell Community Payback advertisement was monitored and evaluated by the operational team at Camberwell court. The advert achieved the desired response through extensive positive media coverage and this is still ongoing.

On magistrates recruitment, the numbers recruited in 2006-07 exceeded the target for the year. All other advertising has been for recruitment which is evaluated by the number and calibre of applicants successfully filling vacancies.

Each judicial selection exercise has a specifically tailored marketing plan to ensure use of the most appropriate advertising channels which to date has achieved higher numbers and better quality of applicants.

In respect of recruitment to the Senior Civil Service, my department is working with Cabinet Office and a number of other Departments to explore how we can adapt and improve recruitment and achieve cost savings in line with best practice in the market place. This includes a migration to on-line advertising with all vacancies being advertised on the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway and using generic adverts with signposting to enable the Ministry to pool resources and advertise with other Departments in a single advert to reduce use of newspaper space.

Departments: Racial Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [149248]

Maria Eagle: Complaints of racial abuse within my Department are dealt with by a specialist "Dispute Resolution Team". The Dispute Resolution Team is responsible for appointing two trained investigators, who will investigate the allegations and prepare a report for a Determining Authority. The Discipline Policy lists a breach of the equality and diversity or harassment policies as an example of gross misconduct for which the sanction of dismissal may be considered.

Due to a small number of complaints it is not possible to give the exact details as this could breach the confidentiality of the persons involved.

In the Prison Service, formal complaints of racial abuse are investigated in accordance with Prison Service Order (PSO) 8460 "Conduct and Discipline" which sets out the procedures for dealing with staff misconduct and contains detailed guidance on the conduct of all types of investigations; and PSO 2800 "Race Equality" which contains policy and guidance on the management of race equality.

Investigation Support Section (ISS) records show that at least 79 formal disciplinary investigations into allegations of a racist nature were commissioned during the 12-month period to 13 July 2007. Of these 79 cases, nine are awaiting completion, 35 investigations have resulted in the complaint being upheld and 35 have resulted in no further action. It is not possible to break the figures down any further as one investigation can involve a complaint being made against more than one member of staff and whilst the initial outcomes are recorded by ISS, details of successful appeals are held locally.

The Ministry of Justice does not tolerate racist behaviour of any nature, including racial abuse. All staff undertake mandatory "Diversity Training" on taking up an appointment with the Ministry of Justice and the "Ministry of Justice News" carries regular items regarding diversity issues. There are several Staff Networks (including PROUD—"People of diverse Racial Origins Uniting the Department") which hold regular meetings and produce newsletters.

Drugs: Ribble Valley

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted for drugs-related offences committed in Ribble Valley constituency in each of the last 10 years. [148935]

Maria Eagle: Data on court proceedings held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform are not broken down by constituency area. However, information on the number of persons convicted of drug offences and motoring offences related specifically to drugs, in courts in the Ribble Valley area for the years 1996-2005 are available, and are provided in the table.

It is not possible to identify the number of other offences, for example murders, assaults or robberies which involved defendants who were taking illegal drugs as the court proceedings database does not hold specific information on offences beyond descriptions provided by the statutes under which prosecutions are brought. These detailed circumstances are held only on court files, and are not reported to the Office For Criminal Justice Reform. Information for 2006 will be available in the autumn.

Number of persons found guilty of drug offences and other selected offences involving drugs as a result of proceedings brought in courts in the Ribble Valley area, 1996-2005[1,2]

	Drug offences[1]									
Local criminal justice area	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
South Ribble	71	126	129	103	67	60	64	55	37	39
Blackburn, Darwen and Ribble Valley	149	226	273	255	253	209	274	250	187	189

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Driving or attempting to drive a motor vehicle while unfit through drink or drugs (impairment)—drugs Road Traffic Act 1988 S.4(1)[1]

Local criminal justice area	*2004*	*2005*
South Ribble	4	1
Blackburn, Darwen and Ribble Valley	1	3

[1] Offences of Driving or attempting to drive a motor vehicle and being in charge of a mechanically propelled vehicle while unfit to drive through drink or drugs (impairment) were split in 2004 to provide separate offences for drink and drugs.

Being in charge of a mechanically propelled vehicle while unfit to drive through drink or drugs (impairment)—drugs Road Traffic Act 1988 S.4(2)[1]

Local criminal justice area	*2004*	*2005*
South Ribble	—	—
Blackburn, Darwen and Ribble Valley	—	1

[1] Offences of Driving or attempting to drive a motor vehicle and being in charge of a mechanically propelled vehicle while unfit to drive through drink or drugs (impairment) were split in 2004 to provide separate offences for drink and drugs.

Family Courts

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applicants to the family courts were referred for *(a)* mediation, *(b)* early intervention and *(c)* reports in public law in the 2006-07 financial year; and at what cost to the public purse. [149750]

Bridget Prentice: The Government believe that mediation can have considerable advantages over going to court in the settling of family disputes, especially where children are involved. There are already 10 in-court referral schemes, where family mediators work together with CAFCASS and the courts to refer appropriate cases for mediation. These have developed locally. The number of referrals is not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost by analysing court files.

In 2005-06 the Legal Services Commission (LSC) funded a total of 14,000 mediation cases for family disputes at a cost of £13.8 million. In about 60 per cent. of publicly funded cases, mediation results in a resolution of all the issues. Figures for 2006-07 will be published shortly and are broadly similar. Provisional figures show the success rate rising to 66 per cent. Expenditure on publicly funded mediation where family proceedings were commenced cannot be identified separately by the LSC.

In terms of early intervention, CAFCASS and CAFCASS Cymru are providing an in-court conciliation service for cases brought under section 8 of the Children Act 1989. These are most commonly applications made to the courts as a result of parental disputes about a contact or residence matter. The service is available in every county court at the first hearing. The Family Court Adviser assists and encourages the parties to reach agreement themselves rather than proceed to a contested hearing and judicial adjudication. Research into various models of in-court conciliation shows that 76 per cent. of parents reported a full or partial agreement. CAFCASS is now piloting earlier conciliation meetings that take place away from court.

The courts do not collect data on the number of conciliation meetings held. However, provisional CAFCASS figures show that in 2006-07 their practitioners participated in 26,344 dispute resolution meetings, spending 57,880 hours on these cases—an increase in time spent on early intervention of nearly 34 per cent. on the previous year. The cost of providing these meetings is part of CAFCASS running costs.

In public law proceedings, the courts may request a range of reports and assessments. Information on the types and numbers of reports and assessments is contained on individual court files. This information, and the cost of providing these reports and assessments, is not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications there were to family courts in the last financial year. [149751]

Bridget Prentice: The table shows the number of applications made in the family courts in England and Wales in 2006-07, broken down by broad application type.

The table presents aggregated figures covering all jurisdictions—the High Court, County Courts and Family Proceedings Courts.

All underlying data relate to the 2006-07 financial year, except for Public and Private Law Children Act applications in the Family Proceedings Courts, for which 2006 calendar year has been used as this is the most recent 12-month period for which complete data are available.

These figures exclude cases which were reported as having been transferred between courts.

Number of applications made to the family courts in England and Wales, 2006-07

	Total
Public Law Children Act	20,709
Private Law Children Act	103,088
Adoption	5,885
Divorce and Separation	149,298
Ancillary Relief	72,191
Domestic Violence	26,308
Total	377,479

Fines: Children

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department provides to magistrates on administering fines to minors who are unable to pay them. [149325]

Maria Eagle: The decision to impose a fine is a matter for the court, in exercise of its judicial discretion. Under section 137 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000, where a child is dealt with by way of a financial penalty, the court has a duty to order that the fine, compensation or costs awarded be paid by the parent or guardian, unless they cannot be found. In the case of young person aged 16 or more the court has discretion to make such an order as opposed to a duty.

The Judicial Studies Board, which is responsible for overseeing the training of magistrates, has published the Youth Court Bench Book. The book has been sent to all youth court magistrates and says, on the imposition of fines, that

> "fines should reflect the seriousness of the offence taking into account the means of the defendant, or the parent if the parent is made responsible for payment, and any credit for a guilty plea".

Homicide: Life Sentences

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will abolish the mandatory life sentence for murder. [149534]

Mr. Hanson: There are no plans to abolish the mandatory life sentence for murder. The sentence of mandatory life imprisonment reflects the uniquely serious nature of the offence.

Police Custody: Wales

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much and on what dates *(a)* South Wales police, *(b)* Gwent police, *(c)* Dyfed Powys police and *(d)* North Wales police have invoiced his Department to cover costs incurred under Operation Safeguard since it began; and if he will make a statement. [149420]

Mr. Hanson: The following table provides the costs and dates covered by invoices submitted by the following police forces: Dyfed Powys, North Wales and South Wales. We have not received any invoices from Gwent police.

Invoices submitted by police forces for Operation Safeguard

Police force	*Dates covered*	*Totals*
Dyfed Powys	1 November 2006 to 10 November 2006	19,408
Dyfed Powys	12 October 2006 to 31 October 2006	28,700
Dyfed Powys	11 December 2006 to 23 December 2006	28,859
Dyfed Powys	16 January 2007 to 29 January 2007	38,548
Dyfed Powys	30 January 2007 to 22 February 2007	53,562
Dyfed Powys	22 February 2007 to 31 March 2007	109,634
North Wales	12 October 2006 to 12 November 2006	86,277
North Wales	17 January 2007 to 20 February 2007	100,007
North Wales	21 February 2007 to 31 March 2007	52,202
South Wales	10 October 2006 to 15 December 2006	734,765
	29 January 2007 to 31 March 2007	—
Total		1,251,961

Prisoners

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the prison population in England and Wales was on *(a)* 20 June 2007 and *(b)* 27 June 2007. [149327]

Mr. Hanson: Figures on the prison population are published each Friday on the Prison Service website. On Friday 22 June the prison population (including those held in police cells under Operation Safeguard) was 80,948. On Friday 29 June the prison population (including those held in police cells under Operation Safeguard) was 81,040.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners who were released under the End of Custody Licence on 29 June 2007 and 2 July 2007 had previously been refused parole or release on home detention curfew. [149328]

Mr. Hanson: Parole applies to prisoners serving sentences of four years or more. Prisoners are eligible for consideration for End of Custody Licence if they have been sentenced to less than four years. No prisoner released under End of Custody Licence would have previously been refused parole during their current sentence.

Of the 1,390 prisoners release under End of Custody Licence on 29 June 2007 and 2 July 2007, 951 have previously been refused release on home detention curfew.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners who were released under the end of custody licence on 29 June 2007 and 2 July 2007 were originally convicted of *(a)* a violent offence, *(b)* domestic violence and *(c)* burglary. [149331]

Mr. Hanson: The number of releases under end of custody licence on 29 June 2007 and 2 July 2007 by offence group are as follows:

	All
All	1,390
Violence against the person	284
Robbery	15
Burglary	118

Domestic violence is not a specific offence.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were released under the end of custody licence on 29 June 2007 and 2 July 2007; and how many of those prisoners were serving (i) less than 12 months and (ii) more than 12 months. [149332]

Mr. Hanson: The answer to the question can be found in the following table:

	All
Total ECL releases on 29 June and 2 July 2007	1,390
Sentences of less than 12 months	1,165
Sentence of 12 months to less than four years	225

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which categories of prisoner are eligible for early release from prison; and if he will make a statement. [149548]

Mr. Hanson: The end of custody licence was announced by the then Lord Chancellor on 19 June 2007 and came into use on the 29 June for eligible prisoners serving sentences of four weeks or more but less than four years.

Eligible prisoners are released a maximum of 18 days before their normal, automatic release date subject to spending a minimum of seven days in custody following sentence.

The suitability of each prisoner for release under end of custody licence (ECL) is assessed according to set criteria. All prisoners who are potentially eligible will be screened against these criteria. We will not release:

Registered sex offenders, whether or not they are currently serving a sentence for a sexual offence;

Prisoners serving sentences for serious violence;

Prisoners who have previously escaped from custody;

Prisoners who have previously breached temporary release conditions during the current sentence, have offended during a period under temporary release at any time, or prisoners currently serving a sentence for failing to return from temporary release;

Prisoners with no accommodation arranged;

Foreign national prisoners who will be subject to deportation at the end of their sentence;

Prisoners who are subject to extradition proceedings;

Sentenced prisoners who have been remanded into custody on further charges or who are awaiting sentence;

Prisoners who, within the period of their current sentence, had been recalled either from HDC or from normal licence;

Prisoners required to undertake a treatment programme as a condition of the normal (end of sentence) supervision licence that could not be arranged during the period of THL; and

Prisoners who are under 18 years of age.

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what period of time the Government's early release scheme for prisoners will be in operation; and if he will make a statement. [149549]

Mr. Hanson: The end of custody licence was introduced as a temporary measure but it is too early to say how long the scheme will be in operation. We will keep this under review in the light of new prison capacity coming on stream and the review by Lord Carter.

Prisoners Release: Domestic Violence

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether probation staff were required to carry out accommodation checks in respect of prisoners who were released under the end of custody licence scheme where the original offence was less than 12 months and the offence involved domestic violence. [149329]

Mr. Hanson: Probation staff are not required to carry out accommodation checks for prisoners released on ECL. Prisons are being advised to bring forward the procedures they would follow at the automatic release date. Where necessary, this would normally involve a member of prison staff ensuring that the local police liaison officer was aware of the situation and able to brief the force to whose area the prisoner was returning.

Prisoners Release: Rehabilitation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assistance with rehabilitation and resettlement was given to prisoners released under the end of custody licence scheme after 27 June 2007. [149326]

Mr. Hanson: Prisoners who are subject to supervision on release (all prisoners serving 12 months or more and prisoners under 22 years of age) will be required to meet their probation officer after release on the end of custody licence (ECL) and to have regular contact after that in line with their supervision programme. Prisoners required to undertake a treatment programme as a condition of the normal (end of custodial sentence) supervision licence will not be released on ECL unless the programme can be brought forward to begin from release on ECL.

Prisoners released on the scheme may be eligible to receive subsistence payments in lieu of benefits to cover the period they are on ECL. This payment is made because prisoners on ECL are released under temporary licence from prison in accordance with the provisions of the Prison Act 1952 and, as such, are statutorily ineligible to receive benefits payments.

Prisoners Release: Reoffenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners who were released under the end of custody licence on 29 June 2007 and 2 July 2007 have subsequently been rearrested for further suspected offences. [149330]

Mr. Hanson: Nine offenders out of 1,390 (0.65 per cent.) released under the end of custody licence on 29 June and 2 July have subsequently been identified to the Ministry of Justice as having been arrested for further offending.

Prisoners Release: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were released from each of the prisons in Wales before completing their full sentences in each week since 1 January 2007. [149601]

Mr. Hanson: Under the Criminal Justice Act 1991, those sentenced to determinate sentences of four years or more are eligible for parole halfway through their sentence. If parole is not granted then release occurs at the two-thirds point of the sentence (or at a subsequent parole review if earlier). Numbers of prisoners recommended for parole are shown at table 10.4 of the offender management caseload statistics 2005, a copy of which can be found in the Library of the House. Prisoners sentenced to determinate terms of under four years under the 1991 Act are generally released automatically at the halfway point of their sentence. The home detention curfew scheme has been in operation since January 1999. Subject to meeting the eligibility criteria and passing a careful risk assessment, prisoners serving sentences of between three months and less than four years may be released up to four and a half months (135 days) early from prison subject to an electronically monitored curfew normally between 7 pm and 7 am. Information on the numbers of prisoners released under home detention curfew (HDC), can be found in tables 10.3 in the offender management caseload statistics 2005.

The end of custody licence was introduced on 29 June 2007. Eligible prisoners serving between four weeks and less than four years may be released under licence from prison up to 18 days before their automatic release date.

Figures showing the numbers of prisoners released on (i) home detention curfew (January to June 2007) and (ii) end of custody licence (between 29 June and 5 July only) and (iii) releases on parole (January to June 2007) from prison establishments in Wales are in the following tables

(i) HDC

	Cardiff	*Swansea*	*Usk/ Prescoed*	*Parc*
January	5	4	7	12
February	6	7	5	7
March	5	3	6	12
April	5	5	6	13
May	10	9	12	9
June	6	4	10	10

(ii) Parole—releases January to June 2007

	Cardiff	*Swansea*	*Usk/ Prescoed*	*Parc*
January	0	1	4	4
February	1	0	3	0
March	0	1	4	0
April	0	0	2	0
May	0	0	3	1
June	0	0	1	0
Total	1	2	17	5

(iii) ECL

	Cardiff	*Swansea*	*Usk/ Prescoed*	*Parc*
29 June to 5 July	15	15	8	38

This information is not readily available on a weekly basis.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Females

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he will respond to the proposals made in the Corston review. [150140]

Mr. Hanson: The Government have given a broad welcome to the report. The 43 recommendations which it makes are wide-ranging and propose action by a number of different Government Departments and organisations. We are carefully exploring the recommendations with all the Departments and agencies concerned and will develop a detailed response by late autumn.

Prisons: Overcrowding

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department has taken to address overcrowding in prisons; and if he will make a statement. [149551]

Mr. Hanson: The Ministry of Justice is dealing with pressures on the prison estate by building more capacity. A new capacity-building programme which will deliver 8,000 new prison places by 2012 was announced in July 2006 and a further 1,500 places were announced on 19 June 2007.

In parallel, we will ensure that courts have tough community sentences at their disposal to deal with less serious, non-violent offenders.

On 19 June the Government announced the introduction of a presumption in favour of release on license for prisoners serving between four weeks and four years for the final 18 days of their sentence. This is a temporary measure to deal with immediate pressure on the prison estate.

Prisons: Screening

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* assessment he has made of and *(b)* research he has commissioned into the health and safety impact of the use of body orifice scanning machines in prison. [149687]

Mr. Hanson: The manufacturer has stated that the body orifice security scanner operates within the International Commission on Non-ionising Radiation Protection guidelines. A compliance certificate was also issued.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the possibility of the use of body orifice scanning machines in prisons and young offender institutions following the trial in one prison; and if he will make a statement. [149688]

Mr. Hanson: The trial of the body orifice security scanner has been extended to the remainder of the high security prisons. A decision on whether to roll it out to all prisons and young offender institutions will be made at the end of the trial, once the results have been evaluated.

Sexual Offences: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many probation officers are involved in the monitoring of sex offenders in each police force area in Wales. [149454]

Mr. Hanson: As this is an operational matter we do not collect this information centrally. My officials are establishing whether these data are available from the four probation areas in Wales and I will write to the hon. Lady as soon as I know.

Terrorism: Greater London

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many victims of the bombings on 7 July 2005 have had their compensation claims paid in full. [149736]

Maria Eagle: As at 6 July 2007, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) had received 614 applications in respect of the 7 July bombings, 50 of these since 1 January 2007. They had finalised 496 cases, of which 401 have been paid in full, 51 were rejected by CICA and 44 are 'on offer' to the claimant. In addition, another 57 cases have received interim awards. CICA are proactively seeking to settle the outstanding cases as quickly as possible by getting the necessary information from applicants, the police and medical and other authorities.

Of the 118 outstanding cases, 25 are cases where claimants have exercised their right of appeal against the initial offer of compensation from CICA.

Victim Support Schemes: Fines

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make a statement on the operation of victim surcharges; and what representations he has had from the magistracy on the effectiveness of surcharges, with particular reference to their effect on the level of fine defaulting. [149324]

Maria Eagle: An internal audit on the victims surcharge process within the courts is due to commence in August 2007. This will be followed in early 2008, by a further internal audit on the amount of victims surcharge being collected and allocated to the Victims Fund. A formal evaluation of the effect of the victims surcharge on the payment rate has not been undertaken. However the current year to date payment rate is 95 per cent. compared to 83 per cent. at the same period last year.

The Office for Criminal Justice Reform is currently analysing the representations it has received on the victims surcharge. I will write to the hon. Member shortly with the details he requests and place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Young Offender Institutions: Re-offenders

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the rate of re-offending was of people held in each young offender institution in each of the last five years. [147798]

Mr. Hanson: Offenders held in young offender institutions can be aged between 15 and 21. We do not currently calculate re-offending rates for this age band.

The most recent juvenile re-offending rates for those aged 15 to 17 who were discharged from custody were published in "Re-offending of juveniles: results from the 2004 cohort". This covers juvenile offenders who were released from all kinds of custody, including Secure Training Centres (STCs) and Local Authority Secure Children's Homes (LASCHs), in the first quarters of 2000 and 2004, in England and Wales. 77.8 per cent. of 15 to 17-year-old juveniles released from custody in the 2004 cohort re-offended during the following 12 months. The figure for the 2000 cohort was 78.2 per cent. The actual re-offending rate is the percentage of offenders who re-offended during a one year follow-up period and who subsequently received a pre-court disposal or were convicted in court. This is discussed further in the Statistical Bulletin which can be found at;

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb1006.pdf

For those aged 18 to 20, the most recent re-offending rates for offenders discharged from custody were published in "Re-offending of adults: results from the 2004 cohort". This covers offenders who were released from all prisons in the first quarter of 2004, for England and Wales. 74.8 per cent. of offenders aged 18 to 20 in the 2004 cohort re-offended during the 24-month follow-up period. The figures for previous years were 74.8 per cent. in 2003, 77.9 per cent. in 2002 and 77.4 per cent. in 2000. For this age group, the actual re-offending rate is the percentage of offenders who re-offended during a two year follow-up period and who were subsequently convicted in court. This is discussed further in the Statistical Bulletin which can be found at;

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb0607.pdf

The datasets used to provide these figures do not contain information about the institutions from which the juveniles and young offenders were released and therefore separate figures for YOIs are not available. Furthermore, juveniles and young offenders may be moved between institutions while serving their sentences so it is difficult to relate their re-offending to any particular institution.

Juvenile re-offending rates for years other than 2000 and 2004 are not available. Re-offending rates for 18 to 20-year-olds are not available for 2001.

Young Offenders: Police Cautions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what advice the Department offered to those authorities issuing conditional cautions to ensure that a responsible adult is always present when a caution is being issued to a minor. [149658]

Mr. Hanson: The conditional caution scheme brought in by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 does not apply to those aged under 18. The Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill currently before Parliament does contain a proposal to extend conditional cautions to those aged 16-17. The proposal, at Clause 53 and Schedule 11 of the Bill, includes a commitment to

prepare a Code of Practice for what will be called the youth conditional caution. That code will include details of the safeguards that should be observed when dealing with young people including ensuring that the existing appropriate adult process is used.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Pay

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Leader of the House how many hon. Members have sought a reduced parliamentary salary since 1997. [149737]

Helen Goodman: Figures before 2003 are not available. Since 2003 two Members have sought a reduced salary.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Leader of the House what the procedure is in circumstances where an hon. Member wishes to take *(a)* a reduced and *(b)* no parliamentary salary. [149738]

Helen Goodman: Any hon. Member who wishes to take a reduced salary or no parliamentary salary can write to the Department of Finance and Administration with their instructions.

HEALTH

Ambulance Services: Reorganisation

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what public consultation *(a)* her Department has undertaken and *(b)* her Department requires regional ambulance services to undertake in their restructuring process. [146510]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department supported the conclusions and recommendations of the 2005 review, "Taking Healthcare to the Patient: Transforming NHS Ambulance Services", one part of the implementation of which included a reduction in the number of national health service ambulance trusts broadly in line with strategic health authority boundaries. A 14-week consultation on the future configuration of ambulance services commenced on 14 December and ran until 22 March 2006.

In terms of local public consultation, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 570W, which set out the extent to which NHS organisations—including ambulance trusts—are required to involve and consult patients and the public in the planning of services, in the development of proposals for changes in services, and in decisions affecting the operation of services.

Cancer

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 2145W, on cancer, if he will make it his policy to conduct such an assessment. [148645]

Ann Keen: We have no plans to make such an assessment. The network of Public Health Observatories, working closely with health colleagues to improve the health of communities across the United Kingdom, will continue to monitor the health and morbidity trends of the regions they cover, and highlight areas where further investigation and intervention might be required.

Cancer: Children

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to support parents of children with cancer. [148520]

Ann Keen: The national service framework (NSF) for children, young people and maternity services sets out a long-term programme intended to stimulate sustained improvement in children's health and well-being. NSFs are long-term strategies for improving specific areas of health care by setting national standards for a defined service (e.g. cancer services or renal services) or a particular care group (e.g. children or older people). Standard eight of the NSF sets out an expectation that:

> "Children and young people who are disabled or who have complex health needs, receive co-ordinated, high quality child and family-centred services which are based on assessed needs, which promote social inclusion and, where possible, enable them and their families to live ordinary lives. Palliative care is available to those who need it and a range of flexible, sensitive services is available to support families in the event of the death of a child."

The children's NSF puts children, young people and their families at the centre of their care, building services around their needs.

Cancer: Medical Treatments

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which NHS hospitals in the UK offer photodynamic therapy as a treatment for cancer; and what assessment the NHS has made of the effectiveness of this therapy; [148049]

(2) what conditions photodynamic therapy is used to treat through the NHS; and what assessment he has made of the relative value for money of photodynamic therapy. [148050]

Ann Keen: Photodynamic therapy (PDT) can be used as a treatment for skin cancer and cancers on or near the lining of internal organs, such as bile duct cancer. It can also be used to treat the classic and predominantly classic forms of age-related macular degeneration and is being investigated as a treatment for psoriasis and acne. It is for the national health service at a local level to decide whether to provide photodynamic therapy services. The Department does not collect information on where this treatment is provided.

As part of its programme of work on interventional procedures, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has issued guidance on the use of PDT in the treatment of several cancers.

NICE has stated that PDT for the treatment of Barrett's oesophagus, advanced bronchial carcinoma, endobronchial carcinoma, bile duct cancer and skin tumours is safe and works well enough for use in the

NHS, provided normal arrangements are in place for consent, audit and clinical governance.

NICE has also issued guidance on the use of PDT for early stage oesophageal cancer, stating that current evidence on PDT for the treatment of this disease is not adequate to support its use without special arrangements for consent, audit and clinical governance.

The Department has not made any estimate of the cost implications of the provision of PDT for the treatment of cancer.

In September 2003 NICE issued guidance recommending the use of PDT for treating wet age-related macular degeneration in some patients. All primary care trusts are funding PDT for patients with age-related macular degeneration in line with this guidance.

The Department is investing £1 million in a study to gather evidence on the clinical and cost effectiveness of PDT for people with the predominantly classic form of age-related macular degeneration. This study will inform NICE when its guidance on photodynamic therapy is reviewed.

Cardiovascular System: Diseases

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 2148W, on cardiovascular system: diseases, which recommendations made to officials considering the new national stroke strategy are of relevance to the prevention and management of peripheral arterial disease. [147952]

Ann Keen: Copies of the consultation document on the national stroke strategy are available in the Library. The draft strategy contains recommendations on risk management that are of relevance to peripheral arterial disease. The consultation period for this draft strategy will extend to 12 October 2007.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to meet patient groups representing those diagnosed with peripheral arterial disease; [148046]

(2) what programmes are *(a)* planned and *(b)* in place to raise awareness of peripheral arterial disease with (i) the public and (ii) health professionals. [148087]

Ann Keen: There are no plans at the current time to meet patient groups representing those diagnosed with peripheral arterial disease.

There no programmes planned or in place to raise awareness specifically for peripheral arterial disease with the public or health professionals.

However, the risk factors which increase an individual's chances of developing peripheral arterial disease include smoking, drinking alcohol, poor diet and lack of physical activity. Through the public health White Paper 'Choosing Health' the Department has set out a programme of action to help improve the health of the public including action on smoking and diet. This builds on existing work such as campaigns on smoking and diet, National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines on the management of hypertension, points for prevention activities in the general practitioner contract and support for the Blood Pressure Association's blood pressure awareness campaigns.

The coronary heart disease and diabetes national service frameworks have also driven forward improvements in primary and secondary prevention of risk factors associated with circulatory disease in general. This includes better control of blood pressure and blood glucose, cholesterol management and the use of aspirin.

Children: Screening

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Gateway Approval (ref 7698) concerning consent for a dental screening epidemiological survey for school children was issued; for what reasons the practice of negative permission was discontinued; and what other tests on children are subject to negative permission consents. [147954]

Ann Keen: We decided that, under the current good practices followed on consent to treatment, dental examinations in schools should only be carried out when the parents/carers or, if judged competent, the child had given positive consent. The guidance advises on how consent can be obtained in connection with the arrangements made for the admission of children to school. We are not aware of other screening tests conducted in connection with epidemiological surveys, which are subject to negative consent.

Consultant Midwives

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 863W, on consultant midwives, how many consultant midwives there were in the NHS in England in 2006, broken down by strategic health authority. [146228]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 28 June 2007]:* The number of consultant midwives in the national health service in England in 2006, broken down by strategic health authority, was shown in the table.

NHS Hospital and Community Health Services: Consultant Midwives, England

As at 30 September 2006	*Headcount*
England	54
North East	2
North West	11
Yorkshire and the Humber	6
East Midlands	3
West Midlands	2
East of England	1
London	19
South East Coast	5
South Central	5
South West	0

Source:
NHS non-medical census.

Dental Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what will happen to unused units of dental activity at the end of the contract year. [148481]

Ann Keen: Where a provider of national health services dental services delivers more than 96 per cent. but less than 100 per cent. of the annual service levels agreed with the local primary care trust (PCT), the PCT is responsible for setting a period during the following contract year during which these services are to be provided.

It is a breach of contract to provide less than 96 per cent. of the annual service levels agreed in a contract. In these circumstances, it is up to the PCT to decide whether to allow some or all of these unprovided services to be carried forward to the following contract year. Where a provider has failed to provide at least 96 per cent. of the agreed annual service levels, the PCT may depending on the circumstances wish to propose a reduction in the future contract value and corresponding service levels for that contract, so that these resources can be reinvested in other local dental services.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average number of units of dental activity is which an NHS dentist with a majority NHS patient list is expected to undertake in a year. [148483]

Ann Keen: It is for primary care trusts to agree locally with providers of national health service (NHS) dental services the service levels to be provided over the course of each year, subject to transitional provisions governing dentists with NHS contracts in the period before April 2006. These service levels will vary depending on a range of local factors.

Dental Services: Finance

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total value of NHS orthodontic treatment was in each of the last five years, broken down by primary care trust. [148476]

Ann Keen: Data identifying the value of orthodontic treatment alone by financial years and for specific local areas are not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

However a special analysis of general dental services costs over a 12-month reference period from 1 October 2004 to 30 September 2005 was prepared to help calculate funding levels for the new primary dental service arrangements introduced from 1 April 2006. Tables have been placed in the Library which draw on that analysis and set out the total payments during that 12-month reference period for all courses of treatment which included an element of orthodontic care in each of the primary care trusts in England operational at the time.

Dental Services: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* dental practices and *(b)* dentists in Hampshire provide NHS treatment; how many hours of NHS dentistry they offered in each (i) week and (ii) month in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement on the availability of NHS dental treatment in Hampshire. [148487]

Ann Keen: As at 31 March 2007 there were 632 dentists on open national health service contracts within Hampshire primary care trust (PCT). This information is also contained in the report published by the Information Centre for health and social care, "NHS Dental Statistics for England: Quarter 4: 31 March 2007", which is available in the Library. Information on numbers of dental practices could be made available only at disproportionate cost.

PCTs hold contracts with providers of NHS dental services, setting out the agreed level of services to be provided over the course of the year. Services are measured primarily in terms of the number of courses of treatment provided for NHS patients (with courses of treatment grouped into three main bands and given different weightings to reflect their relative complexity). The Department does not hold information on the number of hours of NHS dentistry provided.

The dental reforms implemented last year gave PCTs, for the first time, the responsibility for providing or commissioning dental services in their area. It is for PCTs locally, working with dentists and with the local public, to assess patient needs, review current service provision and develop services in ways that most effectively reflect local needs and priorities.

Dental Services: Manpower

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many orthodontists worked in the NHS in each year since 1997. [148474]

Ann Keen: The following table sets out the numbers of dentists working in the orthodontic specialty in the hospital or community health services as at 30 September for each year from 1997 to 2006.

Number of hospital and community health services (HCHS): medical and dental staff working within the orthodontics specialty, grade and year, England as at 30 September each year

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Headcount										
All staff	509	501	504	513	506	508	522	521	552	544
Consultant	153	153	157	161	154	161	178	180	206	189
Associate specialist	8	8	7	10	11	13	14	18	22	21
Staff grade	14	10	10	14	14	9	12	18	21	12
Registrar group	96	103	98	93	99	114	102	104	120	139
Senior house officer	14	16	18	8	16	16	16	18	12	9
House officer	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Hospital practitioner/ Clinical assistant	222	208	212	227	212	195	200	183	164	162

Number of hospital and community health services (HCHS): medical and dental staff working within the orthodontics specialty, grade and year, England as at 30 September each year

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Other	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	11
Full time equivalents										
All staff	275	280	285	277	290	301	313	324	355	362
Consultant	129	128	138	141	137	142	155	158	176	164
Associate specialist	3	4	3	4	6	6	6	9	13	10
Staff grade	7	4	4	5	8	4	6	8	9	6
Registrar group	85	92	86	82	90	104	97	99	118	135
Senior house officer	12	13	17	7	16	16	16	18	11	9
House officer	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	0
Hospital practitioner/ Clinical Assistant	39	37	35	37	34	29	33	31	26	33
Other	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	6

Notes:
1. '—' denotes zero
2. '0' denotes more than zero, less than one.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care medical and dental workforce census.

Most NHS orthodontic treatment is provided by dentists in primary care, generally working under general dental services (GDS) contracts or personal dental services (PDS) agreements. However the numbers of dentists providing orthodontic treatment under GDS or PDS could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dental Services: Stockport

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many units of dental activity were allocated to Stockport primary care trust area for financial year *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [147254]

Ann Keen: The Department does not allocate fixed quotas of units of dental activity (UDAs) for each primary care trust (PCT). When providing PCTs with their net resource allocations for primary dental services, the Department provides, as a guide, indicative figures for the equivalent gross resources and levels of patient charge revenue a PCT might receive based on indicative assumptions about the annual level of UDAs commissioned and the mix between charge-paying and exempt patients. However it is for PCTs to decide locally what types of service they should commission and what levels of units of dental activity they should seek from those services. Although UDAs (which are a weighted measure of courses of treatment) are the main contract currency under the new local commissioning arrangements, they are only one of a range of indicators that PCTs may wish to use to monitor and manage dental services.

Dental Services: Waiting Lists

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in *(a)* England and *(b)* Hampshire are waiting for orthodontic treatment; and how many have been waiting for treatment for (i) up to six, (ii) up to 12, (iii) up to 24 and (iv) over 36 months. [148475]

Ann Keen: Information is not collected centrally on waiting times for national health service orthodontic treatment provided in primary care.

Information is collected and published quarterly at England and primary care trust (PCT) level on the numbers of NHS patients waiting for first consultant outpatient appointments and the numbers waiting for hospital admission (for ordinary and day case admissions) for orthodontic treatment as at the end of each quarter. The following tables show the available commissioner-based information for England and for Hampshire PCT. This information is also available at:

www.performance.doh.gov.uk/waitingtimes/2006/q4/index.html.

Numbers of patients waiting for first consultant outpatient appointment by length of wait as at 31 March 2007

Number of weeks waiting	*Under 4*	*4 to <8*	*8 to <13*	*13 plus*
England	5,425	3,905	1,083	2
Hampshire	193	78	6	0

Numbers of patients waiting for hospital admission by length of wait as at 31 March 2007

Number of weeks waiting	*Under 13*	*13 to <26*	*26 plus*
England	377	15	0
Hampshire	0	0	0

Dental Services: Yorkshire and Humberside

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average number of patients per NHS dentist was in Beverley and Holderness in each year since 1999; and if he will make a statement. [148353]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the numbers of patients registered per national health service dentist within the Beverley and Holderness constituency, as at 31 March 1999 to 2006. This information is based on the old contractual arrangements.

Number of patients registered per NHS dentist within Beverley and Holderness constituency, as at 31 March each year

	Number
1999	1,320
2000	1,423
2001	1,350
2002	1,326
2003	1,420
2004	1,435
2005	1,176
2006	1,266

Notes:
1. No account is taken of the level of service, if any, that each dentist provides.
2. Dentists consist of principals, assistants and trainees. Information on NHS dentistry in the community dental service, in hospitals and in prisons is excluded.

Sources:
The Information Centre for health and social care
Business Services Authority Dental Services Division (NHSBSA DSD)

Numbers of registrations no longer form part of the data available under the new NHS dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. The new measure is patients seen in the previous 24 months and is not comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

Numbers of patients seen in the previous 24 months per dentists on open NHS contracts as at 31 March 2007 are available by strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT) area. The latest information for East Riding of Yorkshire PCT is provided in the following table. To provide these data at constituency level would incur disproportionate cost.

Number of patients seen in the previous 24 months per dentist (performer) on open NHS contracts within East Riding of Yorkshire PCT as at 31 March 2007

	Number
2007	1,868

Notes:
1. A performer is defined as a dentist who has been set up on the NHSBSA DSD Payments online POL system by the PCT to work under an open contract during the relevant time period. Data provided are a count of the individuals listed as performers on open contracts within a PCT, including orthodontists. No allowance is made for the level of service, if any, that the individual performer has delivered during the given period.
2. Dentists consist of performers in general dental services, personal dental services and trust-led dental services.
3. The numbers of dentists as at 31 March 2007are provisional and are subject to revision. The final work force figures for 2006-07 will not be available until August 2007 when the Information Centre will publish an end year report on the first 12 months of the new contractual arrangements.
4. Patients have been identified by using surname, first initial, gender and date of birth.
5. Number of patients seen is recorded according to the location of the dentist.

Sources:
The Information Centre for health and social care
Business Services Authority Dental Services Division (NHSBSA DSD)

Dentists

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists worked within the NHS in each year since 1997; and how many provided *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary care. [148486]

Ann Keen: Numbers of national health service dentists in England as at 31 March 1997 to 2006 are available in the 'NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006'. Annex E also contains information by strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT) area. Information by parliamentary constituency area is available in Annex G.

This information is based on the contractual arrangements that applied until April 2006. This report is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006.

Numbers of NHS dentists in England as at 30 June, 30 September, 31 December 2006 and 31 March 2007 are available in Table G of Annex 3 of the 'NHS Dental Statistics for England Q4:31 March 2007' report.

This report is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalq4.

The figures for 31 March 2007 and the earlier quarters in the 2006-07 year are provisional and are subject to revision. The final workforce figure for 2006-07 will not be available until August 2007 when the Information Centre for health and social care will publish an end year report on the first 12 months of the new contractual arrangements. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements and is not directly comparable with earlier information.

The figures for 31 December 2006 and 31 March 2007 include some salaried dentists who will also be included in the Hospital and Community Health Service figures and are shown as follows.

Information on the number of dentists working in the hospital and community health services is set out in the table.

Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS) : dental staff by year: England as at 30 September each year

	Numbers (headcount)
1997	3,567
1998	3,610
1999	3,616
2000	3,530
2001	3,532
2002	3,654
2003	3,763
2004	3,852
2005	3,970
2006	3,909

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census

Dentists: Romsey

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase the number of NHS dentists in the Romsey constituency. [148485]

Ann Keen: The dental reforms implemented last year gave primary care trusts (PCTs), for the first time, the responsibility for providing or commissioning dental services in their area. It is for PCTs to assess local

needs, review current service provision and develop services to meet local needs. We understand that Hampshire PCT is developing plans to increase services in the Romsey area.

Departments: Contracts

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1383-5W, on Departments: contracts, whether service category 27 excludes services under *(a)* service category 25 and *(b)* Common Procurement Vocabulary Codes 74511000-4, and from 85000000-9 to 85323000-9 (except 85321000-5 and 85322000-2). [148840]

Mr. Bradshaw: Service Category 27 excludes Service Category 25.

CPV codes 74511000-4, and CPV codes from 85000000-9 to 85323000-9, except 85321000-5 and 85322000-2 are also not included in Service Category 27.

Departments: Delivery Unit

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 235-36W, on Departments: Delivery Unit, how many copies of the final report of each review were produced; and to whom they were distributed. [148942]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Prime Minister's Delivery Unit provided copies of the final reports to the Prime Minister, Secretary of State and a small number of senior officials.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 235-36W, on Departments: Delivery Unit, how many recommendations were made by each of the listed reviews to *(a)* the NHS, *(b)* his Department and *(c)* other Government Departments. [148943]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Prime Minister's Delivery Unit's Priority Reviews, regardless of topic, typically contain between half a dozen and two dozen recommendations.

Departments: Opinion Leader Research

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 2168W, on Departments: Opinion Leader Research, for what reason the payment quoted for Opinion Leader Research differs from that given in the answer of 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1108W. [147039]

Mr. Bradshaw: The figures in the answer of 21 June 2007 reflect the total payments made to Opinion Leader by the Department in each year since 2002-03. The figures in the answer of 26 February 2007 reflect payments made by the Department in 2005-06 to the Central Office of Information who managed the contract with Opinion Leader for work undertaken on behalf of the Department on the Your health, Your care, Your say listening exercise.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what her Department's delegated expenditure limit above which expenditure must be approved by HM Treasury was in each year since 1993 for which figures are available; [146533]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1899W, on Departments: Public Expenditure, what the delegated limits are for the schemes and transactions under each category of expenditure. [146537]

Mr. Bradshaw: The detailed information requested has been placed in the Library.

For the categories listed in the answer of 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1899W, delegated limits for the Department have remained the same since the mid 1990s. Only those limits relating to the private finance initiative, public capital and information, management and technology capital schemes have changed.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1899W, on Departments: Public Expenditure, for which private finance initiative schemes his Department had to gain HM Treasury's approval in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2004-05. [146538]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table gives details of the private finance initiative schemes which gained HM Treasury approval for their full business cases since 2004 under the prevailing delegated limits.

	Scheme	*Capital value (£ million)*
2004	Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	238
	Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	265
	Central Manchester and Manchester Children's Hospitals NHS Trust	512
2005	Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust	299
	Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	129
	Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Trust	326
	Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	236
2006	St. Helens Hospitals NHS Trust	338
	University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Trust	627
	Barts and The London Hospitals NHS Trust	1000
2007	Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	343
	University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust	306

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues in the Treasury on the reprofiling of his Department's budget before the 2006 Budget; and who initiated those discussions. [146947]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is standard practice for the Secretary of State to have regular discussions with HM Treasury Ministers about this and other finance issues.

Departments: Public Participation

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which third parties are represented in his Department's National Stakeholder Forum. [147571]

Ann Keen: The information is shown in the following table.

Name	*Job title*	*Organisation*
Lord Victor Adebowale	Chief Executive	Turning Point
John Adler	Chief Executive	Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust
Richard Barker	Director General	The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
Steve Barnett	Director	NHS Employers
Stuart Bell	Chief Executive	South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust
Dr. Amit Bhargava	Member of the Professional Executive Committee	West Sussex PCT
Professor Dame Carol Black	Chair	Academy of Medical Royal Colleges
Sally Brearley	Chair	The Patients Forum
Dr. Peter Carter	General Secretary	Royal College of Nursing
Julie-Jaye Charles	Chief Executive Officer	Equalities National Council
Paul Coen	Chief Executive	Local Government Association
Angela Coulter	Chief Executive	Picker Institute Europe
Kevin Coyne	National Officer—Head of Health	Amicus
Ian Dalton	Chief Executive	North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust
Dame Karlene Davis	General Secretary	Royal College of Midwives
Niall Dickson	Chief Executive	The King's Fund
Andrew Dillon	Chief Executive	National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence
Dr. Michael Dixon	Chair	NHS Alliance
Anne Duffy	Director	Community and District Nursing Association
Lynne Elwell	Co-ordinator	Partners in Policy
Dr. Sam Everington	Acting Chairman of Council	British Medical Association
Paul Farmer	Chief Executive	Mind
Moira Gibb	Chief Executive	London Borough of Camden
Professor Ian Gilmore	President	Royal College of Physicians
Alex Gourlay	Healthcare Director	Alliance Boots
Phil Gray	Chief Executive	Chartered Society of Physiotherapy
Martin Green	Chief Executive	English Community Care Association
Professor Rod Griffiths	President	Faculty of Public Health
Professor Chris Ham	Professor of Health Policy and Management	Health Services Management Centre, University of Birmingham
Sharon Holder	National Officer, Public Services Section	GMB
Peter Hollins	Chief Executive	British Heart Foundation
Tom Hughes-Hallett	Chief Executive	Marie Curie Cancer Care
Neil Hunt	Chief Executive	Alzheimer's Society
Karen Jennings	National Secretary for Health	Unison
Richard Jones	Chairman	NHS Partners Network
Tim Kelsey	Chair of Executive Board	Dr. Foster Intelligence
Professor Mayur Lakhani	Chairman of Council	Royal College of General Practitioners
Ian Lewington	Representative	Cystic Fibrosis Trust
Gordon Lishman	Director General	Age Concern England
Professor Hugo Mascie-Taylor	Medical Director	Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
Dame Gill Morgan	Chief Executive	NHS Confederation
Dr. William Moyes	Chair	Monitor
Menghi Mulchandani	Team Leader—Engagement with Disabled People	National Centre for Independent Living
Margaret Mythen	Chief Executive	The New Health Network
Sir John Oldham	Head	Improvement Foundation

Name	Job title	Organisation
Angela Pedder	Chief Executive	Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust
David Pink	Chief Executive	Long-term Medical Conditions Alliance
Imelda Redmond	Chief Executive	Carers UK
Bernard Ribeiro	President	Royal College of Surgeons
Joanne Rule	Chief Executive	Cancerbackup
Prem Singh	Chief Executive	Derby City PCT
Douglas Smallwood	Chief Executive	Diabetes UK
Paul Snell	Chief Inspector	Commission for Social Care Inspection
Paul Sutton	Chief Executive	South East Coast Ambulance NHS Trust
Warren Town	Director of Industrial Relations	Society of Radiographers
Anna Walker	Chief Executive	Healthcare Commission
Dame Jo Williams	Chief Executive	Mencap
Anne Williams	President	Association of Directors of Adult Social Services
Emma Wilson	Chief Executive	Local Care Direct
Andrea Young	Chief Executive	Oxfordshire PCT

Observers

Name	Job title	Organisation
James Fothergill	Head of Public Procurement: Health and Local Government	Confederation of British Industry
Rachael McIlroy	Public Services Policy Officer	Trades Union Congress

Disability Aids

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the review of community equipment for disabled people and wheelchair services to report. [149172]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: With regards to the review of community equipment, I reviewed the outline business case and on 19 April 2007, I approved the next phase of the development of the new model.

During the next 10 months, the transforming community equipment and wheelchair services team will work with users and their carers, councils and their primary care trust partners, practitioners as well as other stakeholders to develop the outline community equipment model to operational status by April 2008.

With regards to wheelchair services, I have agreed a further data gathering exercise and asked the Care Services Efficiency Delivery programme to report to me in autumn 2007.

Disability Aids: Children

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the availability of communication aids to disabled children; and if he will make a statement. [149173]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have not made any assessment of the availability of communication aids to disabled children.

The transforming community equipment services project is developing a market model for the provision of community equipment, including communication aids.

Responsibility for assessing people's individual communication aids needs rests with local health and social care agencies. They are in the best position to determine local service priorities, using the increasing resources that the Government have made available.

Doctors: Foreign Workers

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who chose the 5 February 2007 date set for the Home Office stamp to be placed in the passports of Highly Skilled Migrant Programme doctors; why it was chosen; what other dates were considered; what process of consultation took place on the choice of date; whether responses were received from *(a)* the Home Department, *(b)* representatives of doctors in training and *(c)* directors of medical training; who has the power to (i) change the date and (ii) accept a Home Department letter in place of the Home Office stamp; what estimate he has made of the number of (A) junior doctors and (B) medical directors who were unaware of the details of the requirement; and what information was available to Ministers of the time it would take for (x) Highly Skilled Migrant Programme status to be granted and (y) the stamp to be placed in a passport. [148311]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Conference of Post-Graduate Medical Deans Steering Group for Recruitment and Selection for Specialty Training was created to establish the rules and criteria for entry to specialty training in 2007. Its membership included post-graduate deans for medical education, representatives of employers, deanery recruitment teams, royal colleges, trainee doctors and the Department. The steering group agreed that all eligibility criteria including for example General Medical Council registration, Royal College exams, English language proficiency and the right to work in the United Kingdom, would be assessed on the last date on which applications to the 2007 recruitment could be submitted. The date was originally set at

4 February. When the application period was extended until 5 February the date for assessing eligibility criteria was also extended. The decision to set the assessment of eligibility criteria on 5 February was a practical one, designed to ensure that all doctors would be subject to the same criteria, and that eligibility was fixed at the start of the process rather than being subject to change at any time, creating operational difficulties.

The Home Office advised that the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme approval letter does not grant doctors leave to remain in the United Kingdom under the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme and so was not accepted when the assessment of a candidate's right to work was made.

The eligibility criteria for round 2 have been published and no changes have been made.

Donors

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures his Department has considered to increase the number of organs retrieved from *(a)* heart-beating and *(b)* non-heart-beating donors. [148879]

Ann Keen: The Department launched "Saving Lives. Valuing Donors: A Transplant Framework for England" in 2003 and the National Service Framework for Renal Services in 2004. These set out the Department's key aims for organ and tissue transplantation over the following 10 years. Over the last five years, Government investment in hospital-based initiatives has helped increase live and non-heart-beating donor rates. An organ donor taskforce will report to Ministers in autumn 2007 on how organ donor rates can be further improved.

Fluoride: Drinking Water

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to each health authority of implementing the fluoridation of public drinking water. [148451]

Ann Keen: For a strategic health authority with an average population of 5 million we estimate the capital costs of the water plant would be about £25 million and the recurrent costs of the operation of the plant and the fluoride chemicals would be around 80p per head of population per year.

Health Services: Training

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many training commissions there were for the main health service professions, including podiatry between 2001 and 2006. [148821]

Ann Keen: The number of training commissions for nurses and all allied health professionals including chiropodists/podiatrists between 2001-02 and 2005-06 is shown in the table.

The second table shows the number of trainee doctors who entered medical school between 2001-02 and 2005-06.

Pre registration training commissions

	Nursing	*All allied health professionals*	*of which: Chiropody/ podiatry*
2001-02	20,624	5,513	345
2002-03	21,523	6,454	427
2003-04	22,815	7,098	451
2004-05	23,377	7,456	559
2005-06	23,230	7,640	446

Source:
NMET Quarterly Monitoring Returns

	Medical school intake
2001-02	4,713
2002-03	5,277
2003-04	6,082
2004-05	6,294
2005-06	6,314

Source:
HEFCE

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 2178W, on health services: training, if he will publish validated data relating to expenditure and training in 2006-07, broken down by strategic health authority. [147495]

Ann Keen: The following table shows the 2006-07 Multi-Professional Education and Training (MPET) allocations made to strategic health authorities (SHAs) and the actual outturn expenditure reported by the SHAs.

2006-07 MPET allocation and expenditure

£ 000

SHA	*2006-07 allocation*	*2006-07 outturn*	*Variance*
East Midlands	276,532	254,930	21,602
Eastern	291,090	258,953	32,137
London	898,301	823,584	74,717
North East	199,527	189,623	9,904
North West	500,102	467,240	32,862
South Central	256,782	223,683	33,099
South East Coast	201,456	174,302	27,154
South West	308,193	272,016	36,177
West Midlands	350,911	304,652	46,259
Yorkshire and Humberside	484,048	440,461	43,587
England Total	3,766,940	3,409,444	357,496

Notes:
1. All figures are provisional.
2. Allocation figures do not include any money recurrently remapped from service.

Health: Stockport

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the percentage of people in Stockport who have long-term illnesses. [147255]

Ann Keen: In the 2005 Healthcare Commission primary care trust (PCT) survey of patients, 34 per cent. of respondents in Stockport PCT responded yes to the question "Do you have a long-standing physical or mental health problem or disability?"

Hospitals: Finance

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which major hospital schemes with a capital value over £20 million reached financial close in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007 so far; which are expected to reach financial close in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008 and (iii) 2009; and what the actual or expected capital cost and completion date is of each scheme. [148931]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is in the table

Year of financial close/tender award[1]	*National health service trust*	*Capital value (£ million)*	*Operational date*	*Procurement route*
2006	Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals	67	Q2 2008	Private finance initiative (PFI)
	Ipswich Hospital	36	Q4 2011	PR
	Barts and the London	1,000	Q4 2013	PR
	St. Helen's Hospitals	338	Q4 2008	PR
	University Hospital Birmingham	627	Q1 2010	PFI
	South West Essex Teaching Primary Care Trust (PCT)	30	Q3 2008	PFI
	Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals	51	Q4 2007	Public capital
	Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children	75	Q3 2011	Public capital
	United Bristol Healthcare/North Bristol	64	Q1 2009	Public capital
2007 to date	Taunton and Somerset	21	Q1 2009	PFI
	Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals	29	Q1 2009	Public capital
	Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	29	Q2 2009	PFI
	University Hospital of North Staffordshire	30	Q4 2012	PFI
	Mid Yorkshire Hospitals	343	Q2 2010	PFI
	Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals	336	Q1 2012	PFI
2007 to end	South Essex Partnership	30	Q2 2009	PR
	Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys	78	Q4 2008	PFI
	Redcar and Cleveland PCT	40	Q4 2008	PFI
	Tameside and Glossop Acute Services	109	Q3 2009	PFI
	Mid Essex Hospital Services	143	Q2 2010	PFI
	North Middlesex University Hospital	111	Q2 2010	PFI
	Salford Royal Hospitals	190	Q1 2011	PFI
	Derbyshire Mental Health	29	Q1 2009	PFI
	Northamptonshire Healthcare	36	Q3 2008	PFI
	Walsall Hospitals	141	Q4 2009	PFI
2008	Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells	225	Q4 2010	PFI
	Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys/County Durham PCT	40	Being finalised	PFI
	University Hospitals of Leicester	711	Q4 2012	PFI
2009 onwards[2]	North Bristol/South Gloucestershire PCTs	310	Being finalised	PFI
	Southampton University Hospitals	55	Being finalised	PFI
	Hillingdon Hospital	139	Being finalised	PFI
	Taunton and Somerset	57	Being finalised	PR
	Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital	56	Being finalised	PFI
	North West London Hospitals	305	Being finalised	PFI
	Southend Hospital	100	Being finalised	PFI
	Papworth Hospitals	125	Being finalised	PFI
	Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals	342	Being finalised	PFI
	West Hertfordshire Hospitals	200	Being finalised	PFI

Year of financial close/tender award[1]	National health service trust	Capital value (£ million)	Operational date	Procurement route
	East and North Hertfordshire	250	Being finalised	PFI
	Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals	225	Being finalised	PFI
	Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital	142	Being finalised	PFI
	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	50	Being finalised	PFI
	Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals	200	Being finalised	PFI
	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals	40	Being finalised	PFI
	United Bristol Healthcare	80	Being finalised	PFI
	Mersey Care	170	Being finalised	PFI
	Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals	200	Being finalised	PFI
	Leicestershire Partnership	50	Being finalised	PFI
	Leeds Teaching hospitals	600	Being finalised	PFI
	West London Mental Health	243	Being finalised	Public capital

[1] Tender award date1 is the equivalent of financial close for public capital funded schemes.
[2] It is not yet known what schemes are likely to reach financial close or award tender during 2009.

Hospitals: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which hospitals in Greater London do not have private finance initiative debts. [148575]

Mr. Bradshaw: Under a private finance initiative contract a debt is incurred in the course of normal commercial practice under which the private sector partner submits a monthly invoice for services provided. Information is not collected centrally on failures by national health service trusts to meet these payments.

Kidney Patients: Medical Treatments

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people *(a)* received an estimated glomerular filtration rate test for kidney function, *(b)* were referred to a nephrologist for further investigation and *(c)* received treatment for chronic kidney disease in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [148847]

(2) how many people received treatment for the management of chronic kidney disease in each year since 2000. [148883]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally and there are no plans to collect data on these specific issues.

The overwhelming majority of people with chronic kidney disease (CKD) are under the care of general practitioners and do not need to be seen by secondary or tertiary hospital services.

At general practice level, the maintenance of a practice register of patients with CKD became a part of the quality and outcomes framework in April 2006, which should mean that a very comprehensive CKD dataset will develop over the next few years.

Data on people newly diagnosed with CKD for the year 2006-07 should be available from September 2007.

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has undertaken of whether the standards and markers of best practice identified in the National Service Framework for Renal Services are being met across England. [148848]

Ann Keen: The Department published "The National Service Framework for Renal Services: Second Progress Report" in May 2007, and this sets out its up to date view on the implementation of the National Service Framework for Renal Services.

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received renal replacement therapy in each year since 2000; and what estimate his Department has made of the number of people likely to receive renal replacement therapy over the next 10 years. [148878]

Ann Keen: According to the renal registry, actual numbers at 31 December each year were as follows.

	England
2000	29,074
2001	30,042
2002	31,009
2003	32,297
2004	33,644
2005	34,975

Projected growth in numbers on renal replacement therapy is set out in the National Service Framework for Renal Services. It is predicted that numbers will rise to around 45,000 over the 10 years ending in 2014.

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people with established renal failure waited longer than six months to be referred for assessment and surgery prior to receiving haemodialysis in each of the last four years for which figures are available; [148881]

(2) how many people with established renal failure waited longer than four months to be referred for assessment and surgery prior to receiving peritoneal dialysis in each of the last four years for which figures are available. [148882]

Ann Keen: There is no specific waiting list for dialysis. Dialysis is often an emergency treatment and patients with no kidney function will die in a matter of weeks if they do not receive dialysis. For patients whose disease has been identified well in advance of end-stage renal failure, dialysis begins at a time that the individual and his or her consultant feel is appropriate. Part 1 of the National Service Framework for Renal Services recommends starting to prepare people for dialysis about a year before it will be needed, as such preparation leads to better outcomes for the patient.

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance is issued to GPs concerning estimated glomerula filtration rate test results for kidney function. [148884]

Ann Keen: The National Service Framework (NSF) for Renal Services recommended that, when kidney function is assessed and monitored, the most sensitive way to detect kidney disease is by use of a formula-based estimation of glomerular filtration rate (eGFR). To support the introduction of eGFR reporting, in 2006 the Department issued an information pack to the national health service. This consists of fact sheets which were sent to all general practitioners' practices and pathology laboratories, explaining how to calculate and interpret eGFR, together with a note on frequently asked questions.

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dialysis machines were available for use within the NHS in each year since 2000; and how many were located in *(a)* hospital renal units, *(b)* satellite units and *(c)* at patients' homes. [148885]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally on a regular basis. The Department commissioned the United Kingdom Renal Registry to undertake a one-off UK-wide survey in 2003 which identified (in 2002) 1,313 dialysis stations in hospital units in England, 1,268 in satellite units and 482 in people's homes. The number will almost certainly have grown significantly since.

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received *(a)* haemodialysis and *(b)* peritoneal dialysis in NHS facilities in each year since 2000. [148886]

Ann Keen: Information on the services provided specifically in national health services facilities is not collated centrally, as almost all United Kingdom haemodialysis facilities, whether operated by the NHS itself or the independent sector, are contracted to the NHS.

As at 31 December each year, the numbers of patients receiving NHS services for renal dialysis in England, whether in NHS or independent sector settings, were as follows:

	Haemodialysis	*Peritoneal Dialysis*
2000	10,651	4,741
2001	11,235	4,673
2002	11,789	4,605
2003	12,961	4,455
2004	13,875	4,333
2005	14,438	4,227

Maternity Services: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* maternities and *(b)* full-time equivalent midwives there were in England in each year since 1997; how many full-time equivalent midwives per 1,000 maternities there were in each year; and what definition his Department uses of maternity. [147533]

Ann Keen: The number of maternities is collected by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) through birth registration, and published in FM1, Birth Statistics.

	Number of maternities
1997	602,452
1998	596,413
1999	583,923
2000	567,297
2001	558,271
2002	560,332
2003	584,450
2004	601,467
2005	607,090

The latest data available for the number of maternities in England are for 2005. Provisional data for 2006 show that there were 669,531 live births in England. The number of births is not the number of maternities, due to multiple births and still births.

The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) midwives is collected by the Information Centre (previously collected by the Department) in the Non-Medical Workforce Census, an annual snapshot census on 30 September.

	FTE midwives
1997	18,053
1998	18,168
1999	17,876
2000	17,662
2001	18,048
2002	18,119
2003	18,444
2004	18,854
2005	18,949
2006	18,862

The latest available data are for 2006.

The previous data can be used to calculate the number of FTE midwives per 1,000 maternities:

	Midwives per 1,000 maternities
1997	30.0
1998	30.5
1999	30.6

	Midwives per 1,000 maternities
2000	31.1
2001	32.3
2002	32.3
2003	31.6
2004	31.3
2005	31.2

Notes:
1. These data are collected using the ONS definition of a maternity: "A confinement resulting in the birth of one or more live-born or stillborn children." Therefore, the number of maternities is less than the total number of live births and stillbirths.
2. A still birth is a child that has issued forth from its mother after the 24th week of pregnancy, and that did not at any time after being completely expelled from its mother breathe or show any signs of life. Loss of the foetus before 24 weeks is not recorded as a still birth, but as a miscarriage.

Medical Treatments: EU Countries

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to improve the online application service for European health insurance cards; [148988]

(2) how many complaints his Department has received about the online application procedure for the European health insurance card in the last 12 months; [148989]

(3) what mechanism his Department has for monitoring the performance of the online application service for the European health insurance card. [148990]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department receives a lot of correspondence (this includes phone calls, letters and e-mails) relating to the European health insurance card (EHIC). This is not broken down into category and we do not therefore have a figure for the number of complaints concerning the online application service. The online application service is very successful with 3.3 million cards being issued between 1 June 2006 and 31 May 2007 using this process (nearly 60 per cent. of all applications). Feedback received is that our normal speed of service is particularly valued.

Performance of the EHIC service is monitored through regular service level agreement meetings with the Business Services Authority (BSA) who administer the scheme. Feedback is regularly reviewed by both the Department and the BSA and improvements to the service including the online application service are made as required.

Midwives: Employment

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to provide job opportunities in the NHS for new midwives on graduation. [147380]

Ann Keen: The social partnership forum action plan for maximising employment opportunities for newly qualified healthcare professionals in a changing national health service was launched on 13 April. It sets out recommendations between employers, trade unions and the education sector, to put in place positive steps to maximise the employment opportunities for healthcare graduates, including midwives.

NHS Employers is responsible for monitoring progress against each of the action plan recommendations and will provide a report to the monthly meetings of the social partnership forum steering group.

NHS Treatment Centres: Standards

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1637W, on NHS treatment centres: standards, what the evidential basis is for the statement that NHS walk-in centres contribute significantly to improving access to services for many people. [148644]

Mr. Bradshaw: An estimated 3 million people every year are seen and treated at national health service walk-in centres in England. The centres are treating patients who would otherwise be using other NHS services.

NHS: Anniversaries

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to commemorate the 60th anniversary in July 2008 of the founding of the national health service; and if he will make a statement. [149617]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is currently considering plans to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

NHS: Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1314W to the hon. Member for Rayleigh on NHS: consultants, what the names were of the working groups and reference groups set up during the negotiation and implementation of the consultant contract; [146536]

(2) what the membership of each of the working groups and reference groups was. [146949]

Ann Keen: During the negotiations for the consultant contract there were a number of informal reference and working groups from 2001-04. These groups conducted business in meetings but also covered a large amount of business via e-mail. These groups did not have official titles. The main groups were:

the negotiation group—which included national health service chief executives, medical directors, human resources directors, and representation from the NHS Confederation;

a wider reference group—which included a wider range of representatives from NHS employing organisations; and

the implementation group—members from NHS Modernisation Agency, NHS Confederation, strategic health authorities and NHS employing organisations.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Rayleigh of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1313W, on NHS: consultants, which of her Department's Ministers were involved in these discussions. [146549]

Ann Keen: My right hon. Friend the Member for Darlington (Mr. Milburn) was the Secretary of State for Health during the 2002 Spending Review discussions on the contract. At the time that the new contract proposals were agreed, my right hon. Friend the Member for Airdrie and Shotts (John Reid) was Secretary of State for Health.

NHS: Finance

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact on service provision by health trusts of the clawing back of funding. [146523]

Mr. Bradshaw: Unaudited figures for 2006-07 show that the national health service delivered a net surplus of £510 million at the end of 2006-07, recovering from a £547 million deficit in 2005-06. This transformation in financial performance has been achieved in the context of continued improvements in both access to and the quality of patient care.

A key component to the overall financial recovery in 2006-07 has been the rigorous action taken by strategic health authorities (SHAs) to manage financial risk at local level. This has been largely achieved by the prudent management of central NHS programme funds to create a £450 million contingency, and by the top-slicing of primary care trust allocations to create SHA reserves. We have not expected any one NHS sector to contribute more in financial savings than any other part of the health system, except where that sector has specifically contributed to a deficit.

The financial recovery in 2006-07, brought about by this local action and the introduction of a stronger, fairer and more transparent financial regime, has put the NHS on a much firmer financial footing for 2007-08 and beyond.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which items of expenditure were included in the NHS bundle for (a) 2006-07 and (b) 2007-08; and what the overall value of the NHS bundle was in each year. [147581]

Mr. Bradshaw: The national health service bundle incorporates a number of budgets formally managed directly by the Department.

The value of the strategic health authority (SHA) bundle for 2006-07 was £5,460 million, and for 2007-08 is £6,946 million. Allocations are made direct to SHAs that manage the distribution of funds among the different programmes, taking account of local circumstances.

The overall allocations are made up of £3,734 million in 2006-07 and £4,307 million in 2007-08 for work force programmes, and £1,725 million in 2006-07 and £2,639 million in 2007-08 for the remainder of the programmes.

All figures quoted are resource budgets rounded to the nearest £ million.

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the planned capital expenditure for the NHS in 2007-08 was in the *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007 Budget; and what the reasons are for the difference between the two figures. [147926]

Mr. Bradshaw: Departmental expenditure limits for the Department and national health service are available in annex C of the Budget 2006 and Budget 2007. As set out in Budget 2007 the Government updated the capital figures for 2007-08 for the NHS in England to make them consistent with projected levels of spend, leaving aside exceptional items. NHS spending plans were unaffected by revisions to expenditure figures published in Budget 2007.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 747W, on NHS: ICT, in which document the Cabinet Office best practice is set out. [148940]

Mr. Bradshaw: Strategic guidance is provided on the Cabinet Office website under IT in Government and can be accessed at:

www.cio.gov.uk/reliable_project_delivery/index.asp.

Two further basic references, recommended by the Office of Government Commerce which supports operational governance for the national programme for IT, are PRINCE 2 and Managing Successful Programmes. These can be found at:

www.ogc.gov.uk/methods_prince_2.asp and

www.ogc.gov.uk/delivery_lifecycle_overview_of_managing_successful_programmes_msp_.asp

In addition, Improving Programme and Project Delivery available at www.pm.gov.uk/files/pdf/ippd.pdf is an example of other documentation available on government websites which provides helpful guidance in this area.

NHS: Procurement

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans his Department has to review NHS purchasing processes, with particular reference to enabling clinicians to commission appropriate technologies where hospital-acquired infections are concerned; [147458]

(2) if he will make a statement on NHS purchasing processes, with particular reference to the delivery of effective management of hospital-acquired infections. [147459]

Mr. Bradshaw: All national health service procurement must fully comply with European Union regulations and be a transparent process. Proper emphasis must be placed on guidance provided by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and information on products provided by the centre for evidence based purchasing. However, the Government recognise the need to ensure swift access for clinicians to products which are innovative and effective in supporting the reduction in healthcare-associated infections, and processes are being reviewed to meet this challenge.

A best practice procurement framework has been developed as part of the health industry taskforce outcomes to ensure NHS procurement is aligned to NHS objectives and delivers outputs that are relevant. This framework will also ensure better decision making

in the NHS through category management and sourcing groups managed locally by the collaborative procurement hubs.

By working within this new framework the key targets and objectives of health and social care, such as health care-associated infection, can be appropriately aligned with benefits to be derived from procurement.

Currently there are no plans to review NHS procurement processes.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS suppliers have been awaiting outstanding payments for *(a)* up to (i) 30, (ii) 60, (iii) 90 and (iv) 120 days and *(b)* more than 120 days; and what the value of the payments owed is in each case. [149302]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Osteoporosis: Medical Treatments

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of women who do not respond to alendronate as treatment for osteoporotic fractures; [149278]

(2) what guidance his Department provides to general practitioners on the provision of treatment to men at risk of osteoporotic fractures; [149279]

(3) what assessment his Department has made of the impact of demographic change on the incidence of osteoporosis. [149280]

Ann Keen: The Department has made no assessment of the impact of demographic change on the incidence of osteoporosis.

Detailed guidance for health professionals on the provision of treatment for both men and woman at risk of osteoporotic fractures is provided on the National Library for Health Clinical Knowledge Summaries website www.cks.library.nhs.uk.

No estimate has been made of the number of women who do respond to alendronate as a treatment to prevent further osteoporotic fractures.

Patients: Travel

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether rurality and travelling distance for patients are considered alongside national clinical guidelines during acute services reviews. [149458]

Ann Keen: Any proposals for major changes to services are a matter for the national health service locally.

We would expect the local NHS to take into account the widest possible variety of issues, including rurality and travelling distance, when putting forward and consulting on such proposals.

No decisions will be taken about changes to local NHS services until full public consultation has taken place.

Thyroid Disease: Fluoride

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the incidence of thyroid disease in fluoridated areas; [148450]

(2) what plans he has to establish mechanisms to monitor the ingestion of fluoride as a precaution against toxicity. [148452]

Ann Keen: The Department has commissioned and funded two research studies on fluoridation and health. "A Systematic Review of Public Water Fluoridation", published by the University of York in 2000, identified two studies, which found no significant association between thyroid disorders, water fluoridation, and one study with a positive association. However, the positive study looked at combined fluoride/iodine intakes and has not been published in a peer review journal. "Water Fluoridation and Health", published by the Medical Research Council (MRC) in 2002 endorsed York's recommendation on the need for further research into fluoridation, but awarded low priority to further research on thyroid disorders. This was because the MRC judged the scientific plausibility of an association between water fluoridation and thyroid disease to be low.

We are committed to a continuing programme of research on the effects of fluoridation on health. And, under section 90A of the Water Industry Act 1991, strategic health authorities (SHAs) are required to monitor the effects of fluoridation schemes on the health of persons living in the fluoridated area and publish reports containing an analysis of the effects on health at four-yearly intervals. The West Midland Public Health Observatory is leading on the compilation of a set of standard indicators which will enable comparisons to be made between the findings of different SHAs.

Transplant Surgery: Kidneys

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were removed from the national transplant list for kidneys without completing an organ transplant in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [148843]

Ann Keen: The number of patients removed from the United Kingdom kidney transplant list during 2004-06 is shown in the following table.

Status	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Removed[1]	377	426	326
Died	281	306	293
Total	658	732	619

[1] There are many reasons for removal—for example, condition improved, condition deteriorated. Patients can be reregistered following removal.

Transplant Surgery: Standards

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of renal and transplant units are participating in national comparative audits and benchmarking by submitting data to the UK Renal Registry of the Renal Association and UK Transplant. [148844]

Ann Keen: The Renal Registry is now collecting data on incidence and prevalence for 100 per cent. of United Kingdom renal units (with summary data being provided by the five non-linked sites in England). One hundred per cent. of transplant units submit data to UK Transplant.

Water: Schools

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on the *(a)* provision of water in schools and *(b)* effect of dehydration on mental performance. [148040]

Ann Keen: The Department has not discussed with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families the provision of water in schools or the effect of dehydration on mental performance.

It is important that children develop a healthy diet, and a school plays an important role in helping to introduce and reinforce these behaviours. Through the national Healthy Schools programme run jointly between the Department, and the Department for Children, Schools and Families, schools are doing a lot of work to improve diet, for example by phasing out items which are low in nutritional value such as fizzy drinks. Teachers tell us that improved diet has had both health and other benefits such as calmer children who are better behaved and a ready to learn. Good hydration helps to reduce tiredness and irritability, and increases concentration. It also contributes to a more settled and productive learning environment.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 17 July 2007

NORTHERN IRELAND

Royal Ulster Constabulary

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the three former senior officers of the Royal Ulster Constabulary GC, Chris Albiston, Raymond White and Freddie Hall, who were named by the hon. Member for Foyle (Mark Durkan) on 24 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1415W, following a report by the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland, were formally interviewed concerning any alleged offence during the course of the ombudsman's investigation into the death of Raymond McCord Junior and related matters; and if he will take steps to clear their names. [149982]

Paul Goggins: The three former senior officers, Chris Albiston, Raymond White and Freddie Hall, named by the hon. Gentleman were not formally interviewed in connection with any alleged offence in the course of the Police Ombudsman's investigation. I am happy to put on record that these officers, in common with many colleagues, served with commitment and distinction in very demanding policing roles in Northern Ireland.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Solicitor-General how much the Law Officers' Departments spent on *(a)* management consultants and *(b)* other external consultants and advisers in each year since 2000; and which of these consultants undertook work for the Department with a total contractual value in excess of £10 million over this period. [146331]

The Solicitor-General: I am answering this question on behalf of the Crown Prosecution Service, Serious Fraud Office, Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office, Treasury's Solicitors Department and HMCPS Inspectorate.

It has not been possible to distinguish between expenditure on management consultants and other external consultants. The statistics are also dependent on individual budget holders allocating expenditure to the correct code.

£000

Financial year	*CPS*	*SFO*	*RCPO*	*TSol*[1]	*HMCPSI*
2000-01	4,043	341	n/a	202	n/a
2001-02	7,126	298	n/a	195	153
2002-03	4,947	762	n/a	311	63
2003-04	7,139	672	n/a	278	51
2004-05	7,819	1,296	n/a	274	59
2005-06	3,784	1,919	127	658	66
2006-07	3,924	1,453	236	328	57

[1] Including AGO

In addition the Treasury Solicitors' department has incurred the following costs for externally procured legal advice for representation including expenditure which is recovered from client organisations through charges as part of the business operations of TSol.

	£000
2000-01	17,531
2001-02	20,418
2002-03	27,089
2003-04	28,187
2004-05	22,981
2005-06	17,409
2006-07 (forecast)	20,254

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Solicitor-General what legislative provisions within the responsibility of the Law Officers' Departments introduced since 1997 have not yet been brought into force. [149681]

The Solicitor-General: My Department is not generally responsible for the carriage of legislation. We are not aware of any legislative provisions within our responsibility and introduced since 1997, which have not yet been brought into force.

Public Sector: Misconduct

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Solicitor-General how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there were of public sector employees for offences relating to their official duties in the last period for which figures are available. [149682]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) maintains no central record of whether the defendants it prosecutes are public sector employees or whether the offences for which defendants are prosecuted relate to their official duties.

This information may be held on individual case files, but could only be obtained by locating and examining a huge numbers of individual case files and would incur disproportionate cost (Code of Practice on Access to Information, part 2, clause 9).

Police Cautions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Solicitor-General what monitoring the Law Officers' Departments undertake of the operation of the issuing of conditional cautions; and how many such cautions have been issued in each police authority. [149294]

The Solicitor-General: The joint Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)/Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) prosecution team is responsible for the implementation of and the day-to-day monitoring of the conditional cautioning scheme.

Monitoring of the use of the conditional cautions is undertaken at both national and local level. An information data set has been produced, which contains national and local performance data including the number of offenders being conditionally cautioned and the types of offences conditional cautions have

been issued for. The information data set is issued by the national prosecution team on a monthly basis to all staff across areas with lead responsibility for conditional cautioning.

Information contained in the information data set is obtained from the CPS case management system and management information system as well as from local areas and Home Office research, development and statistics (RDS) data. Collating the data in this way allows for a consistent, national recording mechanism which does not require additional reporting from areas.

Conditional cautioning is being implemented across each criminal justice area in a phased approach. To date, conditional cautioning is operational in 93 police basic command units across 41 out of the 42 criminal justice areas. Full implementation of the scheme across 230 basic command units is expected to be achieved by April 2008. There have been 2,963 conditional cautions issued nationally since the first pilot schemes were introduced in 2005. A breakdown of the number of conditional cautions in each CPS area is also available from:

conditional.cautioning:cps.gsi.gov.uk

In Gloucestershire, conditional cautions were introduced on 25 June 2007 in the Cotswold and Stroud division. However, to date no conditional cautions have been issued in this division.

SCOTLAND

Departments: Official Hospitality

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on hospitality events in each of the last five years. [148613]

David Cairns: Scotland Office hospitality expenditure is detailed in the following table:

	Hospitality expenditure (£)
2002-03	41,882
2003-04	25,969
2004-05	18,420
2005-06	17,748
2006-07	23,411

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants within his Department's areas of responsibilities in the last 12 months. [149054]

David Cairns: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave on 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 994W.

Departments: Racial Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [149244]

David Cairns: There have been no complaints of racial abuse in the last 12 months.

Dover House: Official Hospitality

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many receptions have been held at Dover House in each of the last five years. [148605]

David Cairns: The number of receptions held at Dover House is as shown in the following table. The receptions not funded by the Scotland Office were third party events organised and funded by organisations such as charities and trade associations.

	Third party events	*Scotland Office funded events*	*Total number of events*
2002-03	21	7	28
2003-04	14	8	22
2004-05	24	7	31
2005-06	11	5	16
2006-07	25	5	30

Navy: Military Bases

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on the Naval Base Review, with particular reference to Faslane. [149556]

David Cairns: The Secretary of State has regular discussions with colleagues in the Ministry of Defence on a range of subjects.

WALES

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants within his Department's areas of responsibilities in the last 12 months. [149058]

Mr. Hain: A total of £12,263.38 was spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants in the 12 months to 31 March 2007, the latest period for which we have final figures. This reflects the increased travel requirements of Cardiff-based staff in support of the heavy parliamentary legislative programme delivered by the Wales Office.

Pipelines: Natural Gas

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on health and safety and the new Welsh gas pipeline. [149217]

Mr. Hain: My hon. Friend the Member for Carmarthen, West and South Pembrokeshire (Nick Ainger), and I had regular discussions with Welsh Assembly Government ministerial colleagues, including about the health and safety considerations of both phases of the liquid natural gas pipeline (LNG), and I will continue to do so as necessary.

I am confident that stringent conditions are attached to the approval. All pipelines in the United Kingdom

are designed, tested and operated in accordance with the strictest standards established by the Health and Safety Executive and the Institute of Gas Engineers.

Both the National Grid (NG) and the Milford Haven Port Authority have been working closely with Government and security services to make sure they have robust security arrangements.

The NG takes safety and security of people and assets extremely seriously and continually carries out thorough reviews of safety and security at its sites around the country based on potential risks, and has a number of procedures in place. In 35 years the UK's high-pressure National Grid Transmission System has never experienced a serious incident affecting life or property, and I am sure that NG is doing its utmost to maintain this exemplary record.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Allen: To ask the Leader of the House if she will commission research on the effect of the new postage and stationery rules on the ability of hon. and right hon. Members to communicate effectively with their constituents. [148357]

Helen Goodman: The monetary cap on the use of pre-paid envelopes from 1 April 2007 was balanced by the introduction of the Communications Allowance, which provides extra resources to enable Members to engage proactively with their constituents.

The rules of the new allowance will be reviewed and if necessary revised by the Members Estimate Committee in the light of experience and on advice by the Advisory Panel on Members' Allowances.

There are no plans to commission any research on the postage and stationery rules.

Members: Cycling

Martin Horwood: To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 9W, on Members: cycling, if she will take steps to enable hon. Members to register with the Government's cycle to work scheme in their capacity as an employer so that their staff members can participate in the scheme. [148573]

Helen Goodman: As employers, Members may register for the scheme, which has costs as well as benefits for Members' staff. Any Member doing so would be responsible for administering the scheme and ensuring that the scheme rules were met.

Oral Questions

Mr. Allen: To ask the Leader of the House when she expects the new rota for oral questions to be completed; and what provision she expects to make for *(a)* regional Ministers and *(b)* the Minister for the East Midlands to answer oral questions. [149740]

Helen Goodman: The Leader of the House confirmed the questions rota until the summer recess on 4 July for departmental Ministers. The rota, and related matters including the issue of question times for regional Ministers, will be considered during the summer recess.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many reconstruction projects have been undertaken in Helmand province over the last five years; and where these have taken place. [150023]

Mr. Malik: Through the national solidarity programme, the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) have approved 697 reconstruction projects in Helmand of which 250 have been completed. These have taken place in Lashkar Gah, Nahr-e-Saraj, Kajki, Musa Qala, Baghran, Now Zad, Washer, Nad Ali, Nawa-i-Barakzai, Dishu, Garmsir, Sangin and Reg. Through DFID's support to GoA's rural water and sanitation programme, 229 wells to provide clean drinking water in Helmand have been completed. These are located in Lashkar Gah, Nahr-e-Saraj, Nawa and Nad Ali. Work is also being undertaken on 50 kilometres of DFID-funded roads in Lashkar Gah.

Since April 2006, the UK has funded 150 quick impact projects through the provincial reconstruction team (PRT) based in Lashkar Gah. Of these, 81 were reconstruction projects and 52 have been completed. These have taken place in Lashkar Gah, Gereshk, Sangin, Garmsir, Musa Qala and Nahr-e-Saraj.

In addition to this, the United States Government through USAID have completed 75 projects through their alternative livelihoods programme over the last two years in Helmand. These projects have covered every district in Helmand except for Dishu.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many reconstruction projects undertaken in Helmand province over the last five years have been destroyed or delayed due to fighting. [150024]

Mr. Malik: Over the past 30 years, infrastructure in Afghanistan, including Helmand province, has sustained substantial damage due to conflict, and neglect resulting from the collapse of governmental institutions. Since the UK assumed the lead of the provincial reconstruction team (PRT) in April 2006, the security situation has not been suitably permissive to allow either the PRT or provincial authorities to undertake a full battle damage assessment, encompassing destroyed or delayed projects, across Helmand.

The PRT works closely with the provincial authorities to undertake consultations with communities across the province to enable them to compile a provincial development plan (PDP) that will address the reconstruction and development needs of Helmand. The civilian and military elements within the PRT are working in close partnership to minimise the future risk of damage to infrastructure and non-combatants.

Latin America: Overseas Aid

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when his Department expects to publish its Latin America Regional Assistance Plan 2008-11. [150485]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development's Latin America policy will be reviewed in the autumn in the light of consultations on a new DFID strategy for Latin America.

We expect to have the Latin America Regional Assistance Plan 2008-11 published by the end of 2007.

Palestinians: EC Aid

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to use the Temporary International Mechanism as an acceptable method of delivering aid to the Palestinian population beyond its current extension to September. [150257]

Mr. Malik: Any decision to extend the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) beyond September will need to be taken by the Quartet in consultation with the Palestinians. The EU is currently discussing with Prime Minister Salaam Fayyad how best to provide financial and practical assistance to the emergency government. He has welcomed the continuation of support through the TIM, but has not yet indicated how he would like it to evolve after September.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many reconstruction projects in the Helmand province have been *(a)* started and *(b)* completed in the last two years. [148723]

Mr. Malik: I have been asked to reply.

Through the national solidarity programme, the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) have approved 697 reconstruction projects in Helmand over the last two years, of which 250 have been completed. Through DFID's support to GoA's Rural Water and Sanitation Programme, 1,000 wells to provide clean drinking water in Helmand have been surveyed, and 229 have been completed. Since April 2006, the UK has funded 150 quick impact projects through the provincial reconstruction team (PRT) based in Lashkar Gah. Of these, 81 were reconstruction projects and 52 have been completed. Work is also ongoing on 50 kilometres of DFID-funded roads in Lashkar Gah.

In addition to this, the United States Government through USAID have completed 75 projects through its alternative livelihoods programme over the last two years in Helmand.

Armed Forces: Health

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what responsibility his Department has for the health care of service personnel ill or injured *(a)* due to duties and *(b)* due to incidents unrelated to duties. [148233]

Derek Twigg: The MOD is responsible for ensuring the medical care of serving members of the armed forces. The actual delivery of health care is performed by a combination of the Defence Medical Services, the NHS, coalition forces or private medical providers, depending on the geographical location, circumstances and clinical need of the patient.

If service personnel require medical treatment when on leave in the UK away from their normal duty station, they should obtain it from local NHS facilities. If inpatient treatment is required, administrative arrangements are in place for the hospital to inform the relevant service authority, in order that the appropriate military medical and welfare processes can be set in motion, which may include transfer to facilities convenient to home or unit if necessary.

Armed Forces: Life Insurance

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what provision he has made for personnel being deployed abroad to assist them in securing life insurance. [149677]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* MOD already provides significant financial support for attributable death during service. This was improved under the 2005 Armed Forces Pension Scheme and the Compensation Scheme introduced on 6 April 2005.

As a matter of policy MOD leaves the decision whether to take out additional cover in the form of personal insurance to the individual as individual needs vary and personal insurance is a complex issue.

In the past, service personnel have sometimes encountered difficulties in obtaining affordable life insurance that provides cover for war risks such as chemical or biological attack.

One scheme currently available to all service personnel, including those deployed abroad is PAX which provides personal accident and life cover. PAX covers war risks, but has in the past imposed restrictions (such as closing the scheme or introducing war and terrorism risks) for new members.

In addition, MOD's Service Risks Insurance Premiums Refunds scheme currently contributes towards extra life insurance premiums incurred by personnel involved in certain high-risk activities such as flying. The compensation available is 90 per cent. of the extra premium up to a total sum assured, which is increased every year in line with service pay and is currently £157,000.

In addition, the MOD launched on 8 May a new life insurance scheme, aimed exclusively at service personnel, Service Life Insurance (SLI). The scheme is available to all service personnel—including those deployed abroad on operations—and guarantees affordable cover, including against the risks of war and terrorism throughout their service and civilian life. Premiums are comparable to those paid by civilians, with no premium loading for personnel deployed on operations—or those involved in high-risk activities.

Armed Forces: Nijmegen Marches

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether UK armed forces personnel will be taking part in the Nijmegen Marches in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [148130]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Around 1,060 UK armed forces personnel will be involved in the 2007 Nijmegen Marches.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current percentage shortfalls are for each pinch point trade in the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force. [148232]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A manning pinch point is defined as a trade or area of expertise where there is insufficient trained strength (officers or ratings/other ranks) to perform directed tasks. This might be as a result of adherence to single-service harmony guidelines, under-manning, and/or levels of commitment that exceed the resourced manpower ceiling for the trades or areas of expertise involved.

The percentage shortfall for each pinch point trade is as follows:

Army

Pinch point trade	*Percentage shortfall*
Ammunition Technician	19.41
Clerk of Works	16.28
Intelligence Operator	9.21
Vehicle Mechanic	7.85
Armourer	9.21
Recovery Mechanic	10.58
Mechanical Fitter	5.36
ITU Nurse	38.46
EM Nurse	45.28
Radiologist	80.00
Orthopaedic Surgeon	53.85
General Surgeon	50.00
UAV Operator Level 4	47.71
Anaesthetist	45.95
General Medical Practitioner	44.39
Radiographer	42.86
Registered General Nurse	36.04
ME Geographical	27.05
Explosives Ordnance Disposal	26.11
ODP	44.64
MEC3S	17.95
Postal and Courier Operator	9.36
Chef	7.15
Petroleum Operator	3.77
IS Engineer	3.44

Royal Navy

Pinch point trade	*Percentage shortfall*
Merlin aircrew (pilots)	32
Merlin aircrew (observers)	43
Merlin aircrew (aircrew)	30
Harrier GR7 Flying Instructors	85
Leading Seaman (Warfare)	42

Royal Navy

Pinch point trade	*Percentage shortfall*
Ableseaman (Divers)	3
Royal Marine (Marine)	9
Royal Marine (Corporal)	11
Royal Marine (Sergeant)	13
Leading Air Engineer Technician	35
Petty Officer (Mine Warfare)	33
Leading Aircraft Controllers	36
Ableseaman Warfare Specialist (Sensor Submarine)	32
Ableseaman Warfare Specialist (Tactical Submarine)	32
Strategic Weapon System Junior Rates (Engineering Technician)	30
Strategic Weapon System Junior Rates (Leading Engineering Technician)	25
Marine Engineer Submarine Nuclear Watchkeepers—CatA2	28
Marine Engineer Submarine Nuclear Watchkeepers—Cat B	19

Royal Air Force

Pinch point trade	*Percentage shortfall*
Operations Support (Intelligence)	2.5
Operations Support (Regiment)	12.3
Operations Support (Provost)	5.2
PMRAFNS (Nurses)	19.8
Weapons Systems (Air Loadmaster)	10.2
Gunner	13.0
Registered General Nurse (Other Ranks)	11.7
Medical	28.8
Musician	13.1
Pharmaceutical Health Technician	15
Radiographer	15.4
RAF Police	6.2
Registered Mental Nurse	21.3

Armed Forces: Royal Engineers

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects *(a)* 124 Fd Sqn RE(V) and *(b)* 129 Fd Sqn RE(V) to form. [148980]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 11 July 2007]*: On current plans 124 Field Squadron RE (V) and 129 Field Squadron RE(V) will begin to form up from 1 April 2009.

Arms Control

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role his Department plays in delivering the objectives of the G8 global partnership. [149466]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer my hon. Friend to the Global Partnership, UK Fourth Annual Report 2006, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Army

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers were commissioned from the ranks in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [149402]

Derek Twigg: The following table shows the number of trained soldiers who have outflowed to officer from the ranks for the period 1 April 2002 to 28 February 2007:

Date of flow	*Number of outflows to officer*
2002-03	360
2003-04	330
2004-05	320
2005-06	340
2006-07[1]	370

[1] Due to the introduction of a new personnel administration system for all three services, Army data shown at 1 April 2007 and 1 May 2007 are not available. Consequently Army data shown are for the latest 12 months available, comprising data from 1 March 2006 to 28 February 2007.

Notes:

1. UK regular forces includes nursing services and excludes full-time reserve service personnel, Gurkhas, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists.
2. All data have been rounded to the nearest 10. Numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

Defence Agencies

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many people were employed within the *(a)* Defence Housing Executive and *(b)* Defence Estates in each year since 1997, broken down by occupation; [149669]

(2) how many redundancies there were within *(a)* the Defence Housing Executive and *(b)* Defence Estates in each year since 1997, broken down by occupation. [149670]

Derek Twigg: Details of civilian full-time equivalent (FTE) strengths are given in the following table.

FTE strengths

	Defence Estates[1]	*Defence Housing Executive*[2]
As at April:		
1997	1,230	—
1998	1,160	—
1999	1,240	1,020
2000	1,220	960
2001	1,350	990
2002	1,420	940
2003	1,550	880
2004	2,450	—
2005	2,820	—
2006	2,900	—
2007	2,860	—

Details of civilian FTE redundancies are given in the following table.

FTE redundancies

	Defence Estates[1]
As at April:	
1997	[3]—
1998	10
1999	[3]—
2000	15
2001	[3]—
2002	[3]—
2003	10
2004	10
2005	[3]—
2006	30
2007	60

[1] Known as the Defence Estates Organisation until 1 March 1999 and subsequently merged with Defence Housing Executive on 1 April 2004; formally ceased to be a Defence Agency on 1 April 2007.

[2] Defence Housing Executive was formed April 1999 and merged with Defence Estates on 1 April 2004.

[3] Denotes less than 5.

Notes:

1. These table use the revised definition of civilian personnel (see www.dasa.mod.uk for details).
2. Figures include values for part-time staff proportionate to those of full-time staff.
3. All figures are rounded to the nearest ten; as a result totals may not always equal the sum of the parts. For visibility rounding has only been applied to figures of ten and above.
4. For DHE strength figures are available for the first five years it existed, but redundancies are not separately identifiable.

Information relating to occupation is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Defence Export Services Organisation

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future of the Defence Export Services Organisation. [149158]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence will continue to offer high quality support to UK-based defence manufacturers to help them win contracts for legitimate defence exports.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with HM Treasury on the future of the Defence Export Services Organisation; and if he will make a statement. [149320]

Des Browne *[holding answer 12 July 2007]:* I have regular discussions with colleagues at the Treasury on issues of mutual interest.

Defence Export Services Organisation: Finance

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what funding the Defence Export Services Organisation received in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [149132]

(2) what future funding for the Defence Export Services Organisation was included in the 2007 Budget. [149157]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave on 24 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 845W, to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Selly Oak (Lynne Jones). The net operating costs of the Defence Export Services Organisation in financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07 were £14.497 million and £15.015 million respectively.

Provision of £13.7 million has been made for the net operating costs of the Defence Export Services Organisation in 2007-08.

Departments: Early Retirement

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his staff took early retirement in the last five years; at what cost; what grades of staff took early retirement; and what percentage of each grade took early retirement. [148817]

Derek Twigg: The information in respect of the number, grade and percentage of staff who took early retirement is provided in the following tables:

Table 1: Early retirement 2002-03 to 2006-07

	Headcount
2002-03	700
2003-04[1]	1,200
2004-05	790
2005-06	1,100
2006-07	1,100

[1] The streamlining of Head Office prior to the reoccupation of main building in London led to 540 personnel taking early retirement on compulsory early retirement on structural grounds.

Note:
This table excludes Royal Fleet auxiliary and locally engaged civilian staff for whom no information on civilian early retirements is available.

Table 2: Early retirement 2002-03 to 2006-07 by grade

Grade	*2002-03*	*2003-04*[1]	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Band B Level 1	10	50	10	20	30
Band B Level 2	20	120	20	50	60
Band C Level 1	50	120	80	160	110
Band C Level 2	80	180	140	230	160
Band D	90	220	100	230	170
Band E Level 1	160	160	140	110	140
Band E Level 2	50	60	40	50	40
Other Non Industrial	20	20	10	20	20
Industrial	160	150	130	90	200
Trading Fund Personnel	70	120	110	160	180
Total	700	1,200	790	1,100	1,100

[1] The streamlining of Head Office prior to the reoccupation of main building in London led to 540 personnel taking early retirement on compulsory early retirement on structural grounds.

Note:
This table excludes Royal Fleet auxiliary and locally engaged civilian staff for whom no information on civilian early retirements is available.

Table 3: Percentage of each grade that took early retirement 2002-03 to 2006-07[1]

Grade	*2002-03*	*2003-04*[2]	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Band B Level 1	1.9	9.2	1.7	2.2	4.6
Band B Level 2	1.2	6.2	1.1	2.4	2.7
Band C Level 1	1.1	2.4	1.5	2.8	1.8
Band C Level 2	0.7	1.6	1.2	1.9	1.4
Band D	0.6	1.6	0.7	1.6	1.3
Band E Level 1	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.7
Band E Level 2	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5
Other Non Industrial	3.5	1.4	3.0	4.8	3.0
Industrial	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.6	1.4
Trading Fund Personnel	0.6	1.0	1.0	1.4	1.7

[1] Percentage is based solely on early retirement data by grade compared against a 13-month average strength profile by grade for each financial year.

Notes:
1 The streamlining of Head Office prior to the reoccupation of main building in London led to 540 personnel taking early retirement on compulsory early retirement on structural grounds.
2 This table excludes Royal Fleet auxiliary and locally engaged civilian staff for whom no information on civilian early retirements is available.

The information requested about costs is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Flags

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidance he has given to military establishments on the flying of the Union flag on a daily basis; and if he will make a statement. [150117]

Derek Twigg: Guidance is set out in Queen's Regulations and stipulates that all service and major commands and headquarters are required to fly the Union flag daily. In addition, these establishments are permitted to fly flags signifying the relevant single service and commander, corps, regimental, station and establishment.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many headquarters staff funded by the public purse in his Department are classified as people without posts. [142742]

Derek Twigg: Numbers are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* his Department's final bid to HM Treasury for resources in the 2004 spending review and *(b)* the final settlement letter from HM Treasury setting out his Department's expenditure limits for the period covered by the review. [148892]

Des Browne: No. Publication of such documents would be prejudicial to the conduct of public affairs.

Departments: Public Transport

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate his Department has made of the number of its staff using public transport to commute. [147320]

Derek Twigg: The Department has not estimated the number of its staff using public transport to commute. MOD encourages the use of public transport and cycling to work by providing interest-free loans for the purchase of public transport season tickets.

Departments: Racial Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [149255]

Derek Twigg: The number of formal complaints of racial harassment in the Ministry of Defence and armed forces for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007, the latest period for which figures are available, was as follows:

	Investigated	*Upheld*
Armed forces	15	6
MOD civil service	0	0

The Department's Unified Diversity Strategy makes clear that harassment of any kind is not tolerated in the Ministry of Defence or the armed forces. Revised complaints procedures were published in January 2007. Ongoing internal communications keep personnel informed of their rights and responsibilities.

Ex-servicemen: Hearing Impaired

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when and how ex-servicemen and women waiting for digital hearing aids due to service-related hearing loss will be informed of their priority status. [149673]

Derek Twigg: Advice regarding entitlement to priority treatment from the NHS is referenced in Leaflet 2 which is sent out by the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency with the war pension disablement acceptance notification letter.

Regular reminders about priority treatment for war pensioners are circulated by the Health Departments to senior NHS managers who are tasked to ensure that relevant clinical staff are aware. Reminder action, due this year, will reference this issue. Priority for assessment, treatment, aids etc is decided by the clinician in charge based on clinical need.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what instructions have been sent to NHS trusts in relation to affording priority status to ex-servicemen and women needing digital hearing aids due to service-related hearing loss. [149674]

Derek Twigg: MOD is working with the UK Health Departments regarding awareness of NHS priority treatment among health professionals. Later this year Health Departments will distribute reminders to the chief executives of trusts requiring them to ensure that general practitioners and hospital clinicians are aware of all those veterans who are eligible for priority treatment, including the group who have noise-induced sensorineural hearing loss accepted as caused by service. Priority refers to assessment, treatment and provision of aids. Allocation of priority is by the clinician in charge based on clinical need.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's estimate was in March 2003 of the cost of operations in Iraq in each of the subsequent five financial years. [148893]

Des Browne: The total estimate figures for the net additional costs of operations in Iraq, included in Spring Supplementary Estimates for the years 2002-03 to 2006-07, were as follows.

Financial year	*£ million*
2002-03	1,000
2003-04	1,539
2004-05	975
2005-06	1,098
2006-07	1,002

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK troops are deployed on operations in Iraq. [150011]

Des Browne *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* As of June 2007, around 5,500 UK armed forces personnel are deployed on operations in Iraq, although numbers do fluctuate due, for example, to roulements and rest and recuperation breaks.

Military Bases: Wales

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with Airbus Cimpa on the temporary use of redundant bays in the Red Dragon hangar at MOD St Athan. [147285]

Derek Twigg: No formal discussions have taken place between the Ministry of Defence and Airbus Cimpa regarding this matter.

Ministry of Defence Police: Overtime

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the impact of the decision of the Ministry of Defence Police to cancel all non-mandatory staff overtime on *(a)* the security of military bases and *(b)* the capacity of his Department (i) to implement its anti-terrorism strategy and (ii) to meet its financial targets. [148255]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am unable to comment on security matters in detail as to do so would, or would be likely to prejudice national security. The Chief Executive of the Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency is managing this reduction in overtime.

MV Bugaled Breizh

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 321W, on the MV Bugaled

Breizh, whether his Department has received any communication from those conducting the French judicial investigation into the sinking of the Bugaled Breizh; and whether a completed report of that investigation has been received. [148875]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department has received indirect communication from the French Tribunal conducting the inquiry into the loss of the fishing vessel Bugaled Breizh via the Home Office (United Kingdom Central Authority) and the French embassy, London. This has been for additional information to assist with their inquiries and declassification of signal messages respectively. The Department has not received or had sight of any official reports from the investigation.

Navy: Drug Seizures

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what quantity of illegal drugs was seized by the Royal Navy in each of the last three years. [149603]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave on 26 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 670W, to the hon. Member for Ribble Valley (Mr. Evans).

Project MoDEL

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* original cost estimate was and *(b)* current cost estimate is of Project MoDEL. [148230]

Derek Twigg: The approval for the Project MoDEL contract included £177 million for capital expenditure for the development of RAF Northolt. Project MoDEL is currently forecast to remain within its original approval.

A second contract including around £30 million for capital expenditure was awarded to a separate contractor to relocate the British Forces Post Office to RAF Northolt. This contract is also currently forecast to remain within its original approval.

Transport: AWE Burghfield

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1286W, on transport: AWE Burghfield, under what circumstances special nuclear materials convoys travel from AWE Burghfield without *(a)* a visible police escort and *(b)* emergency support vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [149517]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding the information as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice national security.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether local incident management plans are put in place when special nuclear materials convoys travel from AWE Burghfield; and whether local authorities are informed before those convoys travel. [149949]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The transportation of nuclear and other hazardous materials is governed by the Radioactive Material (Road Transport) (Great Britain) Regulations 2002 and the Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations 2004 (as amended in 2005). Although the Department is exempt from the regulations, it is nevertheless MOD policy to comply with their principles although they place no obligation on a carrier to inform local authorities. The publicly available Local Authority Emergency Services Information (LAESI) document provides the emergency services, local and health authorities with information on contingency arrangements for the transport of special nuclear material.

Reserve Forces: Deployment

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many reservists are deployed on overseas operations, broken down by deployment location. [148263]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As at 31 March 2007, the latest figures available, reservists were deployed in joint operational areas (JOA) as follows:

Iraq: 451

Afghanistan: 359

Balkans: 44.

In addition, some 500 mobilised reservists were in the UK, predominantly undertaking pre-deployment training, post-deployment leave or receiving medical treatment. Finally, 35 sponsored reserves were on mobilised service and serving in or between the JOAs and the UK.

Weapons

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many recorded missing *(a)* weapons and *(b)* weapons parts reports were made to the Royal Military Police between May 2002 and May 2007. [149128]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of weapons and weapon parts lost, missing or stolen from the armed forces between 2002 and 2007 is shown in the table for each whole calendar year. This provides details of all cases reported to the Royal Military Police's Service Police Crime Bureau and includes losses which have been investigated by the Ministry of Defence Police, Home Department Police Forces and other branches of the Service Police. The data cover a range of reported incidents, including weapons which have been lost or stolen in operational theatres and the loss of private firearms lodged in MOD armouries. The data are held by calendar year. To break them down in any other way could be done only at disproportionate cost.

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*[1]
Air Rifle or Pistol	0	2	0	0	0	0
Automatic Weapon	0	2	0	1	0	0
Heavy Arms	0	0	0	0	1	0
Pistol	2	5	10	5	8	3
Rifle	2	17	15	9	14	4

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007[1]
Shotgun	0	0	0	0	0	2
Explosives and Pyrotechnics	2	4	3	6	2	1
Weapon component or attachment	0	6	0	1	6	2
Other	0	1	4	13	1	1

[1] As of 1 July

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the time taken by the Child Support Agency to secure a liability order; and what the key factors are in determining that timescale. [146176]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 17 July 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions regarding the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what estimate he has made of the time taken by the Child Support Agency to secure a liability order, and what the key factors are in determining that timescale.

The current time taken to secure a liability order from the courts from first referral to the Child Support Agency enforcement teams is 115 calendar days in England and Wales and 171 days in Scotland. The key factors in determining this timescale are; primarily, the local availability of court services and the requirement to allow a period of time between the court summons and court date, to allow the non-resident parent time to prepare for the hearing.

In Scottish courts, the non-resident parent also has the ability to object to the courts, which can impact on the time taken to obtain the liability order.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many requests have been made by the Child Support Agency to HM Revenue and Customs in each *(a)* month and *(b)* quarter since January 2003 in respect of access to information on the incomes of non-resident parents; and if he will make a statement. [146182]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 17 July 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many requests have been made by the Child Support Agency to HM Revenue and Customs in each *(a)* month and *(b)* quarter since January 2003 in respect of access to information on the incomes of non-resident parents; and if he will make a statement.

Such information as is available is set out in the attached table, which shows the number of requests dealt with by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) where the Child Support Agency has made a request for information on the non-resident parents income.

The information supplied relates to queries dealt with by two parts of HMRC, the Centre of Research and Intelligence (CRI) and the National Insurance Contributions Office.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Number of requests actioned by the Centre of Research and Intelligence from 1 January 2003 to 24 June 2007

Month	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
January	1,837	1,619	2,024	2,949	4,319
February	1,587	2,082	2,227	2,470	3,096
March	1,814	2,369	2,255	2,385	5,410
Quarter 1 (January-March)	5,238	6,070	6,506	7,804	12,825
April	1,576	2,727	2,581	2,257	3,315
May	1,887	2,130	1,942	2,819	4,178
June	2,072	2,030	1,930	2,420	2,657
Quarter 2 (April-June)	5,535	6,887	6,453	7,496	7,493
July	1,658	2,856	2,351	2,968	
August	2,319	2,143	2,058	2,385	
September	1,980	2,101	2,210	2,425	
Quarter 3 (July-September)	5,957	7,100	6,619	7,778	
October	2,877	2,714	2,219	3,779	
November	2,225	1,919	2,355	2,852	
December	1,444	1,810	1,467	1,927	
Quarter 4 (October-December)	6,546	6,443	6,041	8,558	
Total	23,276	26,500	25,619	31,636	20,318

Number of referrals issued to National Insurance Contributions Office

Year	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 to date
Totals	3,597	8,452	18,883	35,448	53,795	6,294

Note to table:
The information on referrals to the National Insurance Contributions Office is only available annually

Child Support Agency: Debt Collection

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what limitations there are on the amount of Child Support Agency arrears which can be recovered by a deduction of earnings order from a non-resident parent; and if he will make a statement. [146138]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 17 July 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what limitations there are on the amount of Child Support Agency arrears which can be recovered by a deduction of earnings order from a non-resident parent; and if he will make a statement.

Regulation 11 of the Child Support (Collection and Enforcement) Regulations 1992, requires the Agency not to exceed 40% of a liable person's net earnings when imposing a deduction from earnings order.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency: Fees and Charges

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what expenditure by the Child Support Agency on solicitor legal costs was in each year since 2000-01. [146169]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 17 July 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of state promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the total expenditure by the Child Support Agency on solicitor legal costs is for each year since 2000-01.

The Agency's accounting system does not report solicitor's legal costs in a discreet expense account; as such I am unable to provide the information in the format requested.

Solicitors legal costs are grouped together with court fees and charges into a single expense account code. The total costs of solicitors and court fees in each of the last six financial years is shown in the table below.

Financial year	*£ million*
2006-07	2.158
2005-06	1.408
2004-05	0.896
2003-02	0.606
2002-03	0.526
2001-02	0.498

The increase in legal costs in 2006-07 is a result of the increased legal enforcement action the Agency is undertaking as part of the Operational Improvement Plan.

Information for the 2000-01 financial year is not available as this year falls outside of the legislative requirement to keep accounting records for six years.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) for what reasons the Child Support Agency offices in Birkenhead and Bolton have different criteria for determining eligibility for an advance payment of arrears; [146852]

(2) for what reasons the Child Support Agency parliamentary business unit in Birkenhead is unable to communicate via telephone with the CSA office in Bolton. [146853]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 17 July 2007:

In reply to your recent parliamentary questions regarding the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the chief executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and pensions, for what reasons the Child Support Agency offices in Birkenhead and Bolton have different criteria for determining eligibility for an advance payment of arrears, [146853] and

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and pensions, for what reasons the Child Support Agency Parliamentary Business Unit in Birkenhead are unable to communicate via telephone with the Child Support Agency office in Bolton. [146853]

All cases, including those being managed clerically at the Bolton office, are subject to the same legislative and procedural rules. This includes the decision to make an advance payment where maladministration has occurred and a range of pre-defined criteria are satisfied.

We actively encourage use of the telephone as the primary means of communication between offices to update or discuss particulars on a case. It is only in the case of a complaint being received in the Agency about a clerical case maintained by the Bolton office that, initially, the inquiry is emailed to Bolton. This is to ensure the Bolton office has all the necessary information to progress and resolve the client's concerns. Subsequently, contact should be made by telephone.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Financial Assistance Scheme

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the average processing time for pension schemes applying to qualify for initial payments was under the financial assistance scheme for each month since the scheme began operating; and if he will make a statement; [148250]

(2) what the average processing time was for pension schemes applying to qualify for initial payments under the FAS in each month since the scheme began operating; and if he will make a statement. [148602]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following table shows the months in which schemes have requested initial payments and the average time taken from the date of request to the date on which the scheme was accepted for initial payments.

Month of request for initial payments	*Average number of days between request and acceptance*
2005	
October	41
December	47
2006	
January	19
February	42
March	47
April	48
May	41
June	32
July	20
August	42
September	20
October	4
November	12
December	11
2007	
January	20
February	22
April	8

Month of request for initial payments	*Average number of days between request and acceptance*
May	16
June	7

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the average processing time was for pension schemes applying to qualify for assistance under the financial assistance scheme in each month since the scheme began operating; and if he will make a statement; [148251]

(2) what the average processing time for pension schemes applying to qualify for assistance under the financial assistance scheme has been since the scheme has been operating; and if he will make a statement. [148604]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In order to obtain a decision on qualification for assistance under the financial assistance scheme, a pension scheme must successfully go through the two stages of notification and qualification. This involves the trustees and administrators providing basic scheme information to the FAS operational unit.

As at 29 June 2007, the average time taken since operations started in September 2005 from receipt at FASOU of a correctly completed application form for qualification to a qualification decision being issued was 47 working days.

Equivalent information on a month-by-month basis is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Industrial Health and Safety: Coroners

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer from the then Minister of State, Ministry of Justice, of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1713-4W, on Industrial Health and Safety: Coroners, what steps he has taken to ensure that health and safety regulations requiring employers to make a suitable and sufficient assessment of risks to health and safety to which employees are exposed while at work have been carried out by those responsible for coroners and coroners' officers. [149167]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 12 July 2007]:* Coroners are appointed and funded by the relevant local authority. Their officers are employed by the relevant local authority or police authority. Compliance with health and safety requirements for risk assessments relating to their work is a matter for the relevant employer. The Health and Safety Executive continues to work with employers to develop and implement sensible risk controls.

Industrial Health and Safety: Publicity

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by the Health and Safety Executive on campaigns to raise awareness of the dangers of working at height in each of the last five years. [148860]

Mrs. McGuire: The HSE's 'Height Aware' campaign 2006 cost about £1.7 million including publicity, promotional events and evaluation of its effectiveness. In 2005 the HSE ran some initiatives focusing on ladder safety costing around £17,500. The HSE is currently building on these with the current 'Ladder Exchange' initiative, for which final costs are not yet available. A falls from height campaign specifically targeting those working in the construction sector was run in 2003-04, costing £275,000. These campaigns were aimed at reducing deaths and serious injuries arising from falls from ladders which cost the British economy more than £60 million a year.

Pensions: Financial assistance scheme

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pension schemes in England and Wales are eligible for the financial assistance scheme. [147299]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The FAS operational unit does not hold the precise information requested specifically for schemes in England and Wales as in many cases the principal employer of the underfunded pension schemes are no longer in existence. They have therefore been provided with the address of the scheme trustee, administrator or the official receiver which does not reflect the location of the sponsoring employer of the pension scheme.

A total of 682 schemes have qualified for FAS assistance. This is correct up to and including the 22 June 2007.

Pensions: Financial Assistance Scheme

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of pension schemes whose qualification status for the financial assistance scheme is undecided are *(a)* waiting for scheme trustees to provide additional information before a decision can be made and *(b)* having their application considered by the Department; and if he will make a statement. [148603]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As at 6 July 2007 there are a total of 38 pension schemes whose status for the FAS is yet to be decided. Of these, 10 schemes (26 per cent.) are being considered based on the initial information provided by the trustees; we are awaiting further information from the trustees of 15 schemes (40 per cent.) and the remaining 13 schemes (34 per cent.) have indicated that a compromise agreement is in place, so we are unable to progress the application until the legislation to implement the extension to cover these schemes is in place.

Social Security Benefits: Repayments

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will undertake an evaluation of the 28-day hospital stay rule for young people with cancer. [150309]

Mrs. McGuire: From 10 April 2006, apart from those in receipt of disability living allowance, attendance allowance and carer's allowance, patients receiving free in-patient treatment in NHS hospitals no longer have their benefits reduced to a flat rate figure.

The role of DLA is to help with the extra costs of disability-related needs. These needs are met free of charge by the NHS when someone is in hospital. Payment of DLA for adults therefore stops after four weeks to avoid duplicate provision. However, payment of DLA to children aged under 16 does not stop until after 12 weeks, regardless of their diagnosis. Carer's allowance would also normally continue to be paid to the carer for this 12-week period. The 12-week rule recognises that children may have special needs for support from their parents while they are adjusting to hospital life.

We have no plans to change the current rules.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many claimants received interest on their 2005 single farm payments for sums paid after 30 June 2006; what the total amount of interest paid was; and if he will make a statement. [148735]

Jonathan Shaw: As of 30 June 2007 5,745 claimants had been paid interest in respect of the single payment scheme for 2005. The total amount of interest paid was £1,203,619.97.

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the level of *(a)* carbon dioxide emissions and *(b)* greenhouse gas equivalent emissions was in the UK in each year since 1990; what the percentage change was in each year; and what the comparable figures and percentages were for (i) the EU, (ii) the US, (iii) China, (iv) Russia, (v) countries in sub-Saharan Africa and (vi) other developing countries. [149810]

Mr. Woolas: For information relating to UK and EU emissions, I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer provided by my predecessor on 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2184W.

Table 1 contains UK CO_2 and greenhouse gas emissions, and percentage changes, for each year between 1990 and 2005, the latest year for which data are available. Table 2 contains comparable figures for the EU-15, who have a collective target of -8 per cent. under the Kyoto protocol.

DEFRA does not hold the information requested for the US, China, Russia, sub-Saharan Africa and other developing countries. Emissions estimates are submitted under the United Nations framework convention on climate change, which is the parent treaty for the Kyoto protocol and Montreal decisions. The United States and Russia are both Annex I parties, and are therefore required to submit annual estimates of emissions to the Convention. China, and all African countries, are non-Annex I parties to the convention, and are therefore not required to submit annual emissions estimates. All emissions data submitted to the convention are available on the UNFCCC website.

Table 1: CO_2 and GHG emissions from the UK

	GHG emissions (with LULUCF)	*Percentage change on previous year*	*Percentage change on 1990*	*Net CO_2 emissions including land use, land use change and forestry*	*Percentage change on previous year*	*Percentage change on 1990*
1990	773.0	—	—	592.1	—	—
1991	779.2	0.8	0.8	598.9	1.1	1.1
1992	754.4	-3.2	-2.4	581.9	-2.8	-1.7
1993	732.6	-2.9	-5.2	567.0	-2.6	-4.2
1994	720.0	-1.7	-6.9	559.2	-1.4	-5.6
1995	709.7	-1.4	-8.2	549.6	-1.7	-7.2
1996	730.7	3.0	-5.5	571.3	3.9	-3.5
1997	706.6	-3.3	-8.6	548.4	-4.0	-7.4
1998	701.6	-0.7	-9.2	550.1	0.3	-7.1
1999	670.4	-4.4	-13.3	540.8	-1.7	-8.7
2000	672.0	0.2	-13.1	548.8	1.5	-7.3
2001	674.9	0.4	-12.7	559.6	2.0	-5.5
2002	654.3	-3.1	-15.4	543.2	-2.9	-8.3
2003	660.0	0.9	-14.6	555.1	2.2	-6.2
2004	657.0	-0.5	-15.0	554.6	-0.1	-6.3
2005	653.8	-0.5	-15.4	554.2	-0.1	-6.4

Table 2: CO_2 and GHG emissions from the EU-15

	GHG emissions (with LULUCF)	*Percentage change on previous year*	*Percentage change on 1990*	*Net CO_2 emissions including land use, land use change and forestry*	*Percentage change on previous year*	*Percentage change on 1990*
1990	4,040	—	—	3,135	—	—
1991	3,995	-1.1	-1.1	3,101	-1.1	-1.1

Table 2: CO_2 and GHG emissions from the EU-15

	GHG emissions (with LULUCF)	*Percentage change on previous year*	*Percentage change on 1990*	*Net CO_2 emissions including land use, land use change and forestry*	*Percentage change on previous year*	*Percentage change on 1990*
1992	3,921	-1.9	-2.9	3,041	-1.9	-3.0
1993	3,847	-1.9	-4.8	2,983	-1.9	-4.8
1994	3,826	-0.5	-5.3	2,963	-0.7	-5.5
1995	3,863	1.0	-4.4	2,993	1.0	-4.5
1996	3,930	1.7	-2.7	3,054	2.0	-2.6
1997	3,871	-1.5	-4.2	3,004	-1.6	-4.2
1998	3,898	0.7	-3.5	3,061	1.9	-2.4
1999	3,825	-1.9	-5.3	3,026	-1.1	-3.5
2000	3,846	0.5	-4.8	3,062	1.2	-2.3
2001	3,867	0.5	-4.3	3,105	1.4	-1.0
2002	3,829	-1.0	-5.2	3,084	-0.7	-1.6
2003	3,909	2.1	-3.2	3,175	3.0	1.3
2004	3,926	0.4	-2.8	3,203	0.9	2.2
2005	3,877	-1.2	-4.0	3,164	-1.2	0.9

Carbon Emissions: Cattle

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he has commissioned into reducing methane emissions from cows. [149644]

Mr. Woolas: For information relating to research into reducing methane emissions from livestock, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 10 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1380W.

In addition to our work on reducing emissions from livestock through nutrition, husbandry, genetics, and nutrient management, we are also exploring the potential for the use of anaerobic digestion to reduce methane emissions. Anaerobic digestion can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by capturing methane from the decomposition of organic materials, such as livestock manures and slurries, sewage sludge and food wastes, to produce a biogas. The biogas can be used as a renewable energy source, both for heat and power, and as a transport fuel.

Departments: Lighting

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department participated in the Lights out London campaign. [147126]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA participated in the Lights out London campaign in order to raise awareness of the issue of climate change by encouraging people to change their behaviour both at work and at home. One of the actions people can take to reduce CO_2 emissions is to turn off lights.

Eight departmental buildings in London complied with the initiative.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total cost is of all private finance initiative projects for which his Department has responsibility completed since 1997; and what the projected cost is of such projects commissioned or under way. [148025]

Jonathan Shaw: There are no private finance initiative projects completed since 1997 for which the Department or its sponsored bodies have responsibility. There are, however, currently three PFI projects under way for which DEFRA does have responsibility and the details of these are shown in the following table. The Department is not presently involved in any other PFI projects which are at the commissioning stage. The total costs shown in the table include unitary charge payments which are conditional on the performance of the private sector contractors.

Organisation	*Project description*	*Projected cost (£ million)*
Natural England	Office facilities at Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge	92.89
Environment Agency	Broadland flood alleviation project	169.93
Environment Agency	Pevensey Bay sea defences	35.39
Total		298.21

The Department also gives support in the form of PFI credits to allow local authorities to enter into PFI contracts to provide waste recycling and management facilities. These projects are, however, managed by and the responsibility of the local authority concerned and not DEFRA itself.

Departments: Public Transport

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what incentives he has considered to encourage staff in his Department to use public transport. [148788]

Jonathan Shaw: The main incentive the Department offers are interest-free loans for season tickets for travel to work. Use of public transport is encouraged by departmental policies including limited car parking, flexible working, using public transport during the course of travel and making use of travel websites and

information services, such as Transport Direct. Staff are also informed about local transport initiatives and promotions. Where the location or nature of the work makes public transport use impractical for staff, car sharing and the use of low emission vehicles is encouraged.

Fisheries: Italy

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will discuss with *(a)* the European Commission and *(b)* the Italian authorities the illegal use of driftnets by Italian fishermen in the Mediterranean. [149282]

Jonathan Shaw: My ministerial predecessor, my hon. Friend the Member for Exeter (Mr. Bradshaw), took the opportunity at the 11-12 June Agriculture and Fisheries Council, to raise our concerns about the continuing illegal use of drift nets in EU waters. The Commission made it clear that it took such illegal activity seriously and that it is currently investigating the activities of both Italian and French vessels in this regard. In addition, the regulation defining drift nets, to provide for more robust enforcement of the existing controls, has now been formally adopted.

Floods

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number of deaths, *(b)* number of homes flooded, *(c)* amount of damage caused by floods and (d) the insured losses arising from floods in each of the last 10 years. [148950]

Mr. Woolas: For *(a)*, the data available on deaths due to drowning do not give a sufficiently detailed breakdown to enable direct attribution to flooding to be made. However, we are aware that in recent years two deaths resulted from the flooding in Carlisle in 2005, for example, whilst a number of deaths have been reported during the recent floods.

For *(b)*, the following estimates include homes flooded in England as a result of river or sea flooding only.

	Homes flooded
1997	281
1998	5,796
1999	1,930
2000	9,916
2001	1,641
2002	786
2003	1,516
2004	1,139
2005	4,116
2006	746

Source:
Environment Agency flood incident management teams, regional flood risk management teams and flood risk mapping and data.

For 2007, the current total of reports of recent flooding from all sources, including surface water as well as river flooding, is now over 37,000 residential properties and businesses affected.

For *(c)* and *(d)*, full details for each year are not available. However, for the autumn floods of 2000—the most widespread floods in recent years—the total costs were then estimated at around £1 billion. In addition, the following data for major weather events in the last 10 years are from the Association of British Insurers.

	Incident	*Cost estimate (£ million)*
December 1997 to January 1998	Heavy storms and flooding throughout Great Britain	270
April 1998	Heavy rain causing flooding	137
October 1998	Heavy rain causing flooding	100
October-November 2000	Heavy rain causing flooding	760
January 2005	Floods in Carlisle	243
January 2005	Storms in Scotland	124

For 2007, the ABI has estimated that claims total around £1.5 billion for the recent floods.

Floods: Lewes

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the effect of the timescale for the introduction of improved flood defences in Lewes arising from the allocation of existing funding by HM Treasury. [149457]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* The Environment Agency is developing a £2 million project to improve defences for the Cliffe area of Lewes, funded through a locally raised levy.

It is working closely with Lewes district council and private developers to identify opportunities to provide improved defences as part of redevelopment schemes within the town. Following completion of the Cliffe works, expected in late 2009, 166 residential and 58 other properties will benefit from improved protection.

No final decisions have been taken on the allocation of the £200 million of increased spending in 2010-11. Following the comprehensive review settlement, expected by the autumn, and a subsequent departmental allocations exercise, a separate prioritisation process will determine funding for individual flood risk management projects.

Sewers

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what capacity of excess rainfall the storm water and sewerage system of each major urban area in England can bear; and if he will make a statement. [149623]

Mr. Woolas: My Department does not hold this information. Water and sewerage companies are responsible for assessing the capacity of public sewers in order to ensure the effectual drainage of their area.

Typically, the public sewerage system overall is designed to withstand a one-in-30-year storm event

and waste water treatment works are designed to deal with six times dry weather flows without discharging excess water to a watercourse.

It has been estimated that up to 50 per cent. of the sewerage network may be in private hands (for example, householders) and information on capacity for this section of the network is not available. Earlier this year, the Government announced that existing private sewers and lateral drains that drain to public sewers would be transferred into the ownership of water and sewerage companies. This will significantly improve the integrated management of the sewerage network as a whole.

As well as private sewers, there is also an extensive network of surface water drainage associated with highways which is the responsibility of highways authorities. This frequently discharges and interacts with the public sewerage network.

DEFRA is also funding 15 pilot projects to test alternative approaches to the integrated management of urban drainage across the different organisations with responsibilities in this area.

The Office of the Water Services compiles figures on the numbers of properties at varying risk of flooding from overloaded public sewers. The price limits for 2005-10 allowed a programme of nearly £1 billion to safeguard homes against the risk of sewer flooding. By then, the proportion of properties at risk would reduce to 0.01 per cent. of households.

Tree Felling

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of levels of deforestation in England; and if he will make a statement. [150073]

Joan Ruddock: A national survey of trees and woodland is carried out every 15-20 years by the Forestry Commission. The most recent inventory was published in 2001 and the next survey is planned to start next year. When completed this will enable an assessment of deforestation (i.e. the area of woodland lost between the two surveys) to be carried out. However, the Forestry Commission estimates that the current level of deforestation in England is running at between 500 and 1,000 hectares per year. This is almost entirely due to the removal of planted woodland to restore priority open habitats including lowland heath and upland peat bog.

New woodland creation has averaged almost 5,000 hectares per year over the last five years, outweighing the area lost to open habitat restoration.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Adoption: Babies

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department provides financial incentives to local authorities to increase take-up of adoptions of babies under the age of six months. [149433]

John Healey: The Department for Communities and Local Government and the Office for the Deputy Prime Minister before it has since 2000 provided a system of performance incentivisation for local authorities in England across a range of service areas. This system operated via the local public service agreements, which have since been merged with local area agreements. These agreements offered a reward grant to local authorities who could deliver outcomes over and above the level of performance Government would otherwise expect.

Sixty one local authorities chose to include in their LPSA or LAA a measure performance on adoption and/or stability of placements for looked-after children, though the targets would not refer specifically to babies under the age of six months. Reward would be payable to local authorities and their partners for achievement of these particular targets, and in a number of cases this has now been claimed. Details on each target have been made available in the Library of the House, though we do not have data on the age of the children adopted in local authority areas.

Community Development: Business

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to support social enterprises. [150108]

John Healey: The Department launched a third sector strategy discussion paper on 7 June which includes consideration of the need of third sector organisations for more sustainable forms of investment. Our women and equality unit has commissioned a study to understand the barriers to ethnic minority women entering social enterprise and the support they need. Assistance for social enterprises is also available through the local enterprise growth initiative. So far, 29 local authorities have benefited from the first two rounds. Local authorities that have been successful may include projects to support social enterprises to encourage entrepreneur ship.

We will set out future proposals for supporting the third sector, including social enterprise, in the light of our assessment of responses to the discussion paper and the outcome of the 2007 comprehensive spending review.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the total value of contracts which her Department holds is held with social enterprises. [150109]

John Healey: The Department does not currently hold information on suppliers in a way that captures the identification of contracts held with social enterprises. The Department is, however, seeking to revise its financial systems to capture information on third-sector suppliers, including social enterprises, and is liaising with the Office of the Third Sector to ensure that we adopt a common approach with the rest of Government.

Community Relations: Holocaust

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the contribution of the Holocaust Educational Trust's 'Lessons from Auschwitz' project to *(a)* community cohesion, *(b)* race relations, *(c)* faith groups relations and *(d)* the understanding of the Holocaust by young people; and if she will make a statement. [149285]

Mr. Dhanda: I believe that the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' project makes an important contribution to the promotion of good relations between people from different ethnic, cultural and faith backgrounds, and in particular to ensuring young people appreciate the continuing lessons of the Holocaust for our society today. This is reflected in the Government's recent response to the all-party parliamentary inquiry into anti-semitism. The Department has contributed £20,000 to the Searchlight Educational Trust's 'Young Citizen' magazine, the first issue of which contains testimonies from students who have participated in the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' project.

Departments: Common Purpose

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department paid to Common Purpose in each of the last five years; for what purpose; and what the outcome of the expenditure was. [147604]

Mr. Iain Wright: Over the last five financial years the Communities and Local Government has spent the following with Common Purpose:

Financial year[1]	*Spend (£)*
2002	20,930
2003	53,874
2004	39,018
2005	58,846
2006	134,324

[1] Commencing

The purpose of the expenditure was to procure management training in leadership for senior managers and others within the Department, with the objective of enhancing their capability as potential leaders, both within their own organisation and in society as a whole.

The outcome of the expenditure should be that participants will gain new skills and competencies for leadership development and the Department will benefit from stronger, more inspired leaders who are more outward looking and closer to the community.

Departments: Early Retirement

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of staff in her Department took early retirement in the last five years, broken down by grade; and at what cost. [148739]

Mr. Iain Wright: The numbers of staff taking early retirement from the Department for Communities and Local Government, and its main predecessor the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, are set out, analysed by grade, and at what cost, in the following table. This does not include departmental agencies or non-departmental public bodies.

The cost of the earlier years exits, less than 15 per cent. of the 492 exits' total, and analysis by grade of 13 of the earliest staff exits, is not shown as it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Department for Communities and Local Government (including Government offices)

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*Five years*
All grades	6	17	40	117	312	492
Comprising						
Senior Civil Service—Director General	—	—	1	0	1	2
Senior Civil Service—Director	—	4	1	1	3	9
Senior Civil Service—Divisional Manager	1	2	6	8	4	21
Senior Civil Service—Band Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deputy Divisional Manager	—	1	1	2	8	12
Principal	—	6	8	16	32	62
Fire Inspector	—	—	3	—	—	3
Senior Research Officer	—	—	—	—	1	1
Senior Professional Technical Officer	—	—	—	—	2	2
Senior Executive Officer	—	1	6	16	31	54
Higher Professional Technical Officer	—	—	—	—	1	1
Higher Executive Officer	—	1	4	26	75	106
Professional Technical Officer	—	—	—	—	3	3
Mapping and Charting Officer	—	—	—	—	2	2
Executive Officer	—	2	6	23	63	94
Personal Secretary	—	—	—	—	6	6
Administrative Officer	—	—	4	19	49	72
Administrative Assistant	—	—	—	6	9	15
Emergency Industrial Grade 4	—	—	—	—	2	2
Emergency Industrial Grade 3	—	—	—	—	8	8
Emergency Industrial Grade 1	—	—	—	—	12	12
Grade unknown	5	—	—	—	—	5
Proportion of central Department and Government office staff at start of year (percentage)	—	—	1	3	9	—
Cost (£ million)						
Total first year payments	[1]	[1]	[1]	4.6	26.7	—
Forecast total future years' payments	[1]	[1]	[1]	2.4	15.5	—

[1] Obtaining information for earlier years would entail disproportionate cost.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total cost is of all private finance initiative projects for which her Department has responsibility completed since 1997; and what the projected cost is of such projects commissioned or underway. [148016]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department has responsibility for 46 signed PFI projects, of which all but one are contracts entered into by local authorities. The total level of capital investment being supported is £1,154 million. The projected annual payments, up to 2033-34, are £4,015 million. These payments cover the whole contract, including services, as well as payment for the capital investment, and are conditional on the performance of the contractor.

Costs for individual projects are available on the HM Treasury website, at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private__partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm.

Flood Control

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost of upgrading drainage systems in the UK to tackle the consequences of flash flooding; and if she will make a statement. [146212]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

Early estimates outlined in the Government's Foresight report on future flood risk suggested that investment of £100 million-£400 million per year may be required to limit damages caused by urban drainage flooding to levels similar to today under some scenarios for several decades. However, the authors of this report acknowledged that these estimates were based on very limited data.

Floods: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will provide a substantive answer to Question 149169, on flooding in Milton Keynes, tabled on 9 July 2007, for answer on 12 July 2007. [150569]

John Healey: I have now replied to the hon. Member's question.

Homelessness

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homeless people there were in each local authority area in England at the latest date for which figures are available. [149429]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level, in respect of households rather than people.

Information reported each quarter by local authorities about their activities under homelessness legislation includes the number of households accepted by local authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty. The duty owed to an accepted household is to secure suitable accommodation. If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority may secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

This data is published in our quarterly statistical release on statutory homelessness, which includes a supplementary table showing the breakdown of key data, including acceptances and temporary accommodation, by each local authority. This is published on our website and placed in the Library each quarter. The latest release was published on 11 June 2007 and contains data for the period January to March 2007:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1002882&PressNoticeID=2438

Since 1998, information has also been collected on the number of people who sleep rough—that is, those who are literally roofless on a single night—and these are also published on our website, by local authority:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/705/NationalRoughSleepingEstimate2006_id1502705.xls

Housing: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her latest estimate is of the number of new homes planned to be built in the next 10 years in the Leeds metropolitan District, broken down by *(a)* private homes to buy, *(b)* private homes to rent *(c)* housing association properties and *(d)* local authority homes to rent. [148646]

Mr. Iain Wright: The draft regional spatial strategy for Yorkshire and the Humber (the "Yorkshire and Humber plan") was submitted to the Government in December 2004. This gives a net housing delivery target for Leeds of 2,260 per annum up to 2016 and 2,950 per annum between 2016 and 2021.

In May 2007 the examination in public panel report on the plan was published. This report states that Leeds should accommodate more housing growth than currently set out in the draft RSS, but does not specify a number. Ministers are currently considering the panel report and the Secretary of State will publish proposed changes to the draft RSS later in the summer.

How these target numbers will be divided into various tenures is a matter which will be determined by both the housing market and regional and local planning processes and functions.

Housing: Low Incomes

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with registered social landlords and housing corporations on using RSLs' spare borrowing capacity for construction of new affordable homes. [149427]

Mr. Iain Wright: We continue to have discussions with the Housing Corporation and housing associations on RSLs' borrowing capacity. In March 2007, the corporation published 'Unlocking the Door', analysing how past investment locked up in stock could be released to finance more affordable housing. The corporation has concluded that there is unused capacity and that housing associations can borrow more against their existing businesses. There is therefore scope for efficiency savings to be secured for new affordable housing.

The Housing Corporation is currently considering the responses it has received to its consultation document on recycled capital grants and links to property values.

Members: Correspondence

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the letter from the hon. Member for Luton South to her predecessor relating to Mrs. Webb of Luton, dated 17 November 2006, was not replied to until 4 June 2007. [149430]

Mr. Iain Wright: I apologise to my hon. Friend for the delay in responding to the correspondence, which was due to an administrative oversight. We attach great importance to the prompt and efficient handling of correspondence, particularly from hon. Members. Earlier this year, Communities and Local Government introduced new arrangements for the handling of ministerial correspondence and early indications are that the changes have significantly improved our performance.

Mobile Homes: Surveys

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1277W, on mobile homes: surveys, how many of the eight respondents supporting option 3 were *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations; and if she will identify these respondents. [150421]

Mr. Iain Wright: Of the eight respondents that supported option 3, five were individuals and three were organisations. I am not able to disclose the identity of the individuals as we have given a commitment to individual respondents that their personal details will not be disclosed outside of the Department. However, the three organisations were Basingstoke and Deane borough council, Arun district council and South Norfolk district council.

Ordnance Survey: Copyright

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was raised by the Ordnance Survey from the sale to commercial enterprises of the rights to use licensable or copyright material in each of the last five years. [150285]

Mr. Iain Wright: Revenue from commercial enterprises including licensed partners and distributors, from licenses for digital data and map copying and from sales of mapping for the years 2002-03 to 2006-07 were £50,475,353, £51,250,715, £51,930,385, £54,772,770 and £57,804,021 respectively.

Travelling People: Eastern Region

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the reason was for the initiation of the proposed single-issue revision of the Eastern regional spatial strategy in relation to the provision of Gypsy and Traveller sites. [149976]

Mr. Iain Wright: The single issue review of its Regional Spatial Strategy, "Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation in the East of England" currently being carried out by the East of England Regional Assembly reflects the important role that "Office of the Deputy Prime Minister Circular 1/06, Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Sites" gives to Regional Spatial Strategies in addressing the shortage of authorised accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers.

The main steps in the process are:

Local authorities assess needs through their Gypsy and Traveller accommodation assessments;

The regional planning body (i.e. the Regional Assembly) defines the total level of need in the region and the level of additional pitch provision at district council level through its regional spatial strategy;

The regional spatial strategy is confirmed by the Secretary of State, following an examination in public conducted by an independent panel if necessary;

Local planning authorities define the locations for new sites through their local development documents and ensure delivery through their strategic housing role.

The Regional Assembly gave a commitment to carry out such a review in early 2006 at the examination in public into the main review of the East of England regional spatial strategy, where it admitted that its policy did not meet the requirements of the Circular.

We are grateful to the Regional Assembly for its work on the Gypsy and Traveller accommodation review, which is the first in the country to fully reflect the requirements of circular 1/06.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Finance

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has held with HM Treasury on funding commitments for the arts in the comprehensive spending review 2007. [149965]

James Purnell: Discussions on the CSR are continuing between DCMS and HM Treasury.

Cultural Heritage: Iraq

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what support and funding his Department has made available to the Department

of Antiquities in Iraq to counter looting of archaeological sites and artefacts. [150361]

James Purnell: My Department has not provided direct funds to the Department of Antiquities in Iraq to counter looting or archaeological sites. Instead, the UK's response to the heritage crisis in Iraq has been led by its sponsored bodies. In particular the British Museum has:

provided expertise and training on conservation and site management;

sent two archaeologists to Iraq who were instrumental in co-ordinating the quick supply of a wide range of desperately needed materials and equipment to the Baghdad Museum; and

arranged and managed (with additional funding of £15,000 from the DCMS) a project that allowed three interns coming from the Iraqi Ministry of Culture to learn the skills necessary for the future management of the Babylon archaeological site.

Departments: Early Retirement

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what proportion of staff took early retirement from his Department in the last five years, broken down by grade; and at what cost. [148740]

Margaret Hodge: As numbers of staff by grade are so small, five or less, we are unable to provide the breakdown of early retirements as requested, on the grounds of confidentiality. The information relating to the overall early retirements numbers and costs in the last five years is contained in the table.

	Number of staff	*Proportion of staff as a percentage of the headcount*	*Overall cost to Department until the minimum pension age of 60 (£)*
2002-03	0	n/a	n/a
2003-04	1	0.204	[1]
2004-05	0	n/a	n/a
2005-06	5	0.956	847,469.49
2006-07	6	1.138	912,624.54

n/a = Not applicable
[1] Confidentiality applies

Departments: Publicity

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the cost effectiveness of advertising commissioned by his Department in the last 12 months. [148516]

Margaret Hodge: DCMS ensures that the most appropriate newspapers, publications and websites are used when advertising its job vacancies and public appointments, and monitors carefully the costs involved in placing these advertisements. My Department is co-operating fully with the central initiative of sharing recruitment advertising space and costs with other Government Departments where this is possible.

Departments: Racial Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [149256]

Margaret Hodge: There have been no formal complaints of racial abuse from DCMS employees in the last 12 months.

The Department is fully committed to equal opportunities and will not tolerate any form of discrimination, harassment or victimisation. There is an equal opportunities complaints procedure available on the Departments' intranet which provides a mechanism for staff to raise and have addressed problems or concerns.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what account has been taken of the continuing development of the *(a)* technology and *(b)* options available in relation to digital switchover in decisions over the form of assistance on offer. [149753]

James Purnell: In order to take into account the continuing development of the technology, an emerging technologies group will be established. This group will consider such developments and, where appropriate, will make recommendations to the BBC and DCMS to amend the help scheme's core receiver requirements accordingly.

The scheme will be platform-neutral and will therefore allow those eligible to choose from the range of options where they are available. Those opting for cable, satellite or digital TV via a phone line, will have to pay any difference in cost.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make a statement on Government support for pensioners and vulnerable groups preparing for digital switchover. [150004]

James Purnell: The digital switchover help scheme will be available to households where at least one person is 75 years or over, severely disabled or is registered as blind or partially sighted during the eligibility period, which starts eight months before switchover in their region. The scheme will provide equipment to convert one TV set to the most cost-effective digital platform in the relevant area. Where necessary, there will also be an in-home service to help with the installation and use of equipment, or the upgrading of an aerial. Those eligible for the scheme will also be able to opt for an integrated digital television or personal video recorder. It will also be possible to opt for a different digital platform (broadband, cable, satellite or terrestrial) from the one proposed by the scheme. The scheme will make a financial contribution towards these alternative options, but the eligible household would need to meet the cost of any shortfall or continuing subscription.

Where the eligible household opts for the digital terrestrial platform, the scheme will provide a set top converter box which meets the scheme's core receiver requirement. This incorporates a number of features, such as audio description, which are intended to be beneficial to the targeted groups.

There will be a £40 charge for the help scheme, but where the qualifying person is also in receipt of certain benefits, the assistance will be provided free of charge. Eligibility for the scheme will be based on Department for Work and Pensions data, which enables the scheme to target communications thus avoiding complex application forms and the need for complex and costly verification procedures.

Listed Buildings

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on which occasions Ministers have not followed the advice of English Heritage in relation to the listing of buildings in each of the last five years. [150431]

Margaret Hodge: No central record is maintained, either by the Department or English Heritage, to show the number of occasions on which advice provided by English Heritage on listing applications is overruled. The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) if he will list his Department's responsibilities with regard to the 2012 Olympics; [147850]

(2) which Minister is responsible for elite athlete training for the London 2012 Olympics; which Minister will have responsibility for the sports legacy of 2012; and which Minister will have responsibility for the National Lottery statutory instrument due to be laid before the House after the summer adjournment. [148082]

James Purnell: The Minister for the Olympics is responsible for the Government's overall Olympic Programme and legacy plans, to which a number of Departments will contribute. As such, she will co-chair (with the Mayor of London) the Olympic Board and exercise statutory and other functions with respect to the London Organising Committee, the Olympic Delivery Authority and the Olympic lottery distributor.

The Government Olympic Executive, which remains part of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, will report to the Minister for the Olympics through the Permanent Secretary of the Department.

As part of his wider responsibilities, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport is responsible for:

Elite athlete training for the London 2012 Olympics;

The sports legacy for 2012;

Laying before the House the National Lottery statutory instrument transferring funds to the Olympic lottery distributor.

To ensure close co-ordination, the Minister for Sport will continue, as previously, to attend the Olympic Board.

The Secretary of State and the Minister for the Olympics have joint responsibility for the Cultural Olympiad. This recognises the importance of the cultural programme to London 2012, and of seeing the Olympiad as a key opportunity for the cultural sectors, with a lasting legacy.

The Secretary of State will continue to exercise statutory and other functions in respect of the various established sporting, cultural and other bodies including UK Sport and Sport England.

Playing Fields: Planning

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) when his Department plans to consult on the proposals in the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 on playing fields of 0.2 hectares and above; [148823]

(2) when his Department plans to bring forward the changes recommended in the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 announced in his Department's press release "Planning to Safeguard Open Spaces and Playing Fields" of July 2002. [148824]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

We are strongly committed to reducing the threshold for statutory consultation on the sale of playing fields from 0.4 ha to 0.2 ha and this will be reflected in the consultation paper on the review of statutory consultees due later this year.

Public Buildings: Plymouth

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what date, and at what stage of the process, the *(a)* Secretary of State and *(b)* other Ministers were informed of the advice from English Heritage on the listing of the civil centre in Plymouth. [150427]

Margaret Hodge: English Heritage provides advice to the Secretary of State on listing applications once they have consulted owners and local planning authorities and completed a full assessment of the building. English Heritage provided their advice on the listing of the civic centre in Plymouth to the then Secretary of State, my right hon. Friend the Member for Dulwich and West Norwood (Tessa Jowell) on 12 June 2007.

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations were received by the Department objecting to the listing of the civic centre in Plymouth; and what advice he received from officials within his Department on the listing of the civic centre. [150428]

Margaret Hodge: Between receipt by English Heritage of the application to list the building in April 2006 and the decision to list being taken in June 2007, the Department received two representations objecting to the possible listing. These representations were made by my hon. Friends the Members for Plymouth, Sutton (Linda Gilroy) and for Plymouth, Devonport (Alison Seabeck). The then Minister for Culture, my hon.

Friend the Member for Tottenham (David Lammy) was advised that objections to the possible listing had been received, but that the application to list was with English Heritage pending the completion of an adviser's report.

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what account was taken of representations objecting to the listing of the civic centre in Plymouth received by his Department. [150429]

Margaret Hodge: All relevant evidence is taken into account in determining listing applications. For evidence to be relevant it must relate to the statutory criteria of special architectural or historic interest set out in planning policy guidance note 15. These are the only factors that the Secretary of State may take into account in making listing decisions. State of repair, cost of maintenance and unsuitability for modern needs are matters which are not relevant to the assessment of a building's qualifications for listing—but they are all things which can be taken into account by the planning authority in considering any application to demolish or alter a listed building.

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what role Ministers in his Department played in the approval of the listing of the civic centre in Plymouth; and on what date the listing of the civic centre in Plymouth was approved by Ministers. [150430]

Margaret Hodge: English Heritage administers the listing system on behalf of the Secretary of State, but it is the Secretary of State who decides whether a building should be added to the statutory list. The decision to list the civic centre in Plymouth was made on 21 June 2007.

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what extra revenue his Department will make available to Plymouth council in respect of the financial implications of the listing of Plymouth civic centre by English Heritage. [150487]

Margaret Hodge: Government funding for the historic environment in England is channelled through English Heritage. Grants are available for structural repairs to listed buildings that English Heritage considers to be of outstanding historical or architectural interest. Grants are usually restricted to buildings listed Grade I or Grade II*—rather than Grade II listed—but all applications are dealt with on their individual merits. There are a number of charitable trusts that make grants towards the preservation and upkeep of historic buildings. In addition, the National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF) has powers to provide financial assistance towards the repair and maintenance of buildings of importance to the national heritage, through the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Decisions on applications are made by the NHMF trustees, who seek advice from English Heritage and other professional bodies.

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the chief executive of English Heritage on its decision to list Plymouth civic centre; and if he will make a statement. [150488]

Margaret Hodge: There have been no discussions between my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and the chief executive of English Heritage on the decision to list Plymouth civic centre.

Radio Frequencies

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the Government's policy is on the continued use of the FM and AM bands for radio broadcasts. [150124]

James Purnell: Spectrum planning is primarily a matter for Ofcom as the regulator. However, the Government note the proposals made in Ofcom's 'Future of Radio Review—Phase 3' about alternative uses for the FM and AM bands, on which they have recently consulted.

Radio: Digital Broadcasting

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the impact on *(a)* low income households and *(b)* those in areas of poor digital radio reception of the switch-off of FM and AM analogue radio for digital radio. [150069]

James Purnell: None. The Government have no current plans to switch-off either the FM or AM analogue radio signals, but will keep this under review as required by section 67 of the Broadcasting Act 1996.

Tourism: Income

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the total value of the tourism industry was to the UK economy in each year since 1997. [148538]

Margaret Hodge: Estimates of the value of the tourism industry to the UK economy are shown in the table. 2005 is the latest year for which estimates have been made. Due to data quality issues relating to overnight domestic tourism, no figures are available for 2004.

These figures cover spending by domestic residents on tourism day visits and on overnight trips, spending by inbound visitors to the UK, fares paid to UK carriers by overseas residents and imputed rent from UK residents' ownership of second homes.

From 1997 to 1999 the figures measuring the contribution to the economy are expressed as a percentage of gross domestic product. From 2000, estimates are measured in terms of gross value added and are based on the results of the 'UK Tourism Satellite Account—First Steps Project', which gives a more accurate statement.

Tourism expenditure

£ billion

	UK tourism expenditure (at current prices)	*UK tourism expenditure (2005 prices)*	*Contribution to the economy*
1997[1]	65.7	80.1	[2]4.9
1998[1]	70.0	82.5	[2]4.9
1999[1]	73.3	85.1	[2]4.9
2000	74.9	84.4	[3]3.8
2001	72.9	80.8	[3]3.6
2002	73.7	80.4	[3]3.5

Tourism expenditure

	UK tourism expenditure (at current prices)	UK tourism expenditure (2005 prices)	£ billion Contribution to the economy
2003	74.2	78.6	[3, 4]3.3
2005	85.0	85.0	[3, 5]n/a

[1] Figures from 1997 to 1999 do not include imputed rent from second home ownership.
[2] Percentage of GDP.
[3] Percentage of GVA.
[4] Revised from previously published figure of 3.4 per cent. due to ONS revision of total UK GVA figure.
[5] An estimate for the percentage of GVA for 2005 is not yet available.

Tourism: Marketing

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the return on spending resulting from VisitBritain's marketing activity was in each year since 2003. [148537]

Margaret Hodge: Since 2003, VisitBritain's marketing activity has resulted in an annual return on grant-in-aid investment as follows:

Country marketed	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Britain			
Ratio	30:1	47:1	54:1
Visitor spend (£ million)	1,080	1,669	1,906
England			
Ratio	6:1	11:1	20:1
Visitor spend (£ million)	65.9	145.5	243.2
England Intl			
Ratio	—	—	32:1
Visitor spend (£ million)	—	—	32.3

Notes:
1. Visitor spend is money spent by visitors as a result of VisitBritain's campaigns.
2. England was not marketed internationally prior to 2005-06.

HEALTH

Abortion

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1891W, on abortion, how many repeat abortions have occurred in *(a)* Guildford and Waverley primary care trust, *(b)* Surrey and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [148738]

Dawn Primarolo: The data requested are set out in the following table.

Repeat abortions for residents of Guildford and Waverley Primary Care Trust (PCT)[1], Surrey[2] and England, 1997 to 2006

	Guildford and Waverley PCT[1]				Surrey[2]				England			
	Previous abortions None		Previous abortions One or more		Previous abortions None		Previous abortions One or more		Previous abortions None		Previous abortions One or more	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1997	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,227	71	893	29	115,000	71	47,757	29
1998	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,266	72	885	28	119,562	70	50,480	30
1999	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,193	72	861	28	116,168	70	49,938	30
2000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,189	69	964	31	116,627	69	51,396	31
2001	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,194	70	924	30	116,470	69	52,354	31
2002	423	69	190	31	1,203	67	596	33	115,766	69	52,729	31
2003	418	70	182	30	1,256	67	618	33	118,697	68	55,270	32
2004	466	73	176	27	1,275	66	654	34	121,052	68	56,639	32
2005	390	65	213	35	1,231	65	654	35	120,584	67	58,068	33
2006	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,109	66	1,075	34	125,620	68	59,687	32

[1] Data are not available by PCT prior to 2002. Guildford and Waverley PCT was in existence between years 2002 and 2005. It became part of Surrey PCT in 2006.
[2] For years 1997-2001, Surrey is made up of East Surrey and West Surrey Health Authorities.
For years 2002-05, PCTs included in Surrey are East Surrey, North Surrey and East Elmbridge and Mid Surrey.
In 2006, Surrey relates to Surrey PCT (formerly Guildford and Waverley PCT, Surrey Heath and Woking PCT, North Surrey, East Elmbridge and Mid Surrey PCT and East Surrey PCT).

Alcoholic Drinks: Children

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children attended emergency departments as a result of excessive alcohol consumption in each of the last five years. [147983]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not recorded centrally. However, the following table details the number of admissions to hospital for children whose initial attendance at an accident and emergency department was for an alcohol-related problem.

National health service hospitals England 2001-02 to 2005-06

	Finished admission episodes (alcohol related, selected methods of emergency admissions)
2001-02	3,618
2002-03	3,335

National health service hospitals England 2001-02 to 2005-06

	Finished admission episodes (alcohol related, selected methods of emergency admissions)
2003-04	3,826
2004-05	3,716
2005-06	3,939

Note:
Counts of finished admission episodes where there was a primary diagnosis code for selected *alcohol related diseases and for selected **methods of admission for children aged 15 and under.
*Alcohol related diseases defined as following ICD-10 codes recorded in primary diagnosis:
F10: Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol;
K70: Alcoholic liver disease;
T51: Toxic effect of alcohol.
**Selected methods of admission:
Emergency (via A and E services including the casualty department of the provider);
Emergency (other means, including patients who arrive via A and E department of another health care provider).

Departments: Common Purpose

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department paid to Common Purpose in each of the last five years; for what purpose; and what the outcome of the expenditure was. [147596]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table provides the payment details covering 2003-04 to 2007-08 and relate to invoices paid covering fees and expenses.

	£
2003-04	11,084.00
2004-05	5,181.75
2005-06	12,866.85
2006-07	6,110.00
2007-08	0.00
Total	35,242.10

Departments: Early Retirement

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of his staff took early retirement in the last five years; at what cost; what grades of staff took early retirement; and what percentage of each grade took early retirement. [148814]

Dawn Primarolo: A breakdown of sums paid from 2004-05 to date, specific to the Department, is given in the following table.

	Total (£ million)
2004-05	23.1
2005-06	6.5
2006-07	4.7
2007-08	4.9

The following table provides the number of staff that have taken early retirement/severance and compulsory leavers since 2004.

	People number
2004-05	200
2005-06	33
2006-07	39
2007-08	55

Details of specific grades of staff and percentage of staff in grades could be established only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Equality

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's equality impact assessment of his Department's reorganisation of corporate services, referred to on page 43 of his Department's single equality scheme 2007-2010, published on 8 June 2007. [147557]

Dawn Primarolo: The qualitative nature of the review means that some of the data and content in the final report enables employees/team identification. Therefore, only an executive summary has been placed in the Library.

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criminal offences have been created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since October 2006. [149600]

Dawn Primarolo: No new criminal offences have been created through primary legislation sponsored by the Department since October 2006. The National Health Service Act 2006 and National Health Service (Consequential Provisions) Act 2006 were consolidation Acts, which make no substantial changes to the substance of the law.

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants within his Department's areas of responsibilities in the last 12 months. [149046]

Dawn Primarolo: The cost for the last tax year booked via the Department's agent Expotel Hotel Reservations was:

2006-07: £970,818.

Drugs: Children

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are in place to ensure that children younger than six years are not prescribed methylphenidate drugs. [147886]

Dawn Primarolo: There are no specific measures in place to ensure that children younger than six years are not prescribed methylphenidate drugs.

Methylphenidate is licensed only for children over six years of age as part of a comprehensive treatment programme for attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder where remedial measures alone prove insufficient. Drug treatment for ADHD should only be initiated by an appropriately qualified health professional with expertise in ADHD and should be based on a

comprehensive assessment and diagnosis. Continued prescribing and monitoring of drug treatment may be performed by general practitioners, under shared care arrangements.

A medical practitioner may, however, prescribe methylphenidate to children younger than six years (prescribing a licensed medicine for an unlicensed use, so called 'off-label prescribing'). Medical practitioners are ultimately responsible for all their prescribing decisions. They should always satisfy themselves that all drugs or other substances they consider appropriate for their patients can be safely prescribed, that patients are adequately monitored and that, where necessary, expert hospital supervision is available.

Health Services: Finance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps have been taken to allocate the £1 billion funding proposed in the public health White Paper between *(a)* health trainers, *(b)* sexual health services, *(c)* school nurses and *(d)* other services; and if he will make a statement; [148720]

(2) what representations he has received on ring-fencing the £1 billion funding proposed in the public health White Paper for health trainers, sexual health services, school nurses and other services; and if he will make a statement. [148721]

Dawn Primarolo: Primary care trusts were notified of their revenue allocations for 2006-07 and 2007-08 in February 2005. The allocations separately identify funding to support the initiatives set out in the White Paper "Choosing Health: making healthy choices easier" a copy of which is available in the Library. PCTs determine how to use the funding allocated to them.

Leukaemia: Drugs

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1450W, on leukaemia: drugs, what the reasons were for deciding not to refer dasatnib to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; and in what circumstances the drug would be considered for referral in the future. [149958]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not received a proposal from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) for an appraisal of dasatinib for chronic myeloid leukaemia. However, I understand that NICE is currently considering a proposal for an appraisal of this treatment against its published criteria for the selection of topics.

Maternity Services: East Sussex

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding has been allocated for maternity services at the Conquest and Eastbourne district general hospitals for the period 2008-09. [149318]

Ann Keen: Revenue allocations are made to primary care trusts and not directly to hospitals or national health service trusts. PCTs commission health care from providers according to their locally agreed priorities.

Meat Products: Additives

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has commissioned into the impact on health of E number additives found in burgers and sausages. [149645]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency has responsibility for food additive issues. No research has been commissioned by the FSA into the impact on health of E number additives found in burgers and sausages.

All additives are subject to strict European Union legislative controls and are assessed for safety by independent experts before permission is granted for their use in food. Existing additives are re-evaluated in light of new scientific information and the European Food Safety Authority is currently re-evaluating all colours used in food.

EFSA's re-evaluation of the additive Red 2G (E128) a colour permitted in specific types of sausages and burgers has shown that in laboratory tests it may have the potential to damage the genetic material in cells and cause cancer in animals. Based on that opinion, the FSA has recommended that food producers stop using Red 2G.

NHS: Expenditure

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of treating patients who are ill as a result of *(a)* alcohol, *(b)* smoking, *(c)* obesity and *(d)* poverty-related issues in the last 12 months. [149515]

Dawn Primarolo: While it is not possible to give exact figures for the past 12 months due to how and when data is collected[1], the following will give an indication of the annual cost in each of the areas requested:

Alcohol-related illness costs the national health service £1.7 billion each year

Smoking costs the NHS between £1.4 and £1.7 billion every year

Obesity costs the NHS approximately £1 billion per year.

Information about the cost to the NHS of treating patients who are ill as a result of poverty-related issues is not readily available.

[1] The information provided was also gleaned from a number of sources which may have computed the costs in different ways.

NHS: Foreigners

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the annual cost of treating foreign nationals who are not entitled to NHS care. [148259]

Dawn Primarolo: It is not possible to provide the information requested. Successive governments have not required the national health service to provide statistics on the number of foreign nationals seen, treated or charged under the provisions of the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended, nor any costs involved.

NHS: Redundancy

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* average, *(b)* highest and *(c)* lowest (i) redundancy payments to those made redundant and (ii) early retirement packages for those taking them from the NHS were in the last 12 months. [146323]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 28 June 2007]:* The costs of redundancy payments and early retirement packages for 2006-07 will not be available until the autumn.

Plagiocephaly

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has commissioned on plagiocephaly; and if he will make a statement. [149953]

Dawn Primarolo: Neither the Department nor the Medical Research Council is currently funding research on plagiocephaly.

The Department funds national health service research and development through the National Institute for Health Research. The institute's research programmes support high quality research of relevance and in areas of high priority to patients and the NHS. Details, including the scope of the programmes and the arrangements for making applications for support from them, are available on the NIHR website at:

www.nihr.ac.uk

Funding awards are in all cases made after open, competitive peer review.

Psychiatry: Drugs

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 623W, on Psychiatry: Drugs, how his Department measured the efficacy of the use of Prozac on children; what baseline was used; and what scientific methodology was employed. [148193]

Dawn Primarolo: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency evaluated data in two double-blind placebo-controlled trials submitted by the applicant which included children and adolescents aged eight to 18 years. (A double-blind trial is one where the person administering and receiving the medication does not know what the medication is placebo or active treatment in this case). The duration of these trials was eight weeks and one year. In addition, there was a trial published in the literature which included adolescents aged 12 to 17 years. It was a double-blind placebo-controlled trial and included comparator groups with cognitive behaviour therapy alone or a combination of fluoxetine and CBT.

Various rating scales were used to measure efficacy and these included the children's depression rating scale—revised, the clinical global impressions of severity, clinical global impressions of improvement, Montgomery Asberg depression rating scale and others.

The measurement of efficacy was a clinically significant change in the severity of depression as measured on a rating scale developed specifically to diagnose depression and determine its severity. The baseline used was the child's depression score prior to treatment which had to indicate depression of at least 'moderate' severity.

Differences between treatment and placebo were evaluated using statistical methodology and clinical assessment.

Smoking: West Kent NHS and Social Care Trust

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in the West Kent primary care trust have used NHS stop smoking services to set a quit date since 2001; and how many had stopped smoking at four-week follow up. [149305]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the format requested.

Data are available on the number of people who have set a quit date through the national health service stop-smoking services and, of those, how many people had successfully quit smoking at the four-week follow up (based on self-report) for West Kent primary care trust, from 2002-03 to 2005-06. These figures are presented in the following table.

Data for 2001-02 are unavailable by PCT.

Data for 2006-07 are due to be published during the week commencing 13 August 2007.

People setting a quit date and successful quitters, in West Kent Primary Care Trust[1], 2002-03 to 2005-06

Number

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Setting a quit date	631	2,817	4,883	5,789
Successful quitters at the four week follow up (self-report)	381	2,353	3,948	3,607

Note:
Figures presented here are based on the new PCT structure introduced in 2006, which have been produced by aggregating data for Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley, Maidstone Weald and South West Kent PCTs.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care, Lifestyle Statistics.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Social Exclusion: Homelessness

24. **Gordon Banks:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the potential effect of social exclusion on future levels of homelessness. [149817]

Gillian Merron: There are many factors linked to social exclusion that may contribute to homelessness, for example unemployment, relationship breakdown or substance abuse. One of the first social exclusion unit reports set out the Government's strategy for tackling rough sleeping. This was followed in 2005 by "Sustainable Communities: Settled Homes; Changing Lives", which is our strategy for reducing and tackling broader homelessness.

Voluntary Sector Funding

25. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will make a statement on trends in the level of Government funding for voluntary sector organisations. [149818]

Phil Hope: Recent surveys indicate that Government funding for voluntary sector organisations has doubled between 1996-07 (£5 billion) and 2004-05 (£10 billion). Initiatives like Futurebuilders, Capacitybuilders, the Invest to Save budget, expansion of Gift Aid and the new youth volunteering charity, v, have helped build the third sector's ability to make a real difference in local communities. The announcement of the £30 million community assets fund and the £80 million scheme for grants for small community organisations continues to demonstrate the Government's commitment to supporting the third sector.

Third Sector Funding

27. **Mr. Andy Reed:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on Government policy on funding for the third sector. [149820]

Phil Hope: There have been a number of discussions with ministerial colleagues on third-sector issues generally, including on funding. Recent surveys indicate that Government funding for voluntary sector organisations has doubled between 1996-97 (£5 billion) and 2004-05 (£10 billion). The announcement of the £30 million community assets fund and the £80 million scheme for small community organisations continues to demonstrate the Government's commitment to supporting the third sector.

Early Years Intervention

28. **Jessica Morden:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the costs and benefits of intervening in the early years of a child's life to prevent social exclusion. [149821]

30. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the costs and benefits of intervening in the early years of a child's life to prevent social exclusion. [149824]

Gillian Merron: Early intervention is a core principle in the social exclusion action plan. For example this document highlighted the relative costs and benefits of a rigorously tested programme in the US, the Nurse Family Partnership, that provides intensive home visiting by health visitors to disadvantaged mothers from pregnancy until the child is two years old.

Third Sector: Government Policy

29. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what representations he has received on the role of the third sector in contributing to the delivery of Government policy. [149823]

Phil Hope: As part of the third sector review, we have undertaken the largest consultation we have ever done with the third sector. This included 93 open consultation events held around the country and, themed roundtable discussions. Over 250 written responses were also received.

The interim report of the third sector review summarised the main messages from the consultation. A fuller analysis of the consultation is also available. The Government consult with the third sector on a regular basis, through the strategic partners programme and key advisory bodies.

Young People's Services

31. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what plans he has to assist the voluntary sector in developing its role in providing services for young people. [149825]

Phil Hope: Voluntary sector organisations already play a significant role in delivering services for young people. The Department for Children, Schools and Families leads on policy for young people. Since 2006-07 DCSF has invested over £20 million in funding to voluntary sector organisations through its children, young people and families grant scheme.

Voluntary sector organisation offer significant expertise in developing strategies expertise in developing strategies for children, families and young people. The DCSF has released guidance making it clear that local authorities should engage voluntary and community sector organisations as strategic partners.

Civil Servants: Pensions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the total civil service pension liabilities are. [150044]

Gillian Merron: Information on the most recent estimate of liability for the principal civil service pension scheme is available in the resource accounts 2005-06 of Cabinet Office: Civil Superannuation which is available at:

http://www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk/publications.

A copy is also available in the Library for the reference of Members.

Resource accounts showing the liabilities at 31 March 2007 will be laid before Parliament by the summer recess.

Departments: Ministerial Red Boxes

John Hemming: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many ministerial red boxes his Department bought in each of the last five years; what the cost of each was; who the suppliers were; and what tendering process was used in selecting them. [150483]

Edward Miliband: Red boxes are used by successive Ministers over a number of years. The specific information requested for the last five years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Red boxes are ordered via the Department's stationery contract with Banner Business Supplies. The contract was agreed following a joint competitive procurement procedure with HMRC.

Departments: Public Transport

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate the Prime Minister's Office has made of the number of its staff using public transport to commute. [147316]

Gillian Merron: The Cabinet Office has made no such estimate, but the vast majority of Cabinet Office staff (which includes the Prime Minister's Office) work in central London. It is a realistic assumption that staff travel to and from work by public transport as we have a number of measures in place to encourage more sustainable business travel.

Electronic Government

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps the Government are taking to improve accessibility to Government websites; and if he will make a statement. [148181]

Gillian Merron: The Government are committed to ensuring that all Government websites are accessible and easy to use for people, and this includes design and content delivered in a way that is appropriate for the user. The Government have already streamlined the number of websites (down by 551) since April 2006 and will strengthen the direct.gov.uk and businesslink.gov.uk websites by making all citizen and business facing material available through them.

Gift Aid

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent discussions he has had with HM Treasury Ministers on promoting the take-up of Gift Aid. [149860]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the answer to the hon. Member for Wellingborough (Mr. Bone) given by the then Parliamentary Secretary (Edward Miliband) on 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 775-76W.

A consultation was launched on 19 June 2007 with the charitable sector on measures to increase take-up of Gift Aid. The Budget also announced the Government's wish to work with the sector on improving the use of payroll giving and ensuring greater awareness of how to give in a tax-effective way.

Government Communications Network

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will make a statement on the future *(a)* role, *(b)* budget and *(c)* staffing levels of the Government communications network. [149232]

Gillian Merron: As a virtual organisation, the Government communications network does not directly employ staff but is administered by the Government communication team within Cabinet Office. In the future the GCN's role will be to continue to raise professional standards, share best practice and improve the way communications are co-ordinated across departments. The 2007-08 budget of the team supporting the network is £1.5 million.

Office of the Third Sector

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much it cost to set up the Office of the Third Sector; and what its running costs are estimated to be in 2007-08. [150422]

Phil Hope: The costs associated with moving the OTS to its new offices, recruiting new staff and the other associated administrative costs were met from within the existing budgets of the two exporting departments and the Cabinet Office.

Details of the administration costs for the Office of the Third Sector in 2007-08 are published in the Central Government Supply Estimates (2007-08) Command Paper [HC 438] on page 655. A copy is available in the Library for the reference of Members.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what mechanism is in place to ensure co-ordination between her and the Government Olympic Executive. [149226]

Tessa Jowell: The Government Olympic Executive, which remains part of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, will report to the Minister for the Olympics through the Permanent Secretary of the Department.

TRANSPORT

Halifax Railway Station

10. **Mrs. Riordan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent expenditure has been incurred on improving facilities at Halifax railway station. [149836]

Mr. Tom Harris: Network Rail and Northern Rail are working with local stakeholders to improve the condition of Halifax railway station. Recent work includes the re-opening of the public toilets at the station, renewal of the station lighting and an improvement in the frequency of station cleaning.

Rail Franchises

11. **Mr. Leigh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to apply the lessons learnt from the termination of the Connex franchise to other franchises. [149838]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department has taken steps to implement the lessons learned from the termination of the Connex franchise. These include awarding franchises on the basis of a balanced assessment of costs and deliverability, more effective risk-based performance monitoring and detailed "operator of last resort" contingency plans.

First Great Western

12. **Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the performance of First Great Western in conducting the Great Western franchise. [149839]

Mr. Tom Harris: Joint action plans are in place between Network Rail and First Great Western to address performance issues. Additionally, First Great Western is implementing a 40-point recovery plan. These are monitored monthly.

In the year to 31 March 2007 First Great Western achieved an average punctuality of 83.2 per cent. across the franchise as a whole.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2007 to question 149369, on First Great Western, if she will publish her Department's monitoring results on punctuality, reliability and service quality for First Great Western for the last three months for which statistics are available. [150454]

Mr. Tom Harris: First Great Western service punctuality and reliability were as follows for the last three rail industry periods.

	Punctuality (percentage MAA)	*Reliability (all cancellations)*
Period 1	83.00	711
Period 2	82.84	600
Period 3	82.65	754

First Great Western is exceeding its service quality benchmark as stipulated in the franchise agreement.

Flooding: West Yorkshire

13. **Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made of the impact of the recent floods on the transport infrastructure in West Yorkshire. [149840]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government Office for Yorkshire and Humberside has been in contact with local authorities in West Yorkshire for an assessment of the impact on their networks of the recent floods.

Rail Passenger Numbers

14. **Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of likely levels of overcrowding on the railways over the next three years; and if she will make a statement. [149842]

Mr. Tom Harris: We will continue to increase capacity through the franchising process and in other ways.

The high level output specification, to be published this summer, will set out the additional rail capacity that the Government propose to buy to meet the recent and forecast growth in demand for rail travel.

Airport Security

16. **James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with the Home Secretary on adequacy of airport security since the recent events at Glasgow airport; and if she will make a statement. [149844]

Ruth Kelly: Department for Transport Ministers regularly meet with ministerial colleagues in the course of performing their ministerial duties. Information relating to private meetings, discussion and advice is not normally disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of discussion. There is regular discussion at official level between this Department and the Home Office regarding security issues of mutual interest.

A46

17. **Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make a statement on the future funding of highway improvements on the A46 between Newark and Widmerpool. [149845]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The East Midlands region has prioritised funding for the dualling of the A46 between Newark and Widmerpool from its indicative regional funding allocation for major transport schemes up to 2015-16.

Midland Mainline

18. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to ensure the maintenance of standards of the train service on Midland Mainline to and from Kettering during the remainder of the existing franchise period. [149846]

Mr. Tom Harris: The quality of service obligations contained in the Midland Mainline franchise agreement remain in force until the end of the current franchise and are closely monitored. Additionally, the franchise agreement contains provisions that come into force during the last 12 months of a franchise which ensure the franchisee continues to provide good service and maintain franchise standards and value for the government and the incoming franchisee.

London Underground PPP

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make a statement on the performance of the London Underground public-private partnership; and what recent assessment she has made of the financial implications for the public purse. [149843]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The public private partnership (PPP) has delivered new trains, refurbished stations and upgraded lines. But it is clear that performance between the two PPP companies has been variable with Metronet, to date, delivering less than was expected and at higher unit costs. It is now for London Underground, working in partnership with Metronet, to agree how to secure the delivery of contract outcomes for the funding committed.

A1: Gateshead

Mr. Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with local authorities in Tyne and Wear on the upgrading of the A1 through Gateshead and Newcastle. [149854]

Mr. Tom Harris: I have not yet had an opportunity to meet with the Tyne and Wear local authorities. But I do know that previous Ministers met with them, and that officials of the Highways Agency meet with both officials and members of Gateshead and Newcastle Councils to keep them informed of progress on this scheme.

Accidents: Compensation

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether provision has been made for the payment of compensation to a person injured in a road traffic accident in which the person causing the injury was incapacitated by automatism. [150094]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The statutory requirements to insure the use of a motor vehicle are as set out in part VI of the Road Traffic Act 1988. A person must not use a vehicle on the road unless there is in force in relation to the use of the vehicle by that person a valid policy of insurance in respect of third party risk, or a valid security.

A person injured in a road traffic accident is required under the law on civil liability to prove negligence on the part of the person they consider responsible if they are to succeed in a claim for compensation. Whether a person incapacitated by automatism can be held liable will depend on the circumstances of the case. This is ultimately a matter for the courts.

Bus Services: Gravesham

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding is planned to be made available for bus services in Gravesham in each year for which figures are available. [149308]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Public funding of bus services now totals £2.5 billion annually, through local authorities or direct to bus operators. There are no central projections of future spend in individual local authority areas.

Commuters: Motorcycles

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects statistics on motorcycle usage to be included in the Department for Transport's "Travel to Work" fact sheets; and if she will make a statement. [150449]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department's fact sheet "Travel to Work" does not contain statistics on motorcycle usage as this accounts only for a small proportion (approximately 1 per cent.) of trips to work. Personal travel fact sheets are published on an ad hoc basis and there are no current plans to update this fact sheet, the latest version of which was published on 12 July 2007.

East Coast Railway Line

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress she has made in ensuring that the new operator of the east coast line will provide a fast, efficient and safe service. [149837]

Mr. Tom Harris: The new Intercity east coast franchise is designed to achieve value for money while at the same time improving operational performance and providing capacity to meet future demand growth. We expect to be able to announce the winner of the franchise competition next month.

Motorcycles

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects her Department's travel fact sheet on motorcycling to be next updated; and if she will make a statement. [150496]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are no current plans to update the Personal travel facts heet on motorcycling. However, the 2007 edition of the Compendium of motorcycling statistics is due to be published in October 2007.

Railway Stations

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many new railway stations have been opened since privatisation; and how many are being constructed in England. [150246]

Mr. Tom Harris: These are operational matters for Network Rail, as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for a response to his question.

John Armitt
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London NW1 2EE

Railways: Deaths

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many accidental deaths there were on the First Great Western rail network *(a)* west of Swindon and Newbury and *(b)* on the London to Didcot line covered by the area commander for London north in each of the last three years; [149362]

(2) how many suicides there were on the First Great Western rail network London to Didcot line covered by the area commander for London north in each of the last three years. [149363]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is not held by the Department for Transport but by the British Transport Police who can be contacted at:

British Transport Police
25 Camden Road
London
NW1 9LN
Email: general.enquiries@btp.pnn.police.uk.

Railways: Security

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* installation and *(b)* running costs are of the vehicle access barriers at Victoria and Waterloo stations. [149579]

Mr. Tom Harris: The costs of the barrier trial at Victoria and Waterloo stations between June and September 2006 were as follows:

	£
Installation	85,042
Running costs	28,224
Total	113,266

The Corus barriers were supplied from an existing stock administered by the Association of Chief Police Officers.

Road Traffic

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make a statement on the extension of active traffic management and hard shoulder running following the experiment on the M42. [150123]

Mr. Tom Harris: An interim evaluation report on the performance of the M42 active traffic management pilot project is due to be published shortly. Initial results have been encouraging and the Highways Agency is continuing to review the network to identify other potential locations that might benefit from the introduction of ATM.

Road Traffic Control

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will list the locations in England where traffic on a primary route is reduced to single-file traffic controlled by traffic lights when crossing a narrow bridge or other bottleneck. [150112]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The design, installation and maintenance of traffic signals are matters for the relevant traffic or highway authorities. They are not required to notify the Department when installing them, and as such information on the numbers of signals is not held centrally.

Road Works

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to ensure that local authorities have more effective control over street works by utility companies. [149841]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government are implementing regulations under parts 3 and 4 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 to update the current system of managing road works by utilities, known as street works, and giving local highway authorities powers to implement proactive controls by allowing them to apply to run permit schemes.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate she has made of the cost of local road repairs identified as repaired; and whether the Government are on track to meet their target of completing such repairs by 2010. [148148]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The national road maintenance condition survey for 2005 showed that the 10-year plan interim target to halt carriageway deterioration by 2004 had been achieved. We have encouraged local authorities to produce asset management plans for local roads. As more of these become available we expect to gain a better understanding of the investment required to bring local road conditions up to the appropriate operational standards.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people were *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured as a result of road traffic accidents at the location of static speed cameras in (i) Southend and (ii) Essex police force area (A) before the introduction and (B) after the introduction of each speed camera in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [149352]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information is not held in the form requested. Fixed cameras operated by the Essex safety camera partnership under the national safety camera programme, which ended on 31 March 2007, reduced the number of fatal casualties at camera sites by an average of 43 per cent. per year, and reduced the number of people killed or seriously injured at camera sites by an average of 51 per cent. per year. This means around three lives were saved and 55 fewer people were killed or seriously injured each year. I have arranged for tables to be placed in the Libraries of the House regarding the performance of fixed speed cameras in Essex.

Transport: Costs

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the percentage change in real terms of the cost of travelling by *(a)* private car, *(b)* bus and *(c)* train since (i) 1977, (ii) 1987 and (iii) 1997. [150423]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table shows the percentage change in real terms of the cost of travelling by car, bus and train since 1977, 1987 and 1997 compared to 2006.

	(i) 1977-2006	*(ii) 1987-2006*	*(iii) 1997-2006*
(a) Private car	-10	-7	-10
(b) Bus	+55	+29	+13
(c) Train	+52	+28	+6

Source: Retail Price Index—Office for National Statistics.

Comparisons with average household disposable incomes are as follows: between 1977 and 2006, average household disposable income increased by 125 per cent.; between 1987 and 2006, average household disposable income increased by 70 per cent.; and between 1997 and 2006, average household disposable income increased by 25 per cent.

Transport: Tickets

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps the Government are taking to ensure a common scope for multi-modal ticketing projects; [148998]

(2) whether the integrated transport smartcard organisation specification for implementing a national multi-modal ticketing system is *(a)* permissive and *(b)* definitive specification; [148999]

(3) what steps the Government plan to take to develop a definitive national integrated transport smartcard organisation standard. [149000]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport sponsored development of the ITSO specifications for an interoperable smart card ticketing interface. These specifications, which were published in March 2004 and are Crown copyright, provide a common standard enabling schemes to operate with each other. Consumers can thus benefit from a more consistent interface to public transport and the ability to use one card across many different transport operators and schemes in the UK.

Local transport authorities in England are able to decide whether to introduce smart card technology on buses, trams and metro systems. The second edition of the Department for Transport's guidance on local transport plans stipulates that the eGIF standards, in which ITSO is a recommended standard, shall be used for smart card procurements.

The Department is currently consulting on the specifications for a national concessionary bus travel pass for older and disabled people in England. This includes an option to specify, in regulations, that the passes must be in smartcard format and be ITSO compliant. It is a requirement of all new rail franchises that a percentage of tickets sold must meet the ITSO specification.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Ascension Islands: Human Rights

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the United Nations Human Rights Commission on the status of those living on Ascension Island. [150071]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has had no discussions with the United Nations Human Rights Commission on the status of those working and living on Ascension Island. The human rights of those currently on Ascension Island are protected by various human rights instruments which have been extended to the island, including the European convention on human rights. Details of these instruments are available on the FCO website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1013618138395.

Ascension Islands: Pensions

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many state pensions were paid to people living on Ascension Island in each year since 1997. [149911]

Meg Munn: Ascension Island has no state pension scheme. The payment of pensions to individuals working and living on Ascension Island is a private matter for those individuals.

Ascension Islands: Politics and Government

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps have been taken to promote democracy since the Ascension Island council elections in May 2007. [149907]

Meg Munn: The election planned for May was not held, as two people only put themselves forward for election to the seven-member council, and that would have resulted in a non-quorate Island Council. During the temporary period of suspension of the Island Council (Ascension) Ordinance 2002, a number of areas of work are being developed to ensure the best prospect of continuation of the democratic process. This includes a programme of information and education on the benefits of a democratic structure of government for Ascension Island to help underline the importance for those working and living there of participating in the decision-making process. Public meetings to discuss issues of importance to the island are being offered and the first of these was hosted on Ascension Island on 28 May by the governor.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the terms of reference are of the Ascension Island advisory council; and if he will make a statement. [149908]

Meg Munn: The purpose of the advisory group is to advise the governor on policies and proposed legislation which impact on the lives of those working and living on Ascension Island. It has no formal executive or legislative power. The formation of the group is an interim measure designed to help ensure continuing good governance of Ascension during the temporary suspension of the Island Council (Ascension) Ordinance 2002.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with Ascension Island users on the future of the island; and if he will make a statement. [149910]

Meg Munn: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials in London last met with the employing organisations as a group on 15 January to discuss operational issues relating to Ascension Island. The governor, the administrator and London-based officials have frequent contact with employing organisations and other groups and individuals with an interest in Ascension Island. These meetings cover a

broad range of subjects, including operational and other issues of importance to those working and living on Ascension Island.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans are being drawn up to hold elections to the island council on Ascension Island in 2008. [150298]

Meg Munn: The governor and his advisers are using the period of the suspension of the Island Council (Ascension) Ordinance 2002 to inform and advise those eligible to vote on Ascension Island of the importance of re-establishing a fully democratic system at the earliest opportunity. The temporary suspension is expected to last for a period of up to 12 months following which the governor intends to be able to call an election. The Government's policy remains to work with the Ascension Island Government towards improving the working and living environment for those on Ascension Island within the current policy framework.

British Overseas Territories: Departmental Responsibilities

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Ministry of Justice on the transfer of responsibility for the overseas territories from his Department; and if he will make a statement. [149913]

Meg Munn: As the Minister responsible for the overseas territories, I can confirm that there has been no discussions with the Ministry of Justice on the transfer of lead responsibility for the overseas territories from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Other Government Departments continue to support the overseas territories in their areas of responsibility.

China: Animal Welfare

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Chinese authorities on the animal welfare implications of bear bile farming. [149283]

Meg Munn: The Government remain concerned about animal welfare issues in China, including bear bile farming. We continue to seek to raise our concerns with the Chinese authorities at every appropriate opportunity, including at senior level. Most recently, my hon. Friend the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Barry Gardiner) raised bear bile farming with Vice Minister Zhao Xuemin in July 2006. My right hon. Friend the then Minister for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs (Mr. McCartney) raised bear bile farming with Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Yesui, also in July 2006.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Human Rights

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo on the recent murder of the journalist Serge Maheshe to press for a transparent and credible investigation and eventual trial of the perpetrators. [150312]

Meg Munn: Together with European partners in Kinshasa, our ambassador in Kinshasa has publicly condemned Mr. Maheshe's murder. We made it clear to the Congolese Government that the international community was shocked by this incident and demanded that the perpetrators be brought to justice. The trial of Mr. Maheshe's alleged killers is now under way. We continue to monitor its progress.

The Government remain fully committed to the promotion and protection of human rights across the Democratic Republic of Congo. We will continue to press the Congolese authorities on the need to protect the rights of human rights defenders and call for judicial action to be brought against any perpetrators of human rights abuse.

EU Reform: Treaties

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what advice he has received on the legal status of the mandate agreed at the June European Council; and whether the Government are bound by that mandate. [147734]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* The Government received legal advice from Government lawyers on all aspects of the mandate for a reform treaty. The mandate is a political commitment by the Governments of member states.

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will *(a)* list and *(b)* place in the Library all legal documents agreed at the June European Council. [147735]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* No legal documents were agreed at the June European Council. The European Council conclusions and mandate for a reform treaty are political agreements by the Governments of member states. A copy has already been placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 July 2007 to the right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field), *Official Report*, columns 898-99W, on the European Union: treaties, on what date he expects the white paper to be presented. [148367]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government expect to publish a White Paper setting out their approach to the intergovernmental conference (IGC) on the proposed Reform treaty to coincide with the opening of the IGC.

European Council

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which individuals, other than the then Prime Minister, represented the United Kingdom at the heads of Government Council Meeting of the European Union of 21 and 22 June 2007. [149716]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary (Margaret Beckett) also represented the United Kingdom at the European Council.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the presidency conclusions of the European Council of 21 and 22 June 2007 (Doc. 11177/07) were agreed by all attending delegations; and when they were received by the Government. [149717]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The presidency conclusions of the European Council were agreed at the Council.

Conclusions for heads of Government to consider were presented by the presidency at the Council.

Iraq: Reconstruction

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on reconstruction in Iraq in each financial year since 2002-03. [148971]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's financial contribution to reconstruction in Iraq is made principally through the tri-departmental global conflict prevention pool and the peacekeeping pool, managed jointly with the Department for International Development and Ministry of Defence.

The spend upon Iraq from these pools since 2003 is as follows:

	£
2003-04	4,995,000
2004-05	28,625,000
2005-06	28,442,000
2006-07	40,947,000

We have also contributed to the NATO training mission in Iraq and to the EU Just Lex rule of law mission for Iraq.

NATO

	£
2004-05	173,000
2005-06	250,000

EU Just Lex

	£
2005-06	1,603,000
2006-07	2,277,000

The programmes that the FCO, DFID and MOD fund through the GCPP and the peacekeeping pool aim to build the capacity of the Iraqi Government, including support to the criminal justice system, civil society, human rights and the central Ministries in Baghdad. Spend is higher in 2006-07 than in other years, due to the implementation of a comprehensive programme of work in Basra to address governance, rule of law and security issues. MOD, DFID and FCO agreed to commit an extra £20 million over two years for Basra on top of existing funds.

The NTMI provides leadership training opportunities for the Iraqi security forces. EU Just Lex conducts out of country training for senior Iraqi police, members of the judiciary and penitentiary staff. It has trained over 1,000 officers since its inception in 2005.

Kosovo: Frontiers

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with Prime Minister Ceku of Kosovo on Kosovan claims to Novi, Pazar and Bujanovac in southern Serbia. [149434]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Kosovo Assembly, in its declaration of 5 April, committed to implementing in full the comprehensive settlement for Kosovo's status proposed by UN special envoy Martti Ahtisaari. The general principles of that settlement state that

> "Kosovo shall have no territorial claims against, and shall seek no union with, any state or part of any state".

In our contacts with Prime Minister Ceku, this issue has not been raised.

Kosovo: Religious Buildings

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department has on the number of mosques which have been built in Kosovo since 1991. [149435]

Mr. Jim Murphy: According to figures provided to officials by the head imam of the Kosovo Islamic Union, of the 218 mosques destroyed during the 1990s, 147 have been reconstructed. Twenty seven new mosques have also been built.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Saudi counterpart on Saudi Government funding for the construction of mosques in Kosovo. [149436]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed the issue of funding for the construction of mosques in Kosovo with his Saudi counterpart.

Lord Levy

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to public funds was of the reception held to mark the departure of Lord Levy; and what contribution to the total cost was made by Lord Levy. [150254]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the then Minister for Europe (Mr. Hoon) to the hon. Member for Angus (Mr. Weir) on 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 982W. The final cost was £6,000.

As my right hon. Friend the former Foreign Secretary (Margaret Beckett) was hosting the event, all costs were met by her entertainment budget. My noble Friend Lord Levy did not contribute towards the final cost.

Russia: EU Economic Policy

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has held with his Russian counterpart on plans to bring Russia into closer economic union with the European Union. [149037]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has held no discussions with his Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov, on bringing Russia into closer economic union with the EU. The UK supports opening talks on a new EU-Russia partnership agreement as soon as possible, which will intensify relations across a range of issues, including economic issues.

St Helena

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the new Governor of St. Helena will be *(a)* named and *(b)* in post. [149909]

Meg Munn: The announcement of the appointment of a new governor will be made when all the recruitment procedures have been completed satisfactorily and the appointment has been approved by Her Majesty The Queen and notified formally to the current governor and St. Helena executive council. I hope that this will be achieved in order to allow the new governor to take up their post before the end of 2007.

Uganda: Politics and Government

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the well-being of Forum for Democratic Change members *(a)* James Musinguzi Garuga, *(b)* Dr. Suleiman Kigundu and *(c)* Joseph Musasazi Kifefe; and if he will make a statement. [147840]

Meg Munn: We have not received any specific reports on the well-being of these individuals. However, we continue to raise our concerns about the detention of the alleged members of the People's Redemption Army (PRA) with the Government of Uganda. Most recently, our high commissioner in Kampala raised this with President Museveni on 10 May.

We are aware of reports that Mr. Kifefe has been granted bail due to serious illness, although we cannot confirm this. We will continue to make further representations to the government of Uganda calling for the court proceedings relating to the PRA suspects to be expedited in a fair and just manner.

TREASURY

Commuters: Tees Valley

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the number of people who travel to work each day by *(a)* public transport and *(b)* private transport within and to the sub-region of the Tees Valley. [149964]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 17 July 2007:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what recent estimate has been made of how many people travel to work each day by *(a)* public transport and *(b)* private transport within and to the sub-region of the Tees Valley. (149964)

The number of people using public transport to travel to work to and within the Tees Valley area was 26,557, while those using private transport total 185,515.

Figures are as at 2001 Census Day (29 April 2001) and are extracted from 2001 Census table T10—Theme table on resident, daytime and workplace population.

As "Tees Valley" is not a standard ONS geography, we have taken it to include the Unitary Authorities of:

Darlington

Hartlepool

Middlesbrough

Redcar and Cleveland and

Stockton-on-Tees

The public transport category includes: underground, metro, light rail, tram, train, bus, minibus, coach, taxi or minicab. Private transport includes: car or van driver, passenger in car or van, motorcycle, scooter or moped and bicycle

820 people gave their mode of travel to work as "Other"—this might include, for example, ferry, aeroplane etc.

Delivery Unit

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the forward programme of work is of the Prime Minister's delivery unit. [149228]

Andy Burnham: As set out in the written ministerial statement on machinery of government changes of 28 June 2007, the Prime Minister's delivery unit will continue to work on the critical priorities and actions needed to strengthen delivery across Government, and on the reform of key public services, reporting to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Employment: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Ribble Valley constituency were recorded as being in full-time employment in the financial year ended March *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. [150260]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 17 July 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how many people in Ribble Valley constituency were recorded as being in full-time employment in the financial year ended March *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. (150260)

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

There were 38,000 people, aged 16 and over, in full-time employment, resident in the Ribble Valley constituency, for the 12 months ending February 1997, from the local area LFS. There

were 34,000 people, aged 16 and over, in full-time employment, resident in the Ribble Valley constituency, for the 12 months ending December 2006, from the latest available data from the APS.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. In this case, the sample sizes are not sufficient to give an accurate estimate of even the direction of the change over the period.

Personal Income

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of total UK *(a)* income and *(b)* wealth was held by (i) each quintile of the income distribution, (ii) the top 10 per cent., (iii) the top 5 per cent., (iv) the top 1 per cent. and (v) the top 0.1 per cent.; how many persons were in each category; what the lowest level of income and wealth was in each category; and what the levels and percentages were in (A) 1979, (B) 1990, (C) 1997, (D) 2002 and (E) 2007. [149811]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 17 July 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what percentage of total UK (a) income and (b) wealth was held by (i) each quintile of the income distribution, (ii) the top 10 per cent., (iii) the top five per cent., (iv) the top one per cent, and (v) the top 0.1 per cent.; how many persons were in each category; what the lowest level of income and wealth was in each category; and what the levels and percentages were in (A) 1979, (B) 1990, (C) 1997, (D) 2002 and (E) 2007. (149811).

Income

Statistics on household and personal incomes are available from both household surveys and tax records.

The ONS publishes an annual article on 'The effects of taxes and benefits on household income' which is based on data collected in the Expenditure and Food Survey (EPS). The EPS uses an annual sample of approximately 7,000 households in the UK, and provides a comprehensive measurement of all sources of income for private households in the UK. The results are presented for households rather than individuals, and the individuals within each household are assumed to benefit equally from the household's income. While these survey based results provide an accurate picture of the broad distribution of income, because of the relatively small sample size, it is not possible to produce reliable statistics for households at the extremes of the distribution, particularly the top (or bottom) 1 per cent and top (or bottom) 0.1 per cent of households.

Tax records do provide more reliable statistics about the top end of the income distribution. HM Revenue and Custom's Survey of Personal Incomes (SPI) is based on a large sample of tax records and provides a measure of annual income for taxpayers. The survey excludes almost two fifths of adults in the UK who have no income tax liability, and measures individual rather than household income. However, it does provide very good coverage of the top end of the income distribution, since all individuals at the top of the income distribution should be taxpayers.

For these reasons, estimates of income have been provided from both of these sources.

Results for quintile groups and for the top ten per cent have been provided from the ONS's taxes and benefits article (Table 1), while results for the top 5 per cent, top 1 per cent, and top 0.1 per cent have been provided from HMRC's Survey of Personal Incomes (Table 2).

However it should be emphasised that the results from these two sources are not directly comparable because of important differences in concept and coverage. The ONS figures are based on household incomes, and are based on a ranking of households, so in this case the top decile, is the top 10 per cent of households, ranked by household income. The HMRC figures on the other hand, show individual incomes and are based on a ranking of individuals. Furthermore, the ONS's estimates are based on a sample of all private households in the UK, whereas the HMRC figures are only representative of taxpayers. So in this case, the top 1 per cent, is the top 1 per cent of individuals, based on a ranking of taxpayers only.

Table 1 shows the percentage share of total equivalised disposable household income for quintile groups and for the top decile. Also shown are the lower bounds (the percentile points) for these groups (in £ per year), and the number of households per quantile group.

The income quantile groups are determined by ranking households according to their equivalised disposable income. Equivalised incomes are standardised to take into account different sizes and compositions of households. The standard household is deemed to be a two adult household with no children, and so these equivalised incomes can be interpreted as indicating a standard of living that would be achieved by a standard household with that income. Disposable income is gross income from all sources less income tax, national insurance contributions and council tax.

Table 2 shows the percentage share of total income for the top 5 per cent, top 1 per cent, and top 0.1 per cent of individual taxpayers. The figures are shown both before and after deduction of income tax (but without national insurance contributions or council tax deducted), although the ranking of individuals is based on income before tax. Again, percentile points and the number of individuals in each of these groups are also shown.

Both sets of estimates provided here are subject to sampling variation, although the HMRC estimates are based on a very large sample of administrative records (520,000 in 2004/05) and are therefore less subject to sampling variation. For this reason, the income shares in Table 2 are shown to an extra decimal place, while those in Table 1 are rounded to the nearest 1 per cent.

Estimates have been provided for the years closest to those requested, although particularly for 1979, not all estimates are available. The earlier years which are shown in Table 1 are calendar years rather than financial years.

Wealth

Information on the percentage of UK wealth held by those in different income ranges is not available. Although HMRC do produce wealth distribution statistics, the data which underpins these statistics includes no information on income and cannot be combined with other data sources to provide a suitable basis for analysing the relationship between wealth and income. Wealth distribution statistics are published at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal_wealth/menu.htm

The ONS has recently introduced a Household Assets Survey which will measure both income and wealth for UK households. Initial results from the Household Assets Survey are due to be published at the end of this year.

Table 1: percentage shares of total equivalised disposable household income[1,2] by quantile group for all households[3]; and quantile boundaries

	1979	*1990*	*1997-98*	*2002-03*	*2005-06*
Quantile shares (Percentage)					
By quintile group					
Bottom	9	7	8	8	8
2nd	13	11	12	12	12
3rd	18	16	16	17	16
4th	23	23	23	23	22
Top	36	43	42	41	41
Top decile	n/a	28	26	26	26
All households	100	100	100	100	100

Table 1: percentage shares of total equivalised disposable household income[1,2] by quantile group for all households[3]: and quantile boundaries

	1979	1990	1997-98	2002-03	2005-06
Lower percentile points for quantile groups (£ per year)					
By quintile group					
2nd	n/a	5,629	8,504	11,196	12,835
3rd	n/a	8,248	11,922	15,516	17,231
4th	n/a	11,894	16,342	20,860	23,204
Top	n/a	17,152	23,457	29,575	32,335
Top decile	n/a	22,672	30,451	38,275	42,827
Number of households per quantile (Thousand)					
By quintile group					
Bottom	n/a	n/a	4,909	4,868	4,956
2nd	n/a	n/a	4,938	4,870	4,961
3rd	n/a	n/a	4,909	4,869	4,961
4th	n/a	n/a	4,911	4,869	4,961
Top	n/a	n/a	4,908	4,870	4,960
Top decile	n/a	n/a	2,453	2,437	2,482
All households	n/a	n/a	24,556	24,346	24,799

n/a = Not available
[1] Disposable income is equal to gross income from all sources less income tax, national insurance contributions, and council tax.
[2] From 1990 this includes company car benefit and beneficial house purchase loans from employers.
[3] Ranked by equivalised disposable household income.
Source:
ONS, Expenditure and Food Survey

Table 2: percentage shares of total income for the top 5 per cent., top 1 per cent., and top 0.1 per cent. of individual taxpayers[1]: and percentile points

	1979-80	1990-91	1997-98	2002-03	2004-05
Percentage shares of total income (Before tax)					
Top 5 per cent.	n/a	19.4	22.4	23.3	23.8
Top 1 per cent.	n/a	8.0	10.5	10.8	11.3
Top 0.1 per cent.	n/a	2.2	3.7	3.7	4.0
Percentage shares of total income (After tax)[2]					
Top 5 per cent.	n/a	17.0	20.0	19.7	20.3
Top 1 per cent.	n/a	6.5	8.7	8.6	9.1
Top 0.1 per cent.	n/a	1.8	3.0	2.9	3.1
Percentile points (Income before tax, £ per year)					
Top 5 per cent	n/a	30,100	39,000	49,800	52,400
Top 1 per cent.	n/a	57,200	83,700	108,000	117,000
Top 0.1 per cent.	n/a	174,000	281,000	385,000	418,000
Number of individuals per group (Thousand)					
Top 5 per cent.	n/a	1,305	1,310	1,445	1,515
Top 1 per cent.	n/a	261	262	289	303
Top 0.1 per cent.	n/a	26	26	30	30

n/a = Not available
[1] Ranked by income before tax.
[2] After tax income is equal to gross income less income tax (but national insurance contributions and council tax are not deducted).
Source:
HMRC, Survey of Personal Incomes

Revenue and Customs: Location

Mr. Paul Murphy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what account is taken of economic development issues when considering proposals to move HM Revenue and Customs jobs away from objective 1 areas. [150230]

Jane Kennedy: Economic development issues are among a number of factors that will be taken into account in the impact assessments conducted before final decisions are made to close any HM Revenue and Customs office and relocate jobs elsewhere.

Social Security Benefits

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of children live in households where the household income is entirely dependent on benefits. [150055]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 17 July 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of children live in households where the household income is entirely dependent on benefits. (150055).

Statistics on the receipt of benefits are published in the article "The effects of taxes and benefits on household income". The latest article, for the year 2005-06, was published on the National Statistics website on 17 May 2007 at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/taxesbenefits. This annual analysis is based on data from the Expenditure and Food Survey, which is an annual survey of approximately 7,000 households in the UK.

Based on the same survey results used to produce the annual taxes and benefits article, it has been estimated that 11 per cent. of children in the UK live in households where the household income is entirely dependent on benefits.

Stamp Duties: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average amount of stamp duty paid on housing transactions in the London borough of Bexley was in *(a)* 1997-98 and *(b)* 2006-07. [149452]

Kitty Ussher: Reliable information is not available for 1997-98. Estimates of stamp duty land tax on housing transactions, and numbers of transactions, for each local authority will be published in September for 2006-07.

Sustainable Development

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will adopt the development of infrastructure in the Government's sustainable development areas as a particular cross-departmental priority issue for driving forward from the centre; and if he will make a statement. [149822]

Angela Eagle: The Government are committed to ensuring that housing growth is accompanied by the social, transport and environmental infrastructure needed to support development, and as such has been conducting a policy review into supporting housing

growth. Further announcements will be made in the forthcoming housing Green Paper and the comprehensive spending review.

Taxation: Domicile

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the change has been in the number of non-domicile tax claimants in the last 12 months; [150074]

(2) how many investigations there have been into claimants of non-domicile status in the last five years; and whether any investigations resulted in claimants being *(a)* fined and *(b)* imprisoned for wrongfully claiming non-domicile status. [150075]

Jane Kennedy: In 2004-05 the number of non-domicile tax claimants was 112,000. This is the latest year for which this information is available.

No information is available on the number of investigations undertaken. In certain cases, where it has been determined that non-domicile status is incorrect, individuals have incurred a penalty as well as any tax due: there is no record of any individual having been imprisoned as a result.

Teenage Pregnancy: North East Region

Mr. Henderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the rate of teenage pregnancies was in *(a)* the Newcastle upon Tyne city authority and *(b)* neighbouring local authorities in the North East region in the last five years. [149849]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 17 July 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the rate of teenage pregnancies has been in (a) the Newcastle upon Tyne city authority and (b) neighbouring local authorities in the North East region in the last five years. (149849)

ONS does not routinely publish teenage conception figures for girls aged under 20 by local authority areas. Figures are however published for conceptions for girls aged under 18 at local authority level. Figures for Newcastle upon Tyne and neighbouring local authorities are shown in the attached table and these are estimates of the number of conceptions that resulted in a live birth, stillbirth or legal termination. Figures for 2005 are provisional.

Under 18 conceptions: number and rate for Newcastle upon Tyne and neighbouring local authorities in the Tyne and Wear metropolitan county, 2001-05[1]

	2001		2002		2003		2004		2005[1]	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Tyne and Wear	1,072	52	1,128	54	1,176	56	1,088	52	1,042	50
Gateshead	152	42	158	44	175	49	159	45	161	44
Newcastle upon Tyne	267	58	283	60	268	55	283	58	254	52
North Tyneside	190	53	198	55	189	52	187	51	172	47
South Tyneside	168	54	169	52	180	55	165	52	147	48
Sunderland	295	51	320	55	364	63	294	52	308	55

[1] Figures for 2005 are provisional.

Tobacco: Counterfeit Manufacturing

Mr. Breed: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many tobacco companies employ an anti-counterfeit solution of the kind set out in the voluntary agreement with the tobacco industry as announced in the 2007 Budget; [150426]

(2) what success criteria and targets have been agreed with the tobacco industry for industry performance against the voluntary agreement to introduce a covert anti-counterfeit mark to all UK tobacco products as announced in the 2007 Budget; [150425]

(3) when he expects his Department to review the voluntary agreement made with the tobacco industry on introducing a covert anti-counterfeit mark to all UK tobacco products as announced in the 2007 Budget. [150424]

Angela Eagle: The four largest tobacco manufacturers representing over 97 per cent. of the UK cigarette market intend to introduce the anti-counterfeit security technology.

The voluntary agreement with the tobacco industry will enable enforcement officials to identify counterfeit product quickly and easily.

Time scales for the introduction of the technology have been agreed with the tobacco manufacturers. All cigarette packs intended for the UK duty paid market manufactured from October 2007 will incorporate the technology, and all packs of hand-rolling tobacco manufactured from October 2008, at the latest, will also incorporate the technology.

The results of enforcement activity will be continually monitored by HMRC, to inform understanding of the threat posed by counterfeit penetration in the retail sector, and HMRC will also continue to examine technologies that could help to counter the trade in illicit tobacco products.

Unemployment: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Ribble Valley constituency were not in education, employment or training in the financial year ended March *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. [150261]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 17 July 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people in Ribble Valley constituency were not in education, employment or training in the financial year ended March *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. (150261)

There were 7,000 people of working age, resident in the Ribble Valley constituency, who were not in full-time education, employment or training, for the 12 months ending February 1997, from the annual local area Labour Force Survey. The corresponding figure from the latest Annual Population Survey, for the 12 months ending in December 2006, was 8,000.

Estimates for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, are based on very small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. In this case, the sample sizes are not sufficient to give an accurate estimate of even the direction of the change over the period.

Welfare Tax Credits: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Ribble Valley constituency received tax credits in each of the last five years. [150262]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for West Lancashire (Rosie Cooper) on 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1502W.

Young People: Gravesham

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many 16 to 18-year-olds were not in education, employment or training in Gravesham in *(a)* May 1997 and *(b)* May 2007. [150281]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 17 July 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many 16 to 18 year olds were not in education, employment or training in Gravesham in (a) May 1997 and (b) May 2007. (150281)

The sample sizes, from the annual local area Labour Force Survey for the 12 months ending February 1997, and from the latest Annual Population Survey for the 12 months ending in December 2006, are too small to provide estimates of the numbers of 16 to 18 year olds not in full-time education, employment or training, resident in the Gravesham constituency.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the minimum cage size is for a seven-year-old single rhesus macaque for use in scientific procedures for laboratory experimentation purposes; and for how many hours per day that minimum space is permissible; [149971]

(2) when she expects to announce a revision to the codes of practice to ensure that British laboratories are compliant with the new standards outlined in article 5 (guidelines for accommodation and care of animals) of the European convention for the protection of vertebrate animals used for experiment and other scientific purposes (ETS No. 123); and if she will make a statement; [149972]

(3) whether there are rules governing *(a)* space requirements and *(b)* use of restraints for animals during animal experimentation. [150085]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* The weight of a seven-year-old rhesus macaque would typically be between 6 and 9kg. For an animal of that weight the Home Office code of practice for the housing and care of animals used in scientific procedures specifies an enclosure with a minimum floor area of 14,000 sq cm and with a height of at least 1.5 metres, if singly housed, and per animal if housed, as is usual, in groups. These minima are often exceeded in practice, particularly if animals have to be singly housed, or if they weigh more than 9kg, for which animals the code of practice gives no specific provision. The code of practice does not specify the time for which access to additional space must be provided. However the majority of primates are kept in grouped housing or, if they have to be singly housed, are allowed access to larger exercise enclosures during the working day.

We aim to publish a revised code of practice to take account of the guidelines set out in the revised appendix A to the Council of Europe convention for the protection of vertebrate animals used for experiment and other scientific purposes (ETS 123) in 2008, after the requirements for consultation and parliamentary scrutiny have been met.

The United Kingdom Government played an active part in producing the revised Council of Europe guidelines and began the process of ensuring their adoption in the United Kingdom well before they were finally agreed in June 2006. Implementation of the guidelines is not dependent on the publication of a revised UK code of practice and is being achieved more quickly and more effectively through the day to day contact between our inspectors and the scientific community.

All animals used in procedures licensed under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 must be housed in accordance within the cage and pen dimensions in the Home Office code of practice for the housing of animals in designated breeding and supplying establishments. Any form of restraint applied for an experimental or other scientific purpose that may cause pain suffering distress or lasting harm may be applied only as part of a programme of work specified in a project licence issued under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. There must be adequate scientific justification for the use of restraint, it must be the least degree of restraint necessary to achieve the scientific objectives and it must be applied for the shortest period of time to achieve those objectives.

Animal Experiments: Laboratories

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many laboratories there were in England and Wales which undertook experimentation on animals in each of the last four years; [149322]

(2) how many inspectors were employed in England and Wales to monitor experimentation on animals in laboratories in each of the last four years. [149323]

Meg Hillier: The operation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 is a reserved matter and the Home Office implements the legislation throughout England, Scotland and Wales.

The total number of places in England and Wales designated as user, breeding and/or supplying establishments under the 1986 Act at 31 December in each of the last four years was:

	Number
2006	178
2005	183
2004	193
2003	197

Under the 1986 Act, the animals scientific procedures inspectorate is a national body with responsibilities throughout England, Scotland and Wales, and no inspectors are appointed solely with respect to the operation of the legislation in England and Wales. However, we estimate that the number of inspectors whose working time was devoted to establishments in England and Wales in each of the last four years was:

	Number
2001	22.75
2005	22.75
2004	24.75
2003	22.25

Detailed information about the work of the inspectorate is provided in the ASPI annual reports for 2004 and 2005, copies of which are in the House Library. These annual reports explain what the inspectors do and how they do it, and provide details of the inspectorate's staffing and structure, ways of working, professional background and skills, and training and development.

Asylum

David Heyes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1221W, on asylum, and the correspondence received by the hon. Member for Ashton under Lyne from the Border and Immigration Agency, how many cases there are of applicants in the category referred to in that correspondence as receiving support and may be given some form of leave to remain; and how many such applications were submitted in each of the last five years. [149071]

Mr. Byrne: Lin Homer, the chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency, wrote to the chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee on 19 February 2007 about the legacy programme. She explained that once reports can be produced on the programme in which Parliament and the wider public can have suitable confidence, Parliament will be updated accordingly. A copy of this letter has been placed in the Library of the House.

Border and Immigration Agency

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1182W, to the hon. Member for Wells (Mr. Heathcoat-Amory) on the Border and Immigration Agency, what steps the Government have taken in respect of the Ramzy case; and when she expects it to be resolved. [149553]

Mr. Byrne: The Government, together with the governments of Lithuania, Portugal and Slovakia, submitted written observations to the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Ramzy *v.* the Netherlands in November 2005. The observations were the same as those submitted in two other cases which raise similar issues, A *v.* the Netherlands and Nassim Saadi *v.* Italy.

The Grand Chamber held an oral hearing in the case of Nassim Saadi *v.* Italy on 11 July 2007, and the UK made an oral submission to the court. The court has given no indication about when it will give judgment in this case or how it proposes to deal with the other two cases.

Children: Protection

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what safeguards are in place to prevent known paedophiles from opening a children's agency specialising in theatre, television and modelling; and if she will make a statement. [148729]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Gentleman to my previous answer on 11 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1546W.

The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, which will be implemented from Autumn 2008, provides the legislative framework to help prevent unsuitable people from working with children. The Act applies where an individual is undertaking regulated activity, which includes teaching, training, supervising, caring for or offering advice, guidance or instruction to children where it is done frequently or intensively (overnight or on more than two days in a 30-day period). Operating a children's agency would also be included. An individual who is barred under the new scheme will commit an offence if they seek to engage in this activity and an employer will commit an offence if they seek to use such a person.

In addition, those running agencies are required to meet the provisions of the Employment Agencies Act 1973 and associated regulations, which are designed to protect those using the work-finding services they provide.

The regulations provide that agencies which supply individuals to work with or alongside vulnerable persons, including children, must carry out strict checks regarding those individuals which include taking up of independent references. Where agencies supply workers to work with children, these checks would include a Criminal Records Bureau check.

Closed Circuit Television: Garages and Petrol Stations

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with petrol companies on use of CCTV images from petrol station forecourts to assist in the detection of vehicle crime. [149451]

Mr. Coaker: None. The use of CCTV images from petrol station forecourts to assist in the detection of vehicle crime is a matter for agreement between individual police forces and petrol companies as part of locally developed crime reduction strategies.

Departments: Early Retirement

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of her staff took early retirement in the last five years; at what cost; what grades of staff took early retirement; and what percentage of each grade took early retirement. [148811]

Mr. Byrne: There are a number of areas in the Home Office that have run early retirement schemes. Details of staff numbers in each scheme, the grades of staff who took early retirement and the percentage of each grade that took early retirement are not centrally available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Overall cost figures are available and published in the Home Office consolidated resource accounts. The following table shows the provisions made each year for the full costs of new cases of early departures, since 2002-03.

Final figures for 2006-07 will be published in the Home Office resource accounts, expected in September 2007.

	Total (£000)[1]
2002-03	16,135
2003-04	9,774
2004-05	52,707
2005-06	22,369

[1] Includes totals for the core department, agencies and the 42 local probation boards but not the NDPBs.

Departments: Pay

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many former employees of her Department are being paid their original salaries after their employment has ended. [149476]

Mr. Byrne: Overpayment information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The Home Office does not knowingly pay salaries to staff who have left the Department. Overpayments do occur from time to time, sometimes as a consequence of payments being made to staff who have left the Department, but efforts are always made to recover them.

Immigration

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were granted leave to remain in the UK through the long-residence concession in each of the last 10 years. [147781]

Jacqui Smith: The latest available statistics on grants of settlement on the basis of long residence for 1996 to 2005 are provided in the following table.

Grants of settlement by selected category of grant, excluding EEA nationals and Switzerland—United Kingdom, 1996-2005

Category of grant	*Number of persons* *Long residency*[1,2]
1996	2,300
1997	1,700
1998	1,900
1999	1,400
2000	3,700
2001	2,255
2002[3]	5,290
2003[4]	9,205
2004[5]	3,005
2005	2,925

[1] Includes persons granted settlement following application under the regularisation scheme for overstayers.
[2] Excludes dependants.
[3] Swiss nationals are excluded from 1 June 2002.
[4] Data from 2003 also exclude dependants of EEA and Swiss nationals in confirmed relationships granted permanent residence.
[5] Includes nationals of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia before 1 May 2004, but excludes them from this date.
Note: Figures for 2001-05 have been rounded to the nearest five. Figures for 2000 and earlier have been rounded to two significant digits.

Imports: Primates

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she *(a)* has renewed and *(b)* intends to renew the approval of Nafovanny in Vietnam to import non-human primates to the UK. [149503]

Meg Hillier: The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate visited the Nafovanny centre during April 2007. The present position is that their current period of acceptance has been extended from 31 May 2007 to 31 August 2007 pending consideration of the breeding centre's application to retain acceptance for a further two-year period.

Members: Correspondence

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department will reply to the letters of 24 May and 5 June 2007 from the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood on behalf of Nazia Saghir (Home Office ref: S1359575/2). [148637]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 12 July 2007.

Pornography: Children

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers and civilian personnel work in countering computer-based child pornography in each police force in England and Wales. [150326]

Mr. Coaker: Information on how many police officers and civilian personnel work in countering computer-based images of child abuse is not collected centrally. The Home Office does not use the term child pornography.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many detainees at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre received compensation as a result of civil claims in each of the last three years; and if she will give details of each claim. [148929]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

JUSTICE

Coroners: Armed Forces

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent progress has been made in concluding inquests for personnel killed on operational duty overseas since 2003. [149465]

Bridget Prentice: I would refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement made on 20 June that gives details of the progress with these inquests. Since 20 June a further eight military inquests and one inquest of a civilian whose body was repatriated via RAF Brize Norton have been held.

Data Protection

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the implications of data mashup for data protection. [149440]

Mr. Wills: Data mashing is a term used for taking and combining data from different sources to create new and often innovative services. This is most commonly done with published structured data made available on the world wide web via application programming interfaces, using data and services from providers such as Google, Yahoo and Amazon. Data mashing is the process, the mashup is the product.

In the United Kingdom, all forms of processing personal data are regulated by the Data Protection Act 1998. Although the Act does not refer specifically to data mashing or mashup, its provisions will apply where a website operator in the UK takes legitimate public sources of information about individuals and then publishes a combined version of that information on the internet. In particular the first principle requiring the processing to be fair and lawful will apply.

Departments: Public Transport

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what incentives he has considered to encourage staff in his Department to use public transport. [148800]

Maria Eagle: For business journeys, the Ministry of Justice encourages staff to use public transport where practicable. Staff policy for travel and subsistence requires that staff restrict the use of pool cars or private motor vehicles to journeys that cannot be readily made by public transport.

Further assistance and encouragement is provided by the offer of interest-free loans for the purchase of season tickets for travel to work by public transport and for bicycles (including safety equipment) which are available to all employees that have at least two months service. These advances are repayable in equal monthly instalments within the life of the ticket or over a maximum of 12 months for the purchase of the bicycle. The Ministry also offers;

- reimbursement of a young persons railcard for employees under the age of 24.
- reimbursement of standard public transport fares for new entrants under the age of 21 taking up an initial appointment who have to live away from home because of their workplace.
- three free journeys by public transport to the parental home each year for single employees under 21, who are appointed or transferred from a post where they lived with their parents to a post beyond reasonable travelling distance and who live in lodgings.

In addition, all prisons in England and Wales have travel plans. Each plan covers issues such as staff travel to and from work, car parking on site, car sharing, the use of fleet vehicles and official travelling by staff. While the format of the plans was standardised, the actual plans reflected the different circumstances at each site. Local authorities are now placing increasing emphasis on reducing travel impacts and ask to see copies of prisons' travel plans when considering planning applications for new houseblocks or other major work at existing prisons.

The main London headquarters buildings of the National Offender Management Service and the prison service also have a travel plan. This covers staff travel to work, visitors to Headquarters buildings and delivery and contractors' vehicles and aims to ensure that staff use, wherever, possible, environmentally friendly methods of travelling to work in order to minimise the impact of their travelling arrangements on the environment.

Domestic Violence: Victim Support Schemes

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what training and guidance will be provided for the courts and other organisations on section 1 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. [149425]

Bridget Prentice: Section 1 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 was implemented on 1 July 2007. This inserts a new section 42A into the Family Law Act 1996 that makes the breach of a family non-molestation order a criminal offence punishable by up to five years' imprisonment. Comprehensive training and guidance has been given to court staff and the judiciary. My Department worked with the police, CPS and other agencies preparing training and guidance tailored to their procedures and requirements. Ministry of Justice officials also have spoken at domestic violence events and conferences. My Department has also updated our guidance for court

users "Domestic Violence—A Guide to Civil Remedies and Criminal Sanctions" which outlines the range of options available to victims of domestic violence. This is now available in English, Welsh and eight other languages.

Employment Tribunals Service: Compensation

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what advice has been given to the chairmen of employment tribunals on *(a)* the awarding of costs and *(b)* the calculation of costs to be awarded to the successful party; and if he will make a statement. [149963]

Bridget Prentice: The Employment Tribunals (Constitution and Rules of Procedures) Regulations 2004 provide a power for employment tribunal chairmen to order the payment in respect of the costs incurred by another party in bringing or defending an employment tribunal claim. They currently limit any award to a maximum of 10,000.

No guidance has been given by the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice to employment tribunal chairmen on when to award costs or on how any cost awards should be calculated.

Employment tribunal chairmen are independent members of the judiciary and it would not be appropriate for Ministers to give guidance on when they should use these powers or on the level of award made.

Family Courts: Fees and Charges

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the introduction of fixed fees for family work on the number of family cases represented in financial year 2007-08. [149748]

Maria Eagle: The final family fee schemes, published on 22 June by the Legal Services Commission, and due to be implemented on 1 October, were accompanied by a full regulatory impact assessment. No cuts are being made to family legal aid as a result of the introduction of new fee schemes, and the LSC is not expecting a drop in the number of clients helped in 2007-08, or in future years, as a result of the new fee schemes.

Nearly 800,000 people were helped with civil and family legal help (excluding asylum and immigration) in 2006-07, compared with 595,000 in 2004-05, and the LSC aims to increase this by a further 50,000 in 2007-08.

Judiciary: Public Appointments

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with the Bar Council on increasing the number of judicial appointments from people with state educational backgrounds. [149482]

Mr. Straw: None yet, but Ministers and I hope to meet the Bar Council in due course. The Judicial Appointments Commission, a non-departmental public body, has, since its launch in April 2006, responsibility for the selection of judges for appointment to courts and tribunals. One of its statutory duties is to encourage diversity in the range of persons available for selection for appointment. In line with this obligation, the commission has had discussions with the Bar Council about how best to attract greater numbers of eligible candidates from under represented groups generally.

Promoting judicial service, widening the range of people eligible for judicial office and encouraging a broader range of applicants all form part of the judicial diversity strategy, for which the Ministry of Justice, Judicial Appointments Commission and judiciary are jointly responsible.

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress he is making on reaching deportation agreements with the top five countries with the most nationals in British prisons. [149922]

Maria Eagle: Jamaica, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, and Iraq represent the top five countries in terms of the number of their nationals held in prison here with which the United Kingdom does not yet have a prisoner transfer agreement in place.

A limited prisoner transfer agreement between the United Kingdom and Jamaica was signed on 26 June 2007. It will not come into force until both countries have completed their respective domestic constitutional procedures. Negotiations with Nigeria are ongoing. We are pressing the Nigerians authorities to conclude the negotiations as quickly as possible. An agreement with Pakistan has been concluded and will be signed shortly. The agreement is subject to ratification and will not come into effect until both countries have completed their domestic ratification procedures. Because of the domestic situation in both Somalia and Iraq no negotiations on a prisoner transfer agreement are likely in the near future.

Prisoners Release

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have been released early from prisons in each month since January 2007; and if he will make a statement. [149550]

Mr. Hanson: Figures showing the numbers of releases under the home detention curfew scheme and on parole in the period January to June 2007 can be found in the following table:

Releases between January and June 2007 on home detention curfew and parole

	Home detention curfew	*Parole*
January	947	209
February	917	199
March	981	209
April	900	203
May	997	203
June	980	[1]

[1] Data not yet available

Additionally, there were 1,701 releases between 29 June 2007 and 5 July, under the end of custody licence scheme.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners released early from HM prisons have been recalled; and if he will make a statement. [149555]

Mr. Hanson: As at 5 July, the Ministry of Justice had been notified of 30 out of 1,701 offenders (1.76 per cent.) released under the end of custody licence as having been subsequently recalled to custody from that licence.

Information on end of custody licence, including recalls, will be placed in the Library on a monthly basis.

Prisoners' Release

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the impact of the prisoner early release programme upon *(a)* the ability of the prison service to meet individual prisoner's resettlement needs, *(b)* prisoner rehabilitation, *(c)* recidivism and *(d)* the ability of the probation service to meet the needs of individuals. [149792]

Mr. Hanson: Prisoners released on the end of custody licence are subject to normal sentence planning and resettlement activities, including offending behaviour programmes and interventions, undertaken by offenders across the prison estate from the start of sentence. On release, they are eligible to receive subsistence payments and housing costs to meet essential needs in lieu of benefits during the licence period.

Release on an ECL allows prisoners to start the process of looking for gainful employment, to undertake training and provides an opportunity to re-establish links with family and the local community.

The ECL will be monitored closely. Information on it, including prisoners notified to the National Offender Management Service as having re-offended during the period on ECL, will be placed in the Library on a monthly basis. Additional funding has been made available to probation services for ECL and the level of resources needed will be kept under review.

Prisoners: Ambulance Services

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have been transported to hospital from *(a)* all prisons and *(b)* high security prisons in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [150259]

Maria Eagle: Transport of prisoners to hospital from all prison, including high security prisons, are arranged by establishments and records of such moves and costs are not held centrally and could be collated from each establishment only at disproportionate cost.

Prisoners: Females

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to build local secure units for female prisoners as proposed in the Corston review. [150141]

Mr. Hanson: The Government have given a broad welcome to the report. The 43 recommendations which it makes are wide-ranging and propose action by a number of different Government Departments and organisations. We are carefully exploring the recommendations with all the Departments and agencies concerned and will develop a detailed response by late autumn.

Prisoners: Sentencing

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners are on indeterminate sentences for public protection with tariffs of *(a)* less than three years, *(b)* between three and five years, *(c)* between five and 10 years and *(d)* more than 10 years. [150497]

Mr. Hanson: Figures relating to the lengths of tariffs on prisoners serving indeterminate sentences in all prison establishments in England and Wales as at the end of March 2006 can be found in the following table:

Number of IPPs by length of tariff

Months	*Total*
1-18	147
19-36	326
37-48	107
49-60	46
61-120	53
121+	4
Not recorded	24
Total	706

This table is taken from table 11.2 in the offender management caseload statistics 2005, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to review the operation of indeterminate sentences for public protection; and if he will make a statement. [150499]

Mr. Hanson: The Government keep all sentencing policy under constant review.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners on indeterminate sentences for public protection have been released after serving more than their minimum tariff; and in how many of those cases the assessment of their danger to the public was carried out *(a)* before and *(b)* after completion of their minimum tariff; [150502]

(2) how many prisoners on indeterminate sentences for public protection have been released since 2004; and how many had served *(a)* less than one year, *(b)* between one and two years, *(c)* between two and three years and *(d)* more than three years; [150498]

(3) how many prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection released on licence have *(a)* been returned to prison and *(b)* been convicted for offences while on licence. [150500]

Mr. Hanson: No prisoner serving an indeterminate sentence may be considered for release until they have completed their tariff—that is, the period of imprisonment considered necessary to meet the requirements of retribution and deterrence. The Parole Board may direct a tariff-expired indeterminate sentence prisoner's release only if it is satisfied that it is no longer necessary for the protection of the public that the prisoner should be confined.

As at 16 July 2007, seven prisoners serving indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for public protection (IPP) have been released on the direction of the Parole Board. Six of these offenders were released after the tariff period had expired. In each of these cases, the Parole Board hearing to assess the offender's risk of harm took place after the relevant tariff expiry date. In the seventh case, the prisoner was released before tariff-expiry on compassionate grounds due to ill health and has since died.

Two of the six offenders had their sentences quashed following their release. Of the remaining four, none has been recalled to custody or been convicted of any further offences.

The following table shows the time served in custody before release in the six cases referred to above:

Time served	*Number of cases*
Less than 1 year	2
1-2 years	4
2-3 years	0
More than 3 years	0

Prisons

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent projections are of the *(a)* uncrowded and *(b)* maximum capacity of prisons in each of the next five years. [150136]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service undertakes a rolling programme of refurbishment on the prison estate. As schemes come back into use following refurbishment, other schemes are taken forward and the accommodation is taken out of use.

Eight thousand new prison places were announced by the Home Secretary in July 2006 and a further 1,500 places by the Lord Chancellor on 19 June. The programme is still in the planning stages and the number of places to be provided beyond 2007 has not been finalised.

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what provision has been made in his Department's budgets for capital works on the prison estate in 2007-08, broken down by *(a)* refurbishment, *(b)* newbuild on existing prison sites and *(c)* newbuild sites. [150143]

Mr. Hanson: The total capital budget for prison capacity in 2007-08 is £475 million. This is broken down as follows:

(a) Refurbishment: £190 million;

(b) New build on existing prison sites: £257 million;

(c) New prisons: £28 million.

Prisons: Drugs

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the 12-step drug rehabilitation programme will continue in the prisons other than Swansea which operate the scheme. [149535]

Mr. Hanson: The 12-step programme is an integral part of the range of intensive accredited drug treatment programmes available in prisons. The 12-step programme at HMP The Verne has now ceased and the funding has been moved to HMP Dartmoor, where the programme will start shortly. There are currently no further plans to withdraw the programme from any other establishment where it is being delivered.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost per head is of the replacement drug rehabilitation programme to be introduced in Swansea prison from November 2007. [149536]

Mr. Hanson: There are currently no plans to introduce a replacement drug rehabilitation programme at HMP Swansea.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners who completed or commenced the 12 step drug rehabilitation programme in Swansea prison have been charged with further drug-related offences after their release from prison. [149537]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is not available. There is no effective tracking mechanism in place. The tracking of an individual who has engaged with treatment interventions and subsequently went on to re-offend would involve the use of the police national computer and this would constitute a breach of confidentiality.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost per prisoner is of the 12-step drug rehabilitation programme in Swansea prison. [149538]

Mr. Hanson: The cost of running the 12 Step Programme at HMP Swansea is subject to conditions of commercial confidentiality.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners who commenced the 12-step drug rehabilitation programme in Swansea were released early before the end of their sentence. [149539]

Mr. Hanson: In 2006-07—the latest period for which figures are available—no prisoners released early from HMP Swansea had commenced the 12-step programme.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have started the 12-step drug rehabilitation programme in Swansea prison since its introduction; and how many have completed the programme. [149540]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows, the number of prisoners starting and completing the 12-step programme at HMP Swansea.

	Starts	Completions
2004-05[1]	34	7
2005-06	31	11
2006-07	32	17

[1] Data available from August 2004. Programme commenced in 2001

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if his Department will publish the assessment of the efficacy of the 12-step drug rehabilitation scheme at Swansea prison. [149541]

Mr. Hanson: Published research shows that prisoners who completed a 12-step programme had significantly lower rates of reconviction after two years—down 11per cent.—provided effective treatment was continued on release. Efficacy is also determined by the quality of local delivery. Audit conducted locally, shows over the past three years, a marked decline in the quality of delivery of the 12-step programme at HMP Swansea.

Secure Training Centres

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library the reports of the Home Department monitors in each secure training centre. [149957]

Mr. Hanson: Monitoring reports are operational documents, the purpose of which is to enable the Youth Justice Board to track and improve performance. They contain detailed information about young people that has been provided in confidence. Placing them in the public domain could adversely affect the board's ability to monitor the running of secure training centres.

Secure Training Centres: Restraint Techniques

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions handcuffs were used on trainees in each secure training centre in each of the last three years. [149859]

Mr. Hanson: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Home Department on 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 338W. Complete data are not available before 2006.

Tribunals

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in what proportion of employment tribunal cases the chairman awarded costs to the claimant in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [149920]

Bridget Prentice: In 2005-06, there were 148 cases in which a claimant was awarded costs by an employment tribunal. This represents 0.66 per cent. of all cases disposed of at a hearing.

Wellingborough Prison

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans there are to extend the capacity of HM prison Wellingborough; and if he will make a statement. [150307]

Mr. Hanson: There are no firm plans at present to increase the capacity of HMP Wellingborough. However, the National Offender Management Service is considering the potential to build around 50 to 60 additional places at the prison. These proposals do not form part of the current capacity building programme and the development of plans to increase capacity at HMP Wellingborough would be discussed in full with local planners.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Bankruptcy

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many homes were sold in creditor bankruptcy cases in each year since the implementation of the Enterprise Act 2002. [149507]

Mr. McFadden: The Insolvency Service does not hold this information as the realisation of bankrupts' interest in properties is generally undertaken by an insolvency practitioner acting as trustee rather than the Official Receiver. However, as part of the evaluation of the Enterprise Act 2002, the Insolvency Service is collecting information on property realisations in a sample of all bankruptcy cases in England and Wales. This study is ongoing and the final results will be published in autumn 2007. Interim reports are available on the Insolvency Service website at:

www.insolvency.gsi.gov.uk

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what information services are available to individuals to help them decide which course of action to pursue when they have been made bankrupt. [149508]

Mr. McFadden: Once an individual is made bankrupt in England and Wales they are subject to the bankruptcy provisions in the Insolvency Act 1986. All bankrupts are interviewed by a member of the Insolvency Service.

All bankrupts are given or sent a copy of the Insolvency Service "Guide to Bankruptcy", which includes alternatives to bankruptcy.

The Insolvency Service produces a wide range of leaflets which are available in both paper form and on its website at www.insolvency.gov.uk. Those leaflets cover matters directly relating to the bankruptcy process, the consequences of bankruptcy and information on alternatives to bankruptcy.

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what responsibilities the Official Receiver has to make clear to individuals the different options open to them in bankruptcy; and if he will make a statement. [149509]

Mr. McFadden: The responsibilities and duties of the Official Receiver are set out in the Insolvency Act 1986, which extends to England and Wales.

While there is no statutory duty on the Official Receiver to provide details of the different options available to bankrupts, all are given or sent the

Insolvency Service "Guide to Bankruptcy", which includes information on alternatives to bankruptcy. In addition, leaflets informing bankrupts of their options are available in paper form and on the Insolvency Service website:

www.insolvency.gov.uk/

The "Guide to Bankruptcy" covers the possibility of a fast track voluntary arrangement. A leaflet on FTVAs is also available in paper form or from the Insolvency Service website.

Consumer Goods: Animal Experiments

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what information is available to consumers for them to determine whether products on sale have been subject to animal testing. [148986]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 12 July 2007]:* Cosmetic products covered by the Cosmetic Products (Safety) Regulations 2004 (as amended), which implement the EU directive on cosmetic product safety, give manufacturers the choice of whether or not to make a claim about animal testing on their products. In practice most cosmetic product manufacturers do not make claims, and those that do make claims about no animal testing having been carried out on the product or its ingredients.

Departmental Responsibilities

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his Department's responsibilities are for technology. [148749]

Mr. Timms: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform will lead work to create the conditions for business success. This includes liaising closely with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, which now leads on technological innovation and research. The Department will address market and regulatory issues to ensure that business can take full advantage of technological developments and enable it to compete successfully in the global economy.

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many flights to overseas destinations were taken by employees of UK Trade and Investment in the last three calendar years; and what the total cost was of such flights. [148355]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment has no direct employees of its own and draws mainly on staff from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The information requested is not readily available centrally, and to collect it would involve disproportionate cost.

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people in his Department have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for (i) inappropriate use of the internet while at work and (ii) using work telephones to access premium rate telephone numbers in the last 12 months. [149183]

Mr. Thomas: In the former Department of Trade and Industry, 12 staff were disciplined and five staff dismissed for inappropriate use of the internet while at work in the last 12 months.

Furthermore, no members of staff in the former Department of Trade and Industry were disciplined for using work telephones to access premium rate telephone numbers in the last 12 months.

Departments: Domestic Visits

Mr. Atkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what role his private office played in organising his visit to NETpark, Sedgefield, County Durham and other destinations in the north-east; whether officials from his Department accompanied him on the visit; and what the cost was to his Department of the visit. [150306]

Mr. Thomas: The visit to NETpark was organised and funded by the Labour party. The Secretary of State's private office arranged a fact finding visit to Sheffield to study the impact of flooding on local businesses followed by a visit to Newcastle for a meeting with the chair of One North East. The Secretary of State was accompanied by one of his special advisers to enable him to deal with any departmental business unconnected with the political visit.

Departments: Marketing

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost of setting up his new Department is; and how much has been budgeted for *(a)* fees paid to advisors, *(b)* replacing official stationery and *(c)* other transition costs. [147542]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 4 July 2007]:* The costs of setting up the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform are ongoing and the processes will take some time to complete. I will write to the hon. Member setting out the costs once these processes have been completed and place copies of the letter in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the total cost was of creating signs displaying his Department's name for ministerial offices. [147812]

Mr. Thomas: The Department has incurred no additional costs associated with providing signage for the ministerial Offices as these signs are produced internally and by reusing existing signage.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much has been spent on external consultancy fees involved in the *(a)* relocation and *(b)* rebranding of his Department, broken down by (i) company contracted and (ii) services provided. [147814]

Mr. Thomas: The information is as follows.

To date:

No external consultancy fees have been incurred in the relocation of the Department.

Bell Design has been paid £10,563.50 for graphic design services.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the total cost is of all the private finance initiative projects for which his Department has responsibility that have been completed since 1997; and what the projected cost is of such projects that have been commissioned or are under way. [148026]

Mr. Thomas: BERR holds one operational PFI contract, which is with its IT service provider Fujitsu Services. This contract was signed in 1998: it began in 1999 and is due to end in 2014.

Expenditure to date under this contract has been £288.7 million.

Projected expenditure, for the rest of the life of the contract, is expected to be £243.5 million.

Total project cost of this service is expected to be £532.2 million.

Departments: Publicity

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the cost effectiveness of advertising commissioned by his Department, including relevant campaigns commissioned by its predecessor in the last 12 months. [148503]

Mr. Thomas: The former Department of Trade and Industry commissioned a limited amount of advertising in the financial year to March 2007 via the Central Office of Information. This comprised the following:

classified recruitment advertising for the Small Business Service;

online advertising about the national minimum wage, targeting young people; and

press and online advertising about the NMW, targeting migrant workers.

The cost effectiveness of the advertising was assessed by the number of responses—for example, cost-per-click in the case of the online advertising targeting young people, and potential audience size as calculated by press circulation and online user figures in the case of the advertising targeting migrant workers.

Details of any other expenditure by the Department is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Racial Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many complaints of racial abuse relating to the staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its predecessor have been (i) investigated and (ii) upheld in the last 12 months. [149261]

Mr. Thomas: There have been no complaints of racial abuse in the Department or its predecessor over the last 12 months.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff in his Department have taken *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in the last 12 months. [147050]

Mr. Thomas: In the former DTI records show:

Spells of absence of less than 5 days	*Number of staff (DTI HQ, inc SBS and UKTI), 2006-07*
5 or more	135
4	117
3	226
2	447

Departments: Sign Language

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the merits of providing British sign language videos on his departmental website for the benefit of those whose first language is BSL. [142499]

Mr. Thomas: Resources are currently allocated to a project that will secure accessibility improvements to my Department's website, with the specific aim of ensuring that it meets government accessibility requirements.

My Department has made no assessment of the merits of providing BSL videos on its website.

Electronic Equipment: Recycling

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what in-store facilities are being made available in Hampshire for customers to return white goods under the waste electrical and electronic equipment directive; what his strategy is for increasing such facilities in the county; and if he will make a statement. [148527]

Malcolm Wicks: Detailed figures at a county level are not available, but all retailers of electrical and electronic equipment are obliged to offer in-store take-back if they are not members of the distributor takeback scheme.

Within Hampshire all 26 local authority civic amenity sites have been approved as designated collection facilities and are playing their part in the UK waste electrical and electronic equipment system. Estimates made by Hampshire county council suggest that Hampshire is already diverting an average of 11 kg of waste electrical items per person from landfill.

Employment Tribunals Service: Finance

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the average estimated cost of an employment tribunal case is to *(a)* an employee, *(b)* an employer and *(c)* the state. [148095]

Mr. McFadden: The survey of employment tribunal applications 2003 estimated that the mean paid cost of advice and representation for all applicants was £445, while for those applicants who said they had paid for advice and representation it was £2,493. Mean non-advice related costs of a tribunal case to applicants (travel, communications and loss of earnings) were £4,553.

For all employers, the mean paid costs of advice and representation were £1,491, while for those employers who said they had paid for advice and representation it was £4,362. In addition, employers said they spent an average of 9.8 days (mean) or four days (median) on tribunal cases.

The average cost to the Exchequer of an employment tribunal application is around £606 (based on figures for 2005-06).

Employment: Tribunals

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make it his policy to ensure that costs are generally awarded to claimants who are successful in employment tribunal cases against employers. [149962]

Mr. McFadden: Employment tribunals have powers to make cost orders against parties who have acted vexatiously, abusively, disruptively or otherwise unreasonably. Michael Gibbons' review of employment dispute resolution in Great Britain, published on 21 March, made wide-ranging recommendations for changes to the dispute resolution system. The Government are considering the responses to their consultation on the Gibbons proposals, which closed on 20 June, and will publish their response in due course.

Energy Supply: Biofuels

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much energy installed biomass generation has contributed to UK electricity supply through the national grid in each of the last five years. [148430]

Malcolm Wicks: Biomass, here defined as farm waste, animal waste derived fuel (such as poultry litter and, meat and bone), straw, energy crops, sawdust, wood pellets, olive pellets, sunflower pellets, cereal products, palm oil kernels and nuts, tall oil and municipal solid waste (biodegradable fraction) is estimated to have contributed as follows to electricity supplied through the public electricity distribution systems of the United Kingdom:

	Generation from biomass transferred to the public distribution system (GWh)	*Total electricity supplied (GWh)*	*Biomass as a proportion of supply (percentage)*
2001	1,532	371,187	0.4
2002	1,906	368,979	0.5
2003	2,375	374,469	0.6
2004	2,792	373,401	0.7
2005	4,218	379,485	1.1

Note: These figures are the latest available data and include the contribution of biomass co-fired with fossil fuels.
Source: Digest of UK Energy Statistics, 2006.

Energy Supply: European Union

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations he has received on the liberalisation of the energy sector in the EU. [149530]

Malcolm Wicks: Ministers and officials are in regular contact with business and others to discuss further action to liberalise the internal energy market.

Following endorsement by the European Council of the European Commission's strategic energy review of earlier this year, we expect the Commission to bring forward proposals for legislation in the autumn.

Enterprise Act 2002: Insolvency

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* fast-track voluntary arrangements and *(b)* post-bankruptcy individual voluntary arrangements have been made in each year since the introduction of the Enterprise Act 2002. [148969]

Mr. McFadden: The individual insolvency provisions of the Enterprise Act 2002 came into force on 1 April 2004.

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Fast track voluntary arrangements	8	9	3
Total number of post-bankruptcy IVAs	135	114	71

EU Law: Recycling

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he has received representations opposing the producer compliance schemes requirement under the waste electrical and electronic equipment directive for all participants to be jointly and severally liable for other businesses within the scheme. [148744]

Malcolm Wicks: The WEEE regulations prevent a producer from being excluded from a scheme part way through a compliance period. Producer compliance schemes have made representations on this in relation to a situation when a producer fails to pay its membership fees and thus the scheme has the obligation but has not received the necessary payments

from the producer to cover the associated costs. However producer compliance schemes are required under the regulations to ensure that they have sufficient resources to fully discharge the obligation of their members. If a producer does not adhere to membership requirements, such as payment of fees etc., the scheme can use existing debt recovery regulations to pursue the producer.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Dan Norris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what total amount has been paid to date to former miners in Wansdyke constituency following claims for compensation for *(a)* respiratory disease and *(b)* vibration white finger. [149903]

Malcolm Wicks: The total amount of compensation paid to former miners and their families in the Wansdyke constituency for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is £33.5 million, and for vibration white finger is £8,550.

Industrial Relations: Disputes Procedures

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the average time for an employment dispute to be resolved was in the last 12 months. [148459]

Mr. McFadden: Information on the average duration of tribunal cases for the time period in question is not yet available.

Insolvency

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps are taken by the Official Receiver in creditor bankruptcy cases to assess the return to creditors that would be achieved through *(a)* the appointment of an insolvency practitioner as trustee in bankruptcy and *(b)* a fast track voluntary agreement. [150310]

Mr. McFadden: In all bankruptcy cases the Official Receiver will identify, and establish valuations for, assets in the bankrupt's estate. Where there are sufficient assets to warrant the appointment of an insolvency practitioner as trustee, then a first meeting of creditors is called for creditors to vote for the insolvency practitioner of their choice who will have responsibility for the realisation of assets and distribution of funds to creditors.

In cases where there are no assets, or insufficient assets to attract an insolvency practitioner, the Official Receiver will not call a first meeting of creditors and will be appointed trustee.

Since 2002 the Insolvency Service has had a policy of retaining and dealing with cases where asset realisations are straightforward and creditors have not indicated they wish to appoint an insolvency practitioner. In most cases this provides a higher return to creditors.

All bankrupts are provided with the "Guide to Bankruptcy", which sets out the various alternatives to bankruptcy. If the facts of the case suggest that a fast track voluntary arrangement is appropriate, it will also be discussed with the bankrupt at interview. The key factor in determining whether an FTVA is appropriate is whether the creditors will receive a better return from the FTVA than they could obtain in the bankruptcy.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps are taken by the Official Receiver in creditor bankruptcy cases to ensure that the best return to the bankrupt's creditors is achieved. [150311]

Mr. McFadden: In all bankruptcy cases the Official Receiver will identify what assets are comprised in the bankrupt's estate and will obtain third-party verification of the valuations given by the bankrupt.

Where there are sufficient assets to warrant the appointment of an insolvency practitioner as trustee, a first meeting of creditors is called, and the creditors vote for the insolvency practitioner of their choice who is responsible for the realisation of the assets and distribution of funds to creditors.

In cases where there are no or insufficient assets, the Official Receiver will not call a first meeting of creditors and will be appointed as trustee.

Since 2002 The Insolvency Service has had a policy of retaining and dealing with cases where asset realisations are straightforward and creditors have not expressed a wish to appoint an insolvency practitioner. In the majority of cases this provides a greater return for creditors.

In cases where the Official Receiver forms the view that an individual voluntary arrangement or fast track voluntary arrangement would produce a better return to creditors than a bankruptcy, he will inform the bankrupt of these options.

Joint Industry Board for the Electrical Contracting Industry: Arbitration

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of cases that have gone through the joint industry board for the electrical contracting industry's dispute resolution procedures have been successfully arbitrated. [149474]

Mr. McFadden: The joint industry board for the electrical contracting industry's dispute resolution scheme is voluntary for members of these industries and therefore the hon. Member should consult the scheme's administrators for details of its performance.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the joint industry board for the electrical contracting industry's dispute resolution procedures; and if he will make a statement. [149475]

Mr. McFadden: In the light of Michael Gibbons' review and the Government's consultation 'Resolving Disputes in the Workplace', the Government are considering a broad spectrum of approaches to resolving work place disputes, including those procedures currently

operated by the joint industry board. The consultation closed on 20 June and the Government will publish their response and proposals for the way forward in the autumn.

Manpower: Renewable Energy

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate his Department has made of levels of employment in the UK renewable energy sector in each of the last five years. [148428]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department does not make annual estimates as to the number of people employed within the renewable energy sector.

The latest year for which we have an estimate is 2004, which indicated that the renewable energy sector, in that year, generated around 8,000 UK jobs.

Oil

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the Government plan to review their estimate of when global oil supply will peak following the recent medium term oil market report published by the International Energy Agency; and if he will make a statement on global oil supplies. [149511]

Malcolm Wicks: Although the IEA's July 2007 medium-term oil market report has revised downwards projections for future global oil production capacity, it nevertheless still sees total capacity increasing by around 10 per cent. between 2007 and 2012 and remaining above demand. Moreover, the report also notes that:

"While hydrocarbon resources are finite, nonetheless issues of access to reserves, prevailing investment regime and availability of upstream infrastructure and capital seem greater barriers to medium-term growth than limits to the resource base itself."

The IEA report therefore supports the approach set out in chapter 1 of the 2007 energy White Paper: that the key challenge is not one of insufficient global oil resources, but rather one of promoting—domestically and internationally—more investment across the energy sector and also improvements in energy efficiency.

Parental Leave: Low Incomes

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate his Department has made of the length of *(a)* paternity leave and *(b)* maternity leave taken by people from low-income families in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [148696]

Mr. McFadden: The most recent data available on take-up of maternity and paternity leave is from the Maternity and Paternity Rights and Benefits: Survey of Parents 2005. The report of findings is available at the House of Commons Library and at www.berr.gov.uk/files/file27446.pdf. Statistics in this report are based on responses from a sample of mothers and fathers who had a child in December 2003 who were surveyed approximately 17 months after the child's birth.

Estimates of duration of paternity leave and maternity leave have not been analysed for low-income families.

Duration of paternity leave has been analysed by fathers' income. The following table, an excerpt of table 9.1 in the cited report, shows duration of paternity leave split by fathers' income (figures are percentages).

Income (£l month)	*No paternity leave*	*Less than two weeks*	*Two weeks*	*More than two weeks*
0 to 999	34	27	28	11
1,000 to 1,999	16	32	37	15
2,000 to 2,999	22	37	31	11
3,000 +	21	35	36	9

Duration of maternity leave has been analysed by mothers' income. Table 3.1a of the cited report, shows duration of maternity leave, paid and unpaid, split by hourly pay band. Analysis of this data is presented on pages 28 to 29 of the cited report.

Income (£/hour)	*Less than 26 weeks maternity leave*	*26 weeks maternity leave*	*27 to 51 weeks maternity leave*	*52 weeks + maternity leave*
0 to five	14	64	11	10
Six to eight	10	57	18	14
Nine to 11	12	42	24	21
12 to 14	14	33	35	17
15 to 19	17	32	32	19
20 +	19	30	30	21

Renewables Obligation

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the annual cost was of the renewables obligation to the average household in 2006; and what the projected cost is of the obligation to the average household by 2010. [148559]

Malcolm Wicks: Ofgem has calculated the annual cost to the average household in 2006-07 to be £7.35. This is projected to rise to £11.41 by 2010-11 at 2006 prices.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his estimate is of the increase in renewable energy generation since the implementation of the renewables obligation; what the average cost has been per household *(a)* in total and *(b)* per kilowatt hour generated; and what estimate he has made of the cost of delivering the same increase through different feed in tariff mechanisms. [148724]

Malcolm Wicks: According to the digest of United Kingdom energy statistics 2006, renewables electricity generation from RO-eligible sources has increased from 5.75 TWh in 2002 to 13.17 TWh in 2005.

Ofgem has calculated the cumulative cost of the RO from 2002-03 to 2005-06 (the last date for which figures are currently available) to consumers to be £21.81 per household (in 2002 prices).

Ofgem has also calculated the overall UK price per kWh of electricity generated by the RO. Between 2002-03 and 2005-06 it fell from 5.1 pence per kWh to 3.9 pence per kWh.

As we have said in the "Meeting the Energy Challenge",

"while a number of other EU member states have used mechanisms such as feed-in tariffs, it is hard to draw firm conclusions as to the effectiveness of these mechanisms from international comparisons, as other forms of support also vary".

World War II: Medals

Mr. Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make Bevin Boy badges available to the *(a)* widows and *(b)* children of those who qualified for it but have died. [147415]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 3 July 2007]:* As with other veteran badges, the Bevin Boys badge is a survivors badge and it is intended that it can be worn in public by Bevin Boys to raise awareness of the important role they played during World War II and in the post-war reconstruction of the UK. However, as it is anticipated that the application form will not be launched before October this year, it is proposed that applications will be accepted from the widows of Bevin Boys who died on or after 20 June 2007, when the badge was announced, where a death and marriage certificate are attached to the application. Precise details will be announced when the application form is released.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what freedoms are available to academies that are not automatically available to local authority schools; and if he will make a statement. [149861]

Jim Knight: Academies have a range of freedoms that are not automatically available to local authority schools.

These freedoms include:

Freedom to establish their own pay and conditions system for staff, with the exception of those who transfer from the predecessor school under the transfer of undertakings and protection of employment regulations.

A greater degree of flexibility in their curriculum provision than community schools. Following the Secretary of State's statement on 10 July 2007, all future academies will follow the national curriculum programmes of study in the core subjects: English; Science, Maths and ICT. However, academies do not have to follow the national curriculum disapplication procedures.

Greater flexibility over the size and composition of governing bodies. Academy governance is not prescribed in regulations, but the Department does insist on parental and local authority representation in all cases: all academies must have one elected parent and one governor appointed by the local authority. Beyond this, academies are free to determine their own governance arrangements.

Freedom over the length of school days and the number of sessions taught. This allows academies to tailor the school day to target underachievement and raise standards as effectively as possible.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many academies there were in each year since 2000-01; and how many he expects there to be in each year to 2012-13. [149862]

Jim Knight: The Government are committed to opening 400 academies. Details of the number of academies opened and planned to open between 2002 (when the first academy opened) and 2008 are included in the following table. The number of academies that open in subsequent years will depend on the final allocation of the Department's comprehensive spending review settlement. We remain committed to our target of the same 200 academies open for in the pipeline by 2010 as we progress to opening 400 academies.

	Number
2002	3
2003	9
2004	5
2005	10
2006	19
April 2007	1
September 2007	36
2008	50

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost has been of each academy built since 2000-01; and what the estimated costs are of each academy so far approved but not completed. [149863]

Jim Knight: There are 27 academies where building work has been completed. The capital cost of each is detailed under the heading 'Completed Costs' in the following chart.

These figures represent the known position as at June 2007 and are subject to change as final accounts have yet to be agreed.

The chart also details the estimated capital cost of other academies where building work has not yet been completed.

	Academy name	*£ million*[1]
	Completed costs	
1	Bexley Business Academy	38.5
2	Walsall City Academy	17.5
3	Greig City Academy	16.5
4	Capital City Academy	27.5
5	Lambeth Academy	25.5
6	King's Academy	22.5
7	Unity City Academy	22.0
8	The West London Academy	32.5
9	Stockley Academy	28.0
10	Djanogly City Academy	23.3

	Academy name	£ million[1]
11	The Academy at Peckham	30.0
12	Bristol City Academy	27.5
13	Manchester Academy	20 0
14	Mossbourne Community Academy	28.5
15	The Academy of St. Francis of Assisi	21.0
16	Northampton Academy	27.5
17	City of London Academy	33.5
18	Trinity Academy	25.0
19	Marlowe Academy	28.0
20	London Academy	33.5
21	Sandwell Academy	27.0
22	Grace Academy—Solihull	31.5
23	Salford City Academy	16.5
24	David Young Community Academy	23.5
25	Dixons City Academy	6.5
26	Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham Academy	7.0
27	Haberdashers' Knights Academy	40.5
	Estimated costs	
28	St. Paul's Academy	39.0
29	Harefield Academy	34.0
30	Macmillan Academy	13.0
31	Barnsley Academy	28.5
32	The Petchey Academy	34.0
33	North Liverpool Academy	34.0
34	The John Madejski Academy	27.5
35	Westminster Academy	30.5
36	Paddington Academy	31.5
37	Sheffield Springs	26.5
38	Sheffield Park	27.5
39	Walthamstowe Academy	29.5
40	Landau Forte College	4.5
41	The St. Matthew Academy	31.0
42	Leigh Technology Academy	36.5
43	Folkestone Academy	37.0
44	Bradford Academy	20.5
45	The Harris Academy South Norwood	36.0
46	Oasis Academy—Enfield	29.5
47	St. Mary Magdalene Academy	42.0
48	The Samworth Enterprise Academy	19.5
49	The Thomas Deacon Academy	48.0
50	Harris City Academy Crystal Palace	10.5
51	Ashcroft Technology Academy	13.0
52	John Cabot Academy	4.0
53	The Corby Business Academy	4.5
54	Gateway Academy	29.5
55	Darwen Aldridge Community Academy	35.0
56	Langley Academy	31.5
57	The Bridge Academy	47.5
58	The Corby Business Academy	27.0
59	Herefordshire 1 (Steiner)	9.0
60	The Globe Academy	38.5
61	Evelyn Grace Academy	36.0
62	Excelsior Academy	38.0
63	Q3 Academy	29.5
64	Oasis Academy—Immingham	26.5
65	Oasis Academy—Wintringham	25.0
66	Stockport Academy	27.5
67	Merchants' Academy Withywood	29.0
68	The Harris Bermondsey Academy	17.5
69	Bacon's A Church of England Sponsored Academy	4.5
70	William Hulme's Grammar School	9.5
71	City of London Academy—Islington	29.0
72	Sandwell—Willengsworth	30.0
73	Grace Academy—Coventry	32.5
74	The Burlington Danes Academy	17.0
75	Harris Boys Academy East Dulwich	23.0
76	Harris Girls Academy East Dulwich	16.0
77	Madeley Academy	22.0
78	St. Mark's CofE	8.5
79	Harris Academy Merton	5.5
80	King Soloman Academy	24.5
81	City of London KPMG Academy	35.0
82	JCB Academy	17.5
83	Bede Academy	28.0
84	The Belvedere Academy	10.0
85	North Oxfordshire Academy	16.5
86	Swindon Academy	34.5
87	The Chelsea Science Academy	39.0
88	Wren Academy	23.5
89	Spires Academy	7.0
90	The Marsh	10.0
91	The Rhodesway Academy	20.0

[1] Rounded to the nearest half million

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what support will be required from local authorities for academies to be approved in future by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [149978]

Jim Knight: The Department will continue to work closely with local authorities, as it does at present, on the development of academy projects and the reorganisation of secondary provision in their areas more generally. We welcome the influence and input of local authorities as partners, co-sponsors and catalysts for change in their local communities.

Academies: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* GCSE results and *(b)* truancy rates were for each academy in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [149892]

Jim Knight: The first academies opened in September 2002, so the first year in which GCSEs were taken by academy pupils was 2003, GCSE results for each academy where pupils have taken GCSEs are provided in tables A and B.

The Department collects information on unauthorised absence rates, and it includes instances of lateness and family holidays that have not been authorised by the school, as well as truancy. Table C shows the unauthorised absence rates for each academy for 2002-03 (the first year in which academies were open and submitted absence data) to 2005-06 (the latest absence data available). Overall, the level of unauthorised absence in academies shows a downward trend.

Table A: Percentage of pupils in academies achieving five A[1]*-C at GCSE*

Academy	Year opened	2003 KS4 results[1]	2004 KS4 results[1]	2005 KS4 results	2006 KS4 results
The Business Academy, Bexley	2002	21.0	34.3	29.1	32.3
Greig City Academy, Haringey	2002	35.0	25.7	54.6	60.7
Unity City Academy, Middlesbrough	2002	15.7	17.4	16.2	33.5
The Academy at Peckham	2003	n/a	11.9	22.0	30.1
Capital City Academy, Brent	2003	n/a	29.2	16.4	31.3
The West London Academy, Ealing	2003	n/a	34.7	28.2	47.7
Manchester Academy	2003	n/a	8.4	24.6	28.7
The City Academy, Bristol	2003	n/a	32.7	53.6	49.7
The Kings Academy, Middlesbrough	2003	n/a	33.8	43.6	34.8
The Walsall City Academy	2003	n/a	50.0	65.5	57.4
Djanogly City Academy, Nottingham	2003	n/a	51.5	58.3	56.7
London Academy, Barnet	2004	n/a	n/a	48.2	50.9
Stockley Academy, Hillingdon	2004	n/a	n/a	19.8	31.9
Northampton Academy	2004	n/a	n/a	35.2	40.2
St Paul's Academy, Greenwich	2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	59.1
Haberdashers' Knights Academy, Lewisham	2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	29.3
Harefield Academy, Hillingdon	2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	32.1
The Academy of St Francis of Assisi, Liverpool	2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	40.2
Salford City Academy	2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	49.5
Trinity Academy, Doncaster	2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	33.8
Marlowe Academy, Kent	2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	28.0
Dixons City Academy, Bradford**	2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	96.9
Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham Academy, Lewisham[2]	2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	93.6
Macmillan Academy, Middlesbrough[2]	2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	92.9

[1] 2003 and 2004 results are based on pupils who were aged 15 at the time of taking their KS4 exams. This changed to any pupils that had taken their exams by the end of K84 in 2005.
[2] Former City technology colleges that have converted to Academy status.
Source: KS4 School Level Attainment Files

Table B: Percentage of pupils in academies achieving five A[1]*-C including English and Maths at GCSE*

Academy	Year opened	2003 KS4 results[1]	2004 KS4 results[1]	2005 KS4 results	2006 KS4 results
The Business Academy, Bexley	2002	15.2	13.1	15.7	27.1
Greig City Academy, Haringey	2002	19.4	9.9	10.0	15.2
Unity City Academy, Middlesbrough	2002	7.1	7.5	6.3	14.1
The Academy at Peckham	2003	n/a	10.3	17.7	22.9
Capital City Academy, Brent	2003	n/a	16.7	11.5	18.3

Table B: Percentage of pupils in academies achieving five A[1]*-C including English and Maths at GCSE*

Academy	Year opened	2003 KS4 results[1]	2004 KS4 results[1]	2005 KS4 results	2006 KS4 results
The West London Academy, Ealing	2003	n/a	7.6	10.9	25.2
Manchester Academy	2003	n/a	5.9	12.3	22.8
The City Academy, Bristol	2003	n/a	15.8	19.3	17.6
The Kings Academy, Middlesbrough	2003	n/a	26.5	22.9	23.0
The Walsall City Academy	2003	n/a	5.4	18.2	24.1
Djanogly City Academy, Nottingham	2003	n/a	19.4	17.9	25.6
London Academy, Barnet	2004	n/a	n/a	24.1	32.0
Stockley Academy, Hillingdon	2004	n/a	n/a	9.4	16.0
Northampton Academy	2004	n/a	n/a	17.6	23.8
St. Paul's Academy, Greenwich	2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	39.1
Haberdashers' Knights Academy, Lewisham	2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	14.3
Harefield Academy, Hillingdon	2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	31.1
The Academy of St Francis of Assisi, Liverpool	2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	17.0
Salford City Academy	2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	26.7
Trinity Academy, Doncaster	2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	19.4
Marlowe Academy, Kent	2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	4.9
Dixons City Academy, Bradford[2]	2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	78.9
Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham Academy, Lewisham[2]	2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	90.7
Macmillan Academy, Middlesbrough[2]	2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	67.0

[1] 2003 and 2004 results are based on pupils who were aged 15 at the time of taking their KS4 exams. This changed to any pupils that had taken their exams by the end of KS4 in 2005.
[2] Former City technology colleges that have converted to academy status
Source: KS4 School Level Attainment Files.

Table C: Unauthorised absence in academies

Academy	Year opened	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
The Business Academy, Bexley	2002	2.0	1.0	0.7	1.1
Greig City Academy, Haringey	2002	5.1	1.9	1.4	0.6
Unity City Academy, Middlesbrough	2002	2.0	2.8	6.2	6.1
The Academy at Peckham	2003	n/a	3.6	2.8	1.9
Capital City Academy, Brent	2003	n/a	5.9	6.5	1.1
The West London Academy, Ealing	2003	n/a	2.6	2.0	0.7
Manchester Academy	2003	n/a	4.2	2.5	1.5
The City Academy, Bristol	2003	n/a	0.2	0.4	1.1
The Kings Academy, Middlesbrough	2003	n/a	8.2	7.3	5.7
The Walsall City Academy	2003	n/a	0.3	0.8	0.7
Djanogly City Academy, Nottingham	2003	n/a	1.4	1.7	1.6

Table C: Unauthorised absence in academies

Academy	*Year opened*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
London Academy, Barnet	2004	n/a	n/a	0.5	0.5
City of London Southwark Academy	2004	n/a	n/a	1.2	1.2
Lambeth Academy	2004	n/a	n/a	2.4	1.2
Stockley Academy, Hillingdon	2004	n/a	n/a	3.9	4.3
Northampton Academy	2004	n/a	n/a	3.2	2.8
Mossbourne Community Academy, Hackney	2004	n/a	n/a	0.2	0.2
St Paul's Academy, Greenwich	2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.8
Haberdashers' Knights Academy, Lewisham	2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.3
Harefield Academy, Hillingdon	2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.4
The Academy of St Francis of Assisi, Liverpool	2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	3.1
Salford City Academy	2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.3
Trinity Academy, Doncaster	2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	4.3
Marlowe Academy, Kent	2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	[1]—
Dixons City Academy, Bradford[2]	2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	[1]—
Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham Academy, Lewisham[2]	2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.5
Macmillan Academy, Middlesbrough[2]	2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	[1]—

[1] No information received.
[2] Former City Technology Colleges that have converted to Academy status.
[3] Percentage of half days missed due to unauthorised absence is less than 0.1 per cent.
Source: Achievement and Attainment Tables.

Care Proceedings

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the proposals contained in the public law outline on *(a)* the time taken to complete and *(b)* the costs of cases coming to court. [149701]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

The judiciary are currently seeking views on a revised public law outline, designed to reduce unnecessary delay by providing a more streamlined case management process for public law care cases. The current six case management stages, within the existing case management protocol are reduced to four. The public law outline proposals take forward a key recommendation contained in the "Review of the Child Care Proceedings System in England and Wales", commissioned jointly by the former Department for Constitutional Affairs and the former Department for Education and Skills and published in May 2006. The review's recommendations are intended to achieve better outcomes for children, as well as helping to ensure that resources across the family justice system are used to best effect. Reduction in unnecessary delay together with an increased emphasis on pre-proceedings preparation should contribute to a containment of costs.

Children: Obesity

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children have been placed on child protection registers due to obesity concerns. [150362]

Beverley Hughes: The information is not available in the form requested.

The latest figures on the numbers and percentage of children subject to child protection plans or placed on the child protection register were published in a statistical first release 045/2006 "Referrals, Assessments and Children and Young People on Child Protection Registers, England—Year ending 31 March 2006" on 16 November 2006. A copy of this release is available on my Department's website:

www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/

The 'Working Together to Safeguard Children: Every Child Matters' guidance published in 2006 by the Government sets out the clear processes to be followed by agencies if there are concerns about a child's welfare. A copy of this document is available from the Library.

Climate Change: Curriculum

Dan Norris: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what resources have been provided to primary and secondary schools by his Department to ensure improved teaching of issues relating to climate change; and what future such resourcing is planned. [149906]

Jim Knight: In May 2007, DCSF and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs sent a climate change pack to every secondary school in England. The online teacher guidance accompanying the pack provided material to support the teaching of climate change in geography, science and citizenship. DCSF has also funded a carbon detective kit for pupils aged seven to 14 to help them investigate the sustainability performance of their own school www.carbondetectives.org.uk. The pack and detective kit are part of the wider DCSF sustainable schools programme, which aims to embed sustainability in the curriculum, how schools operate (e.g. reducing energy and water usage) and in their work with the local community:

www.teachernet.gov/uk/sustainableschools

As part of the action plan for geography launched in March 2006, teaching resources are being developed for the new secondary curriculum to be taught in schools from September 2008, and they include modules on climate change. This work will be linked to wider guidance being developed by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority to support the implementation of the new curriculum.

In addition to work being supported by DCSF, DEFRA has sponsored a number of projects aimed at raising awareness of climate change through the climate challenge fund. Seventeen out of the 83 projects have schools as their main audience or have specifically targeted aspects of their project. These

projects include a wide variety of resources from online tools, workshops for teachers, DVDs, peer to peer education and touring exhibitions:

www.climatechallenge.gov.uk

In the autumn, DCSF will make a sustainable schools teacher resource pack available that will include materials on climate change.

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what legislative provisions introduced by his Department's predecessor since 1997 have not yet been brought into force. [149564]

Jim Knight: The information requested is as follows:

DCSF Acts still to be implemented in England

School Standards and Framework Act 1998

Section 128 (substitutes new section 18 of Education Act 1996 re financial assistance to non-maintained schools)

Education Act 2002

Sections	
8-10	Exemptions for schools which meet performance criteria
31	Control of school premises
201	Provisions relating to free school lunches/milk for children in funded nursery education outside the maintained school setting

Childcare Act 2006

Sections	
2-5	Improvement of young children's well-being
6-10	Child care
17	Charges
32-38 *	Child care registers and regulation of early years provision
40, 47-51	Early years foundation stage
52-61	Regulation of later years provision for children under eight
65, 76	Voluntary registrations
80, 81	Reports and information
95	Certain institutions not to be regarded as schools

Education and Inspections Act 2006

Sections	
5	School improvement partners (in form only in relation to secondary schools that are not special schools and primary schools which are not special schools and special schools in LEAs listed in the commencement orders)
37	Staff at foundation or voluntary school with religious character
74(1), (2), (3), (5)	Curriculum requirements for key stage 4
75	Modification to Learning and Skills Act 2000 in relation to education and training to satisfy entitlements
77 and Schedule 8	Travel to schools etc: meaning of "eligible child". Partially in force
81	LEAs in England provision of transport for certain adult learners
154	Duty to report on contribution of certain schools to community cohesion

Education and Inspections Act 2006

Sections	
169 to 171	Prohibition in participation in management of independent schools

Children Act 2004

Section 1.8	In force only in so far as it gives authorities the power to appoint an officer (a director if children's services) for the purposes specified in that section
Section 19	Not yet in force
Schedule 2	Not yet in force

Children and Adoption Act 2006

Not yet in force except for section 17 (short title, commencement and extent), *Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006*

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of the increase in education spending since May 1997 has been allocated to higher pay, and if he will make a statement. [149204]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not readily available.

Education: Children in Care

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what measures he has put in place to improve the educational achievements of children in institutional care. [149038]

Jim Knight: Our recently published White Paper "Care Matters: Time for Change" sets out specific proposals to improve the education of all children in care. Most children in care live with foster carers—only 13 per cent. live in children's homes. Our proposals include: a £500 educational allowance for children in care at risk of falling behind at school; putting the 'designated teacher' on a statutory footing to improve the expertise in schools; appointing 'virtual school heads' to oversee their education; improving attendance and reducing exclusions; reducing mobility of school placements, particularly in the crucial years before GCSEs; and a bursary of a minimum of £2,000 for all children in care who go on to university. These proposals build on the measures already in place: a specific duty on local authorities to promote the educational achievement of children in care and a requirement to give them the highest priority in school admission arrangements.

Further Education: Young People

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young people did not stay on in education and training after age 16 in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [149931]

Jim Knight: The following figures are for individuals at academic age 16[1] who were not in any education or training in the last five years (2002-06).

[1] Academic age is the age of the individual measured at the beginning of the academic year, 31 August. Academic age 16 would be for those individuals in the year following compulsory education.

	End of calendar year				
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006[1]
Total not in any education or training	85,900	85,100	82,700	74,000	68,500
Percentage of population not in any education or training	13.6	13.1	12.4	11.3	10.3
Population	631,000	647,800	664,800	656,000	662,300

[1] Provisional.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children did not remain in education after the age of 16 years in each year since 1990-91; and if he will make a statement. [149974]

Jim Knight: The figures provided are for individuals at academic age 16[1] who were not in education or training (NET) in each year from 1990 to 2006. These figures are available in the statistical first release published by the Department (SFR 22/2007).

These NET figures are calculated by subtracting the number of young people estimated to be in education and training from the population; here, education and training covers those in full- or part-time education, work-based learning (including apprenticeships), and those on employer funded or other education and training not otherwise included in the figures.

[1] Academic age is the age of the individual measured at the beginning of the academic year, 31 August. Academic age 16 would be for those individuals in the year following compulsory education.

End of calendar year	Total NET	Percentage NET of the population	16-year-old population
1990	88,000	14.7	599,100
1991	67,000	11.7	573,100
1992	61,500	11.2	550,300
1993	49,900	9.4	531,200
1994a*	50,500	9.3	545,800
1994b*	50,400	9.2	545,800
1995	68,400	11.5	595,000
1996	77,500	12.6	613,600
1997	79,200	13.1	605,900
1998	81,300	13.7	594,500
1999	77,300	12.9	598,800
2000	82,300	13.6	606,700
2001	90,600	14.3	633,500
2002	85,900	13.6	631,600
2003	85,100	13.1	647,800
2004	82,700	12.4	664,800
2005	74,000	11.3	656,000
2006 provisional	68,500	10.3	662,300

The break in the time series in 1994 is due to changes in the source of further and higher education data; additionally overseas higher education students studying in England are included from 1994 onwards.

Literacy: Publishing

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) on what basis publishers are included in the list of publishers and their programmes in the choosing a phonics programme: publishers and their programmes section of his Department's standards site; [149871]

(2) whether he plans to assess the effectiveness of the letters and sounds programme against alternative synthetic phonics programmes; [149872]

(3) whether the letters and sounds programme was piloted prior to its adoption by the primary national strategy; [149873]

(4) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Letters and Sounds programme developed by the PNS; [149874]

(5) what steps his Department is taking to encourage the adoption of effective synthetic phonics programmes in primary schools; [149875]

(6) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the phonics programmes listed on the choosing a phonics programme: publishers and their programmes section of his Department's standards site. [149876]

Jim Knight: The Department launched a new phonics area of the standards website in March this year. The website contains published criteria to help schools and early years settings judge how well phonics teaching programmes meet the characteristics of high quality phonic work as defined in Sir Jim Rose's review of the teaching of early reading. To ensure that this process is as easy and useful as possible for schools and settings we have invited publishers of commercial programmes to evaluate their own programme against the criteria and complete a self-assessment form which is then published on the site. This is a purely voluntary process.

The Department does not rank, endorse or promote any particular commercial phonics programme. We have committed to establishing a monitoring process to assess the accuracy of the information provided in the self-evaluation forms. This process is currently being developed and further information about how it will work will be provided on the website.

Letters and Sounds is one of many high quality phonics teaching programmes that meet the core criteria and we are not promoting it as the preferred phonics programme. An early version of the materials was previewed in some local authorities and with practitioners and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Letters and Sounds was distributed to all primary schools and local authorities during May and June. It will therefore take some time for the full effects to become known but we are confident that Letters and Sounds will make a significant contribution to improving standards of literacy. Initial feedback from practitioners indicates a very positive response to the materials and we will use this information to further

refine our support for local authorities. The primary national strategy is monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of Letters and Sounds and Sir Jim Rose has been asked to report back at the end of the year on the implementation of his recommendations, including on Letters and Sounds.

Systematic, high-quality phonics is proven to be the most effective way of teaching children to read and is an integral part of the renewed primary literacy framework and the early years foundation stage. The resources and guidance on the phonics website provide schools and early years settings with the tools they need to make informed decisions about which high quality phonics programme will best suit their needs. The primary national strategy's communication language and literacy development programme, which builds on the successful Early Reading Development Pilot, was developed to implement the recommendations of Sir Jim's review. The programme began in autumn 2006. Through the programme, every local authority now has a local CLLD lead who will work to strengthen leadership and management of early literacy and support all primary schools and early years settings in the use of an effective phonics programme.

Numeracy: Policy

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* numeracy and *(b)* literacy strategies have been announced since 1 May 1997; and if he will make a statement. [149932]

Jim Knight: The Government introduced the national literacy strategy in 1998 and the national numeracy strategy in 1999. Both applied to primary schools. The key stage 3 strategy, which covered English, maths, science and ICT, was introduced in phases from 2001. Each of the strategies has been continually updated to reflect best practice through the addition of further support and materials.

In 2006, the primary framework for literacy and mathematics—the core document of the PNS—was revised to raise expectations of progress and implement the recommendations of the Rose review. This was the first time the framework had been updated since the introduction of the national literacy strategy and national numeracy strategy.

Personal Social and Health Education

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the standards of sex and relationships education in schools. [149988]

Jim Knight: The Department has not undertaken or commissioned any recent assessment of sex and relationship education in schools. Ofsted is responsible for assessing the quality of schools' provision in the area of personal, social and health education, including SRE, through its inspection framework and subject reports, and last reported on SRE in 'Sex and Relationships Education in Schools' in 2002.

Primary Education: Autism

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of primary school age children diagnosed with autism. [150342]

Jim Knight: In January 2007 some 18,800 children in maintained primary schools were identified as having an autistic spectrum disorder and provision made for them at the school action plus level of support as set out in the Special Education Needs code of practice or through a statement. Further information on SEN can be found in SFR 20/2007, which is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s00732/index.shtml

Primary Education: Children in Care

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of 11-year-old children in care achieved at least level 4 at key stage 2 in the latest period for which figures are available. [149772]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* In 2006, the proportion of children continuously looked after for at least 12 months aged 11 and achieving at least level 4 at key stage 2 for English, maths and science was 43 per cent., 41 per cent. and 57 per cent. respectively[1]. Although educational outcomes for children in care are improving slowly more needs to be done to close the achievement gap compared to all children.

Our White Paper, "Care Matters: Time for Change" describes how we will improve educational outcomes for children in care. Measures include giving all children in care at risk of not meeting expected levels of achievement a personal educational allowance of £500; requiring all schools to have a designated teacher to focus on the learning needs of this vulnerable group and funding 'virtual school heads' to drive up attainment, school attendance and reduce exclusions of children in care. We also intend to legislate so that children in care move schools only in exceptional circumstances, particularly during their GCSE years.

[1] Statistical first release (SFR) 17/2007 "Outcome Indicators for Looked After Children: 12 Months to 30 September 2006, England', www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/.

Primary Education: Curriculum

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will list the curriculum changes in *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools since 1 May 1997; and if he will make a statement. [149936]

Jim Knight: A revised curriculum was introduced in 2000. For primary schools the changes were:

the introduction of a statement setting out the rationale for the school curriculum, including its values and aims;

a new general statement on inclusion, setting out the different ways in which teachers should ensure that individuals or

groups of pupils are provided with appropriate opportunities for learning across all national curriculum subjects;

the introduction of revised English programmes of study at key stages 1 and 2 which are aligned with the national literacy strategy 'Framework for Teaching';

the introduction of revised mathematics programmes of study at key stages 1 and 2 which are aligned with the 'Framework for Teaching Mathematics';

the introduction of a non-statutory framework for the teaching of personal, social and health education.

For secondary schools the changes were:

the introduction of a statement setting out the rationale for the school curriculum, including its values and aims;

a new general statement on inclusion, setting out the different ways in which teachers should ensure that individuals or groups of pupils are provided with appropriate opportunities for learning across all national curriculum subjects;

the introduction of citizenship as a subject at key stages 3 and 4;

allowing more flexibility at key stage 4 to enable pupils making significantly less progress than their peers to focus on fewer subjects and allow talented pupils to build on their strengths.

In September 2004, the key stage 4 curriculum was amended to reduce the number of compulsory national curriculum subjects to six: English, mathematics, science, ICT, citizenship and physical education. We also introduced entitlement areas in languages, design and technology, the arts, and humanities.

A review of the secondary curriculum was recently completed and will be rolled out to secondary schools from September 2008. The new secondary curriculum will:

further reduce prescription;

create flexibility for teachers to support pupils who are struggling to master the basic skills of English and mathematics;

free up time and space for greater personalisation of the curriculum, allowing pupils to study some areas in more depth;

increase the emphasis placed on developing personal, learning and thinking skills.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Dan Norris: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the funding was per *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupil in the Bath and North East Somerset council area in each year from 1995-96 to 2006-07. [149902]

Jim Knight: The revenue funding figures per pupil aged 3-10 and 11-15 for Bath and North East Somerset local authority for years 1997-98 to 2005-06 are given in the following table. Comparable figures are not available for 1995-96 to 1996-97.

	Primary (3 to 10-year-olds)	*Secondary (11 to 15-year-olds)*
1997-98	2,230	3,020
1998-99	2,350	3,100
1999-2000	2,510	3,260
2000-01	2,710	3,500
2001-02	2,850	3,610
2002-03	2,900	3,680
2003-04	3,070	3,800
2004-05	3,140	3,950
2005-06	3,360	4,140

Notes:
1. Price base: Real terms at 2005-06 prices, based on gross domestic product deflators as at 27 September 2006.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of standard spending assessment/education formula spending settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DCSF departmental expenditure limits relevant to pupils aged 3-10 and 11-15, and exclude education maintenance allowances and grants not allocated at local education authority level
4. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the SSA/EFS settlement calculations plus PLASC 3-year-old maintained pupils and estimated 3 to 4-year-olds funded through state support in maintained and other educational institutions where these are not included in the SSA pupil numbers.
5. Founding: figures are rounded to the nearest £10.
6. Status: some of the grant allocations have not been finalised, if these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

The revenue per pupil figures shown in the following table are taken from the dedicated schools grant that was introduced in April 2006. They are in cash terms. They are not comparable with those for the years 1997-98 to 2005-06 because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded.

The 1997-98 to 2005-06 figures are based on education formula spending that formed the education part of the local government finance settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS. EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG covers only the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's local government finance settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable. An alternative time series is currently under development.

To provide a comparison for 2006-07 DSG, the Department has isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06; as described above this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year. As the DSG is just a mechanism for distributing funding there is not a primary/secondary split available. The figures are for all funded pupils aged 3-15.

	Figures
2005-06	
DSG baseline plus grants	3,993
2006-07	
DSG plus grants	4,235

Notes:
1.The revenue funding per pupil figures only run to 2005-06 because we cannot provide a consistent time series beyond that year as the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded. The 1997-98 to 2005-06 figures are based on EFS, which formed the education part of the local government finance settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. In 2006-07 funding for schools changed with the introduction of the DSG which is based largely on an authority's previous spending.
2. In addition, DSG has a different coverage to EFS: EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's local government finance settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. This means we have a break in our time series as the two sets of data are not comparable, an alternative time series is currently under development.
3. To provide a comparison for 2006-07 DSG, we have isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06; as described above this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year.
4. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

School Leaving

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the *(a)* costs and *(b)* benefits of raising the education leaving age to 18 years; and if he will make a statement. [149986]

Jim Knight: The estimated costs of raising the participation age are set out in the regulatory impact assessment published alongside the Green Paper on 22 March. This can be accessed at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/downloadableDocs/RIA%20[FINAL]%20word%20version.pdf

I have placed a copy in the Library of the House. We estimate that there will be one-off costs of around £200 million, made up of £80 million for new buildings and facilities, and £120 million for the training of new staff. We estimate that there will be annual costs of around £740 million on top of costs already factored into achieving our existing aspiration of 90 per cent. participation of 17-year-olds by 2015. This is made up of £590 million in additional participation costs, £50 million in additional funding for local authorities (to run the registration system, to provide additional support and guidance, and to enforce the duty), £10 million in enforcement costs and £90 million in additional costs to support those with special educational needs.

Initial analysis suggests that the additional economic benefit to the economy from all young people participating to 18, over and above the current 90 per cent. participation aspiration, is around £1.4 billion for a single cohort of young people (discounted over their lifetime). The likely benefits of raising the participation age are much wider than this, however, as we know those who participate and attain post 16 enjoy better health, better social skills and reduced likelihood of being involved in crime.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of additional pupils aged over 16 years who will be in *(a)* schools, *(b)* further education colleges and *(c)* other academic and vocational education if the education leaving age is raised to 18; and if he will make a statement. [150242]

Jim Knight: Figure 4.3 of the "Raising Expectations: staying in education and training post-16" Green Paper, shows the number of additional 16 to 17-year-olds we would expect to be participating in each learning setting if we introduce compulsory participation to age 18. The overall population of 16 and 17-year-olds is projected to decrease after 2007/08, so the increases in participation numbers are not as great as they would be without this demographic trend.

The Green Paper can be found at:

http://www.official-documents.gove.uk/document/cm70/7065/7065.pdf

School Sixth Forms

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the oral answer of 10 July 2007, on school sixth forms, by which mechanism *(a)* funding for new sixth forms will be routed through local education authorities and *(b)* pupils involved in 14 to 19 programmes in (i) schools and (ii) further education colleges will be funded. [149650]

Jim Knight: Arrangements for the transition of funding for 16 to 18's in school sixth forms and colleges to local authorities, including the mechanisms which will be used to route funds through local authorities to schools, will be subject to consultation to ensure there will be no disruption to schools and colleges and the introduction of diplomas, and subject to the passage of the necessary legislation.

Funding of diplomas at key stage 4 from 2008-09 will be through a new specific formula grant to local authorities, as announced in the written statement on school funding made to Parliament on 25 June.

Schools: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many spare places there are for pupils in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* Chelmsford local authority area in (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools. [149604]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* The Department collects information annually from each local authority on the numbers of surplus school places. The most recent data available is for 2006. The following tables outline the numbers of surplus places in primary and secondary schools within the West Chelmsford parliamentary constituency and the Chelmsford district council area, which falls within Essex local authority area.

Surplus places in primary schools in West Chelmsford in 2006

School name	*Surplus places*
Barnes Farm Infant School	48
Barnes Farm Junior School	46
Boreham Primary School	9
Broomfield Primary School	2
Chancellor Park Primary School	45
Ford End Church of England Primary School	34

Surplus places in primary schools in West Chelmsford in 2006

School name	Surplus places
Great Leighs Primary School	32
Great Waltham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	9
Highwood Primary School	23
Kings Road Primary School	34
Lawford Mead Infant and Nursery School	64
Lawford Mead Junior School	72
Little Waltham Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	0
Margaretting Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	19
Melbourne Park Primary and Nursery School	76
Mildmay Infant and Nursery School	67
Mildmay Junior School	70
Moulsham Infant School	0
Moulsham Junior School	11
Newlands Spring Primary School	42
Oaklands Infant School	0
Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School	0
Perryfields Infant School	20
Perryfields Junior School	12
Roxwell Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	30
Springfield Primary School	119
St. Pius X Catholic Primary School	23
Stock Church of England Primary School	0
The Bishops' Church of England and Roman Catholic Primary School	41
The Cathedral Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Chelmsford	33
The Tyrrells School	0
Trinity Road Primary School	112
Westlands Community Primary School	215
Writtle Infant School	32
Writtle Junior School	54
Total	1,394

Surplus places in secondary schools in West Chelmsford in 2006

School name	Surplus places
Chelmer Valley High School	4
Chelmsford County High School for Girls	0
Hylands School	0
King Edward VI Grammar School, Chelmsford	55
Moulsham High School	0
St. John Payne Catholic Comprehensive School, Chelmsford	99
St. Peters College	332
The Boswells School	0
Total	490

Surplus places in primary schools in Chelmsford district council area in 2006

School name	Surplus places
Baddow Hall Infant School	11
Baddow Hall Junior School	0
Barnes Farm Infant School	48
Barnes Farm Junior School	46
Beehive Lane Community Primary School	14
Boreham Primary School	9
Broomfield Primary School	2
Chancellor Park Primary School	45

Surplus places in primary schools in Chelmsford district council area in 2006

School name	Surplus places
Collingwood Primary School	37
Danbury Park Community Primary School	0
Downham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	0
East Hanningfield Church of England Primary School	0
Elmwood Primary School	107
Ford End Church of England Primary School	34
Galleywood Infant School	33
Great Leighs Primary School	32
Great Waltham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	9
Highwood Primary School	23
Kings Road Primary School	34
Larkrise Primary School	31
Lawford Mead Infant and Nursery School	64
Lawford Mead Junior School	72
Little Waltham Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	0
Margaretting Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	19
Meadgate Primary School	16
Melbourne Park Primary and Nursery School	76
Mildmay Infant and Nursery School	67
Mildmay Junior School	70
Moulsham Infant School	0
Moulsham Junior School	11
Newlands Spring Primary School	42
Oaklands Infant School	0
Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School	0
Perryfields Infant School	20
Perryfields Junior School	12
Priory Primary School	33
Rettendon Primary School	9
Roxwell Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	30
Runwell Community Primary School	1
Springfield Primary School	119
St. John Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School Danbury	55
St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School	50
St. Mary's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School Woodham Ferrers	18
St. Michael's Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior School	17
St. Peters Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, West Hanningfield	0
St. Pius X Catholic Primary School	23
Stock Church of England Primary School	0
The Bishops' Church of England and Roman Catholic Primary School	41
The Cathedral Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Chelmsford	33
The Chetwood Primary School	76
The Tyrrells School	0
Trinity Road Primary School	112
Trinity St Mary's CofE Voluntary Aided Primary School, South Woodham Ferrers	0
Westlands Community Primary School	215
Woodville Primary School	23
Writtle Infant School	32
Writtle Junior School	34
Total	1,905

Surplus places in secondary schools in Chelmsford district council area in 2006

School name	Surplus places
Chelmer Valley High School	4
Chelmsford County High School for Girls	0
Great Baddow High School	0
Hylands School	0
King Edward VI Grammar School , Chelmsford	55
Moulsham High School	0
St. John Payne Catholic Comprehensive School, Chelmsford	99
St. Peters College	332
The Boswells School	0
The Sandon School	50
William de Ferrers School	55
Total	595

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many spare school places in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools there are within the boundaries of the new Chelmsford constituency. [149606]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* The Department collects information annually from each local authority on the numbers of surplus school places. The most recent data available is for 2006. The following tables outline the numbers of surplus places in primary and secondary schools within the new parliamentary constituency of Chelmsford.

Surplus places in primary schools in the new constituency of Chelmsford in 2006

Ward	School name	Surplus places
Chelmer Village and Beaulieu Park	Barnes Farm Infant School	48
Chelmer Village and Beaulieu Park	Barnes Farm Junior School	46
Chelmer Village and Beaulieu Park	Chancellor Park Primary School	45
Galleywood	Galleywood Infant School	33
Galleywood	St. Michael's Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior School	17
Goat Hall	Mildmay Infant and Nursery School	70
Goat Hall	Mildmay Junior School	67
Great Baddow East	Baddow Hall Infant School	11
Great Baddow East	Baddow Hall Junior School	0
Great Baddow East	Meadgate Primary School	16
Great Baddow West	Beehive Lane Community Primary School	14 1
Great Baddow West	Larkrise Primary School	31
Marconi	Kings Road Primary School	34
Moulsham and Central	Oaklands Infant School	0
Moulsham and Central	Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School	0
Moulsham and Central	The Cathedral Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Chelmsford	33
Moulsham Lodge	Moulsham Infant School	0
Moulsham Lodge	Moulsham Junior School	11
Patching Hall	St. Pius X Catholic Primary School	23
St. Andrews	Lawford Mead Infant and Nursery School	64
St. Andrews	Lawford Mead Junior School	72
St. Andrews	Melbourne Park Primary and Nursery School	78
St. Andrews	Newlands Spring Primary School	42
Springfield North	Springfield Primary School	119
Springfield North	The Bishops' Church of England and Roman Catholic Primary School	41
The Lawns	Perryfields Infant School	20
The Lawns	Perryfields Junior School	12
The Lawns	The Tyrrells School	0
Trinity	The Edward Francis Infant School	0
Trinity	The Edward Francis Junior School	2
Trinity	Trinity Road Primary School	112
Waterhouse Farm	Westlands Community Primary School	215
Total		1,226

Surplus places in secondary schools in the new constituency of Chelmsford in 2006

Ward	School name	Surplus places
Great Baddow West	Great Baddow High	0
Marconi	King Edward VI Grammar School	55
Moulsham Lodge	Moulsham High School	0
Patching Hall	Chelmsford County High	0
Patching Hall	St. John Payne Catholic Comp School	99
St. Andrews	St. Peters College	332
The Lawns	The Boswells School	0
Waterhouse Farm	Hylands School	0
Total		486

Schools: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what progress has been made towards the target set in the 2006 Budget to bring state school funding per pupil up to the private school level; and if he will make a statement; [149113]

(2) by what date he expects to reach the target of raising spending on pupils in English state schools to the equivalent level in the private education sector; and if he will make a statement. [149143]

Jim Knight: Total funding per pupil in the maintained sector was £4,800 in 2005-08, compared with our estimate of £8,000 per pupil in the independent sector. As set out in Budget 2006, the Government aim—over time, and adjusting for inflation—to increase levels of funding to that level.

The comprehensive spending review settlement for education announced in Budget 2007 allows the Government to take a significant further step towards this ambition—with total per pupil revenue and capital funding rising from under £2,500 in 1997-98 to £5,550 in 2007-08 and £6,600 in 2010-11. Progress over future spending reviews will depend on the Government's fiscal position; demographic change; and progress by schools in continuing to deliver improvements in results and wider support for parents and pupils.

Schools: Fire Prevention

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to install sprinklers in existing and new-build primary and secondary schools. [150408]

Jim Knight: Our policy is that all new primary and secondary schools will have fire sprinklers installed. The decision should be taken based on a risk analysis. There may be a few cases where new schools are at a low risk of fire and that sprinklers would not represent good value for money. The risk analysis and cost-benefit analysis tools we have recently published to help clients decide whether or not to install sprinkler systems in schools can also be used to determine whether or not an existing school should have sprinklers fitted, as part of a major refurbishment project.

Schools: Further Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to increase the number of schools with post-16 provision; and if he will make a statement. [149885]

Jim Knight: In the 14-19 education and skills implementation plan published in December 2005, we set out our plans to create 50,000 additional 16-19 school, college and work based learning places by September 2007. We will ensure that in every area, young people have access to high quality post-16 learning opportunities in schools, colleges and work-based learning.

We believe in encouraging successful and popular schools to develop sixth form provision. We have introduced the 'sixth form presumption' that sixth form proposals will be approved from high performing specialist schools that are awarded a vocational specialism, Over three years, we anticipate that this will enable around 60 schools to add new post-16 provision. thirteen schools successfully applied to open sixth form provision in 2006/07 through this route, and a further 27 are eligible to do in 2007/08.

Additional school sixth forms will also be created to meet local need as a result of other proposals from local authorities and schools, through the Academies programme, through local Building Schools for the Future capital investment strategies and as a result of 16-19 competitions (which are run by the Learning and Skills Council where there is a need for substantial new post-16 provision that is not met through an academy or a 'presumption' proposal). In parallel, we have also introduced the 'FE presumption' which encourages high performing colleges to expand to provide additional places for 16 to 19-year-olds.

Schools: Manpower

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* teachers, *(b)* pupils, *(c)* teaching assistants and *(d)* support staff there were in English (i) primary schools and (ii) secondary schools in each year since 1996-97, broken down by each local authority area; and if he will make a statement. [149140]

Jim Knight: Information for all the years requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The following tables provide the full-time equivalent number of teachers, pupils, teaching assistants and support staff in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools for each local authority in England, January 1997 and 2006, the latest information available.

Pupil numbers by local authority and phase are published as national statistics each year and this information for 2006 is available on the Departments website at the following URL:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000682/index.shtml.

Local authority figures for 2007 are likely to be available on 27 September.

Full-time equivalent support staff[1] in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools, January 1997 and 2006, by local authority area and government office region in England

	1997				2006			
	Teaching assistants[2]		Support staff[3]		Teaching assistants[2]		Support staff[3]	
	Nursery/ primary	Secondary	Nursery/ primary	Secondary	Nursery/ primary	Secondary	Nursery/ primary	Secondary
England	41,870	7,820	75,740	42,480	99,040	33,490	154,370	104,210
North East	2,180	190	3,200	1,730	4,300	1,480	6,860	5,220
Gateshead	150	—	230	90	340	50	470	290
Newcastle upon Tyne	210	10	320	180	360	160	670	550
North Tyneside	160	—	230	150	250	90	420	460
South Tyneside	130	—	180	70	280	100	350	300
Sunderland	300	30	420	190	570	140	820	600
Hartlepool	70	10	110	80	180	80	370	240

Full-time equivalent support staff[1] in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools, January 1997 and 2006, by local authority area and government office region in England

	1997				2006			
	Teaching assistants[2]		Support staff[3]		Teaching assistants[2]		Support staff[3]	
	Nursery/ primary	Secondary	Nursery/ primary	Secondary	Nursery/ primary	Secondary	Nursery/ primary	Secondary
Middlesbrough	140	20	220	130	330	70	490	250
Redcar and Cleveland	100	10	180	110	220	90	430	340
Stockton-on-Tees	160	10	250	130	240	100	520	370
Former Durham	520	30	760	310	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Darlington	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	200	40	300	160
Durham (post 1.4.97)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	770	170	1320	830
Northumberland	220	60	300	290	560	380	700	840
North West	6,340	630	9,680	5,100	14,380	4,300	20,500	13,700
Cumbria	460	80	640	430	900	260	1,230	990
Former Cheshire	810	130	1,130	850	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cheshire (post 1.4.98)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,140	360	1,530	1,280
Halton	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	200	70	290	250
Warrington	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	430	130	550	380
Bolton	300	40	410	210	690	240	960	660
Bury	200	30	260	120	440	120	520	320
Manchester	530	30	710	290	1,320	330	1,670	880
Oldham	300	20	420	210	610	140	850	580
Rochdale	200	20	300	160	580	180	810	500
Salford	330	20	500	130	460	140	690	380
Stockport	280	20	520	180	570	120	790	450
Tameside	220	10	300	130	420	130	730	400
Trafford	130	20	210	160	250	100	440	380
Wigan	210	30	340	220	610	180	880	590
Former Lancashire	1,280	90	2,050	910	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lancashire (post 1.4.98)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,560	710	3,520	2,080
Blackburn with Darwen	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	440	120	620	370
Blackpool	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	290	90	470	280
Knowsley	140	—	280	130	250	110	510	370
Liverpool	290	30	630	350	710	240	1,320	880
St. Helens	190	10	270	140	410	110	570	360
Sefton	270	40	410	270	510	180	790	600
Wirral	210	20	320	220	590	230	790	720
Yorkshire and the Humber	5,150	1,560	8,680	4,830	11,300	4,030	17,240	11,840
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	250	70	490	180	510	240	930	660
East Riding of Yorkshire	230	60	420	260	630	250	1,020	740
North East Lincolnshire	160	50	280	150	380	210	600	470
North Lincolnshire	130	30	240	130	370	160	530	370
North Yorkshire	300	70	600	460	1,180	380	1,500	1,140
York	90	10	160	110	330	100	410	290
Barnsley	230	90	400	230	450	150	730	480
Doncaster	350	90	610	330	520	200	940	710
Rotherham	180	40	340	210	560	210	870	730
Sheffield	410	40	670	330	1,080	330	1,530	1,080
Bradford	640	440	1,080	830	1,220	520	2,280	1,410
Calderdale	260	70	410	230	620	160	800	500
Kirklees	400	110	680	370	1,050	270	1,450	840
Leeds	1,130	280	1,660	730	1,640	640	2,530	1,780
Wakefield	380	100	640	280	760	210	1,110	640
East Midlands	3,600	700	6,100	3,770	8,650	3,250	12,570	9,640
Former Derbyshire	850	160	1,280	840	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Derbyshire (post 1.4.97)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,490	510	1,920	1,520
Derby	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	630	180	780	530
Former Leicestershire	650	130	1,480	860	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Leicestershire (post 1.4.97)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,140	460	1,750	1,550

Full-time equivalent support staff[1] in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools, January 1997 and 2006, by local authority area and government office region in England

	1997				2006			
	Teaching assistants[2]		Support staff[3]		Teaching assistants[2]		Support staff[3]	
	Nursery/ primary	Secondary	Nursery/ primary	Secondary	Nursery/ primary	Secondary	Nursery/ primary	Secondary
Leicester	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	690	240	1,120	720
Rutland	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	80	30	110	80
Lincolnshire	560	130	910	600	1,490	570	1,870	1,590
Northamptonshire	510	160	1,000	710	1,040	580	2,190	1,580
Former Nottinghamshire	1,020	130	1,420	770	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Nottinghamshire (post 1.4.98)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,340	480	1,850	1,560
Nottingham	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	750	190	980	520
West Midlands	5,070	700	8,190	4,370	11,360	3,510	17,030	11,350
Former Hereford and Worcester	340	130	720	540	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Herefordshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	260	100	470	280
Worcestershire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	850	490	1,320	1,190
Former Shropshire	320	100	580	420	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Shropshire (post 1.4.98)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	470	180	770	540
Telford and Wrekin	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	440	90	550	320
Former Staffordshire	880	140	1,540	810	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Staffordshire (post 1.4.98)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,260	470	2,070	1,590
Stoke-on-Trent	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	600	130	910	560
Warwickshire	330	70	680	430	1,040	340	1,350	1,010
Birmingham	1,430	160	1,900	880	3,120	660	4,080	2,190
Coventry	270	20	580	290	460	190	1,020	710
Dudley	280	10	400	210	830	240	1,020	640
Sandwell	380	10	530	200	650	190	1,150	680
Solihull	220	20	330	170	410	110	590	450
Walsall	290	30	510	230	550	190	970	630
Wolverhampton	310	20	420	210	410	140	770	580
East of England	3,900	1,050	8,410	5,580	11,400	3,900	17,280	12,300
Former Cambridgeshire	750	320	1,350	860	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cambridgeshire (post 1.4.98)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,140	510	1,710	1,130
Peterborough	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	630	290	780	650
Norfolk	530	80	1,130	600	1,880	460	2,550	1,440
Suffolk	260	130	720	650	870	540	1,610	1,560
Former Bedfordshire	500	130	840	710	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bedfordshire (post 1.4.97)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	750	360	1,050	1,110
Luton	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	620	150	910	530
Former Essex	1,140	270	2,670	1,730	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Essex (post 1.4.98)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,680	840	4,120	2,940
Southend-on-Sea	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	480	80	650	400
Thurrock	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	420	120	650	330
Hertfordshire	730	120	1,700	1,030	1,920	560	3,250	2,210
London	5,980	510	11,600	5,090	16,010	3,850	24,950	12,800
Inner London	2,660	130	4,980	1,650	7,120	1,320	10,990	4,320
Camden	130	30	260	170	460	90	620	320
City of London	—	—	10	—	10	—	10	—
Hackney	170	—	350	80	590	60	830	240
Hammersmith and Fulham	150	—	240	70	310	40	470	200
Haringey	280	—	440	110	670	130	880	410
Islington	200	—	330	90	450	70	620	240
Kensington and Chelsea	120	—	210	60	230	10	350	120
Lambeth	220	—	480	110	570	80	940	270
Lewisham	200	20	410	160	490	120	850	370
Newham	220	30	430	230	710	230	1,620	670

Full-time equivalent support staff[1] in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools, January 1997 and 2006, by local authority area and government office region in England

	1997				2006			
	Teaching assistants[2]		Support staff[3]		Teaching assistants[2]		Support staff[3]	
	Nursery/ primary	Secondary	Nursery/ primary	Secondary	Nursery/ primary	Secondary	Nursery/ primary	Secondary
Southwark	290	20	540	140	840	110	1,230	340
Tower Hamlets	310	10	590	180	1030	220	1,270	580
Wandsworth	230	10	460	130	480	80	810	290
Westminster	130	—	230	110	280	80	480	270
Outer London	3,320	370	6,620	3,440	8,880	2,520	13,960	8,480
Barking and Dagenham	230	20	360	130	390	80	550	310
Barnet	230	10	480	280	800	160	1,030	550
Bexley	130	40	270	190	340	160	660	540
Brent	190	10	330	180	510	120	790	460
Bromley	140	10	280	260	340	170	650	610
Croydon	310	20	610	190	690	140	1,100	490
Ealing	260	10	450	140	420	110	710	390
Enfield	180	10	420	230	840	170	1,120	650
Greenwich	240	20	420	150	560	210	910	500
Harrow	200	30	390	140	400	100	730	300
Havering	110	30	330	220	430	160	670	500
Hillingdon	190	50	410	250	510	150	970	520
Hounslow	200	20	350	210	450	140	600	520
Kingston upon Thames	90	—	180	100	240	60	400	230
Merton	150	20	290	100	340	90	540	260
Redbridge	110	30	290	230	650	170	860	570
Richmond upon Thames	70	10	170	100	260	60	360	210
Sutton	120	10	230	150	220	130	480	420
Waltham Forest	190	20	350	180	480	140	830	460
South East	6,340	1,660	12,930	7,430	13,450	5,560	23,970	16,860
Former Berkshire	630	150	1,240	740	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bracknell Forest	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	120	50	300	190
Windsor and Maidenhead	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	170	120	360	330
West Berkshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	260	140	500	440
Reading	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	140	50	410	210
Slough	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	370	80	580	290
Wokingham	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	250	100	450	340
Former Buckinghamshire	410	90	990	660	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Buckinghamshire (post 1.4.97)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	660	250	1,380	920
Milton Keynes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	370	180	850	570
Former East Sussex	450	90	1,000	560	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
East Sussex (post 1.4.97)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	690	440	1,380	1,140
Brighton and Hove	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	270	110	590	400
Former Hampshire	1,680	420	3,160	1,530	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hampshire (post 1.4.97)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,060	700	3,360	2,150
Portsmouth	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	400	150	620	390
Southampton	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	420	150	650	440
Isle of Wight	100	50	180	190	150	210	350	450
Former Kent	1,500	440	2,670	1,680	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kent (post 1.4.98)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,810	1,100	4,440	3,300
Medway	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	570	250	940	690
Oxfordshire	450	190	900	640	850	590	1,700	1,400
Surrey	810	140	1,680	760	1,760	510	2,960	1,630
West Sussex	310	100	1,110	670	1,100	390	2,160	1,580
South West	3,310	830	6,960	4,590	8,210	3,600	13,970	10,500
Isles of Scilly	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
Bath and North East Somerset	130	20	210	160	120	80	400	380
Bristol, City of	520	50	710	270	790	130	1,130	510
North Somerset	150	20	240	170	270	100	430	370

Full-time equivalent support staff[1] in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools, January 1997 and 2006, by local authority area and government office region in England

	1997				2006			
	Teaching assistants[2]		Support staff[3]		Teaching assistants[2]		Support staff[3]	
	Nursery/ primary	Secondary	Nursery/ primary	Secondary	Nursery/ primary	Secondary	Nursery/ primary	Secondary
South Gloucestershire	220	20	360	200	460	110	620	420
Cornwall	540	200	970	560	950	570	1,650	1,220
Former Devon	520	120	1,420	980	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Devon (post 1.4.98)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,590	590	2,060	1,510
Plymouth	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	510	230	810	710
Torbay	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	160	100	400	340
Former Dorset	230	110	710	600	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dorset (post 1.4.97)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	760	410	1,000	950
Poole	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	320	80	410	250
Bournemouth	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	320	90	420	280
Gloucestershire	320	40	600	460	550	350	1,350	1,140
Somerset	380	120	870	590	820	410	1,530	1,210
Former Wiltshire	310	130	870	600	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wiltshire (post 1.4.97)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	420	230	1,160	840
Swindon	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	180	130	570	370

n/a = Not applicable.
"—" = Nil or negligible
[1] Includes both full-time and the full-time equivalent of part-time support staff.
[2] Includes nursery nurses, nursery assistants, literacy and numeracy support staff and any non-teaching staff regularly employed to support in the classroom expect from special needs and minority ethnic pupils support staff.
[3] Includes teaching assistants.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Full-time equivalent regular teachers[1] in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools, January 1997 and 2006, by local authority area and government office region in England

	1997		2006	
	Nursery/ primary	Secondary	Nursery/ primary	Secondary
England	191,670	189,430	198,190	216,290
North East	10,400	10,790	10,070	11,440
Gateshead	830	780	790	780
Newcastle upon Tyne	950	1,050	920	1,090
North Tyneside	710	860	730	910
South Tyneside	700	590	590	720
Sunderland	1,310	1,210	1,180	1,360
Hartlepool	400	400	410	430
Middlesbrough	720	570	650	410
Redcar and Cleveland	650	610	610	670
Stockton-on-Tees	810	750	820	840
Former Durham	2,470	2,260	n/a	n/a
Darlington	n/a	n/a	410	370
Durham (post 1.4.97)	n/a	n/a	2,060	2,040
Northumberland	850	1700	890	1,820
North West	29,210	27,190	28,240	31,090
Cumbria	1,990	1,980	2,060	2,600
Former Cheshire	3,910	4,000	n/a	n/a
Cheshire (post 1.4.98)	n/a	n/a	2,570	3,020
Halton	n/a	n/a	520	570
Warrington	n/a	n/a	880	950

Full-time equivalent regular teachers[1] in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools, January 1997 and 2006, by local authority area and government office region in England

	1997		2006	
	Nursery/ primary	Secondary	Nursery/ primary	Secondary
Bolton	1,230	1,130	1,140	1,300
Bury	750	660	750	760
Manchester	2,070	1,480	1,950	1,720
Oldham	1,050	1,080	1,060	1,170
Rochdale	940	830	940	910
Salford	1,060	750	950	830
Stockport	1,150	970	1,080	1,050
Tameside	910	820	920	1,000
Trafford	850	840	850	1,080
Wigan	1,310	1,300	1,230	1,420
Former Lancashire	5,710	5,410	n/a	n/a
Lancashire (post 1.4.98)	n/a	n/a	4,540	4,920
Blackburn with Darwen	n/a	n/a	720	620
Blackpool	n/a	n/a	570	560
Knowsley	800	600	720	650
Liverpool	2,110	1,960	1,850	2,190
St. Helens	760	760	710	790
Sefton	1,210	1,240	1,030	1,360
Wirral	1,390	1,390	1,210	1,640
Yorkshire and the Humber	19,980	20,230	20,430	22,540
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	1,110	870	1,020	990
East Riding of Yorkshire	1,080	1,260	1,220	1,510

Full-time equivalent regular teachers[1] in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools, January 1997 and 2006, by local authority area and government office region in England

	1997		2006	
	Nursery/ primary	*Secondary*	*Nursery/ primary*	*Secondary*
North East Lincolnshire	680	640	680	680
North Lincolnshire	610	630	590	720
North Yorkshire	2,140	2,340	2,210	2,820
York	630	600	620	700
Barnsley	850	740	860	860
Doncaster	1,290	1,290	1,240	1,360
Rotherham	1,070	1,180	1,010	1,390
Sheffield	1,960	1,650	1,940	1,980
Bradford	1,830	2,640	2,310	2,150
Calderdale	850	880	910	1,060
Kirklees	1,620	1,540	1,760	1,710
Leeds	2,940	2,760	2,770	3,170
Wakefield	1,310	1,230	1,270	1,440
East Midlands	15,530	16,750	16,600	18,680
Former Derbyshire	3,580	3,580	n/a	n/a
Derbyshire (post 1.4.97)	n/a	n/a	2,840	3,220
Derby	n/a	n/a	970	1,050
Former Leicestershire	3,600	3,830	n/a	n/a
Leicestershire (post 1.4.97)	n/a	n/a	2,360	2,870
Leicester	n/a	n/a	1,390	1,270
Rutland	n/a	n/a	120	130
Lincolnshire	2,290	2,610	2,460	3,040
Northamptonshire	2,420	2,870	2,610	2,720
Former Nottinghamshire	3,630	3,860	n/a	n/a
Nottinghamshire (post 1.4.98)	n/a	n/a	2,750	3,380
Nottingham	n/a	n/a	1,100	1,000
West Midlands	21,960	21,640	22,210	24,530
Former Hereford and Worcester	2,330	2,790	n/a	n/a
Herefordshire	n/a	n/a	670	710
Worcestershire	n/a	n/a	1,910	2,600
Former Shropshire	1,580	1,640	n/a	n/a
Shropshire (post 1.4.98)	n/a	n/a	1,010	1,180
Telford and Wrekin	n/a	n/a	630	660
Former Staffordshire	3,950	4,130	n/a	n/a
Staffordshire (post 1.4.98)	n/a	n/a	2,920	3,830
Stoke-on-Trent	n/a	n/a	940	950
Warwickshire	1,870	1,840	1,940	2,220
Birmingham	4,940	4,350	5,030	4,640
Coventry	1,340	1,290	1,310	1,460
Dudley	1,370	1,210	1,340	1,340
Sandwell	1,370	1,220	1,340	1,340

Full-time equivalent regular teachers[1] in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools, January 1997 and 2006, by local authority area and government office region in England

	1997		2006	
	Nursery/ primary	*Secondary*	*Nursery/ primary*	*Secondary*
Solihull	900	890	920	1,000
Walsall	1,180	1,260	1,180	1,410
Wolverhampton	1,130	1,010	1,080	1,180
East of England	19,880	21,750	21,240	24,740
Former Cambridgeshire	2,690	2,500	n/a	n/a
Cambridgeshire (post 1.4.98)	n/a	n/a	2,120	2,000
Peterborough	n/a	n/a	730	850
Norfolk	3,010	2,740	3,040	3,070
Suffolk	2,130	3,060	2,200	3,320
Former Bedfordshire	2,050	2,750	n/a	n/a
Bedfordshire (post 1.4.97)	n/a	n/a	1,270	2,270
Luton	n/a	n/a	940	750
Former Essex	6,000	6,090	n/a	n/a
Essex (post 1.4.98)	n/a	n/a	5,050	5,800
Southend-on-Sea	n/a	n/a	750	900
Thurrock	n/a	n/a	650	580
Hertfordshire	4,020	4,610	4,490	5,200
London	28,860	24,940	30,740	29,480
Inner London	11,060	8,160	11,950	9,210
Camden	610	780	600	750
City of London	20	—	10	—
Hackney	850	500	1,010	520
Hammersmith and Fulham	470	370	530	500
Haringey	1,030	740	1,050	870
Islington	820	520	760	600
Kensington and Chelsea	380	260	420	250
Lambeth	1,050	500	1,080	570
Lewisham	1,010	750	1,070	720
Newham	1,120	1,010	1,550	1,260
Southwark	1,030	600	1,160	730
Tower Hamlets	1,210	930	1,200	1,080
Wandsworth	880	650	930	750
Westminster	580	530	580	630

Full-time equivalent regular teachers[1] in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools, January 1997 and 2006, by local authority area and government office region in England

	1997		2006	
	Nursery/ primary	Secondary	Nursery/ primary	Secondary
Outer London	17,790	16,780	18,790	20,270
Barking and Dagenham	750	680	780	860
Barnet	1,290	1,420	1,340	1,370
Bexley	890	910	910	1,100
Brent	1,120	940	1,150	1,250
Bromley	970	1,190	1,130	1,500
Croydon	1,450	1,030	1,380	1,260
Ealing	1,220	900	1,190	1,030
Enfield	1,130	1,260	1,350	1,560
Greenwich	1,030	880	1,080	1,120
Harrow	960	570	970	630
Havering	900	920	900	1,200
Hillingdon	940	970	1,120	1,180
Hounslow	920	1,010	920	1,170
Kingston upon Thames	490	520	540	630
Merton	700	460	680	530
Redbridge	920	1,060	1,130	1,380
Richmond upon Thames	550	480	600	450
Sutton	580	730	670	1,020
Waltham Forest	1,000	840	970	1,030
South East	28,650	28,440	30,550	33,220
Former Berkshire	2,900	3,130	n/a	n/a
Bracknell Forest	n/a	n/a	420	380
Windsor and Maidenhead	n/a	n/a	430	680
West Berkshire	n/a	n/a	600	860
Reading	n/a	n/a	490	420
Slough	n/a	n/a	590	630
Wokingham	n/a	n/a	590	730
Former Buckinghamshire	2,730	2,360	n/a	n/a
Buckinghamshire (post 1.4.97)	n/a	n/a	1,920	2,160
Milton Keynes	n/a	n/a	1,050	1,000
Former East Sussex	2,480	2,350	n/a	n/a
East Sussex (post 1.4.97)	n/a	n/a	1,740	1,810
Brighton and Hove	n/a	n/a	790	790
Former Hampshire	6,090	5,340	n/a	n/a
Hampshire (post 1.4.97)	n/a	n/a	4,680	4,520
Portsmouth	n/a	n/a	680	610
Southampton	n/a	n/a	790	780
Isle of Wight	340	630	360	760
Former Kent	5,890	6,740	n/a	n/a
Kent (post 1.4.98)	n/a	n/a	5,390	6,710
Medway	n/a	n/a	1,130	1,300
Oxfordshire	1,920	2,150	2,260	2,480
Surrey	3,660	3,200	3,700	3,630
West Sussex	2,650	2,530	2,930	2,960

Full-time equivalent regular teachers[1] in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools, January 1997 and 2006, by local authority area and government office region in England

	1997		2006	
	Nursery/ primary	Secondary	Nursery/ primary	Secondary
South West	17,210	17,700	18,120	20,570
Isles of Scilly	10	10	30	—
Bath and North East Somerset	590	720	590	760
Bristol, City of	1,550	1,120	1,480	1,070
North Somerset	640	770	680	810
South Gloucestershire	960	940	1,020	1,140
Cornwall	1,770	1,780	1,910	2,170
Former Devon	3,650	3,760	n/a	n/a
Devon (post 1.4.98)	n/a	n/a	2,560	2,570
Plymouth	n/a	n/a	840	1,160
Torbay	n/a	n/a	440	600
Former Dorset	1,980	2,550	n/a	n/a
Dorset (post 1.4.97)	n/a	n/a	1,150	1,840
Poole	n/a	n/a	460	560
Bournemouth	n/a	n/a	490	620
Gloucestershire	2,070	2,140	2,170	2,700
Somerset	1,700	1,670	1,800	2,030
Former Wiltshire	2,270	2,250	n/a	n/a
Wiltshire (post 1.4.97)	n/a	n/a	1,740	1,830
Swindon	n/a	n/a	770	720

n/a = Not applicable.
"—" = Nil or negligible.
[1] Excludes occasional teachers.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Annual survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies 618g.

Full-time equivalent pupils in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools, January 1997 and 2006, by local authority area and government office region in England

	1997		2006	
	Nursery/ primary	Secondary	Nursery/ primary	Secondary
England	4,300,860	3,041,580	4,041,790	3,306,360
North East	237,550	177,910	203,060	174,600
Gateshead	17,730	11,750	15,470	11,770
Newcastle upon Tyne	22,090	17,380	19,910	16,730
North Tyneside	15,990	14,370	15,200	13,650
South Tyneside	15,520	9,720	12,190	9,970
Sunderland	29,350	19,200	23,420	19,120
Hartlepool	9,840	6,180	8,590	6,460
Middlesbrough	16,000	8,610	12,910	5,580
Redcar and Cleveland	15,370	10,160	12,360	10,010
Stockton-on-Tees	19,030	12,520	16,090	12,590
Former Durham	56,200	37,980	n/a	n/a
Darlington	n/a	n/a	8,600	6,260
Durham (post 1.4.97)	n/a	n/a	40,130	32,510
Northumberland	20,430	30,050	18,180	29,960

Full-time equivalent pupils in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools, January 1997 and 2006, by local authority area and government office region in England

	1997		2006	
	Nursery/ primary	Secondary	Nursery/ primary	Secondary
North West	671,170	437,760	580,470	462,310
Cumbria	43,690	32,370	38,560	35,620
Former Cheshire	90,760	65,770	n/a	n/a
Cheshire (post 1.4.98)	n/a	n/a	53,500	46,960
Halton	n/a	n/a	10,240	8,060
Warrington	n/a	n/a	16,910	14,050
Bolton	27,600	17,800	24,550	19,620
Bury	17,530	11,100	15,470	11,810
Manchester	45,650	22,230	40,550	23,500
Oldham	24,370	16,680	22,770	16,550
Rochdale	22,260	13,170	19,090	14,150
Salford	24,260	12,080	19,330	11,820
Stockport	26,750	15,680	22,970	16,320
Tameside	22,800	14,220	19,080	15,660
Trafford	20,210	13,230	18,490	16,240
Wigan	29,420	19,980	25,470	20,890
Former Lancashire	134,530	87,450	n/a	n/a
Lancashire (post 1.4.98)	n/a	n/a	92,780	75,120
Blackburn with Darwen	n/a	n/a	14,830	9,420
Blackpool	n/a	n/a	11,510	8,650
Knowsley	18,420	9,670	14,460	9,530
Liverpool	47,540	31,770	36,670	32,110
St. Helens	17,360	11,870	14,990	11,760
Sefton	27,020	19,630	22,500	20,420
Wirral	31,020	23,080	25,770	24,060
Yorkshire and the Humber	459,900	334,070	425,330	345,540
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	26,900	15,080	21,160	15,770
East Riding of Yorkshire	26,610	20,790	25,340	23,560
North East Lincolnshire	16,810	11,190	13,780	11,070
North Lincolnshire	14,500	10,400	13,540	10,760
North Yorkshire	46,750	37,040	43,500	41,890
York	14,420	9,320	13,040	10,210
Barnsley	20,890	12,930	19,330	13,710
Doncaster	29,600	20,730	25,600	20,410
Rotherham	24,590	19,150	22,820	20,360
Sheffield	44,310	27,450	40,970	31,380
Bradford	39,690	46,180	48,760	34,220
Calderdale	19,720	14,070	18,140	15,540
Kirklees	36,980	25,560	34,410	26,590
Leeds	67,260	44,420	58,250	47,810
Wakefield	30,890	19,760	26,700	22,270
East Midlands	363,510	272,020	348,280	295,860
Former Derbyshire	85,700	58,890	n/a	n/a
Derbyshire (post 1.4.97)	n/a	n/a	60,580	50,960
Derby	n/a	n/a	20,930	15,660
Former Leicestershire	81,260	61,800	n/a	n/a
Leicestershire (post 1.4.97)	n/a	n/a	48,190	46,790
Leicester	n/a	n/a	26,770	17,890
Rutland	n/a	n/a	2,480	2,410
Lincolnshire	52,940	40,000	52,110	48,320
Northamptonshire	53,710	45,930	55,580	45,260
Former Nottinghamshire	89,890	65,400	n/a	n/a
Nottinghamshire (post 1.4.98)	n/a	n/a	59,620	54,960
Nottingham	n/a	n/a	22,020	13,600
West Midlands	498,520	350,640	456,940	375,190
Former Hereford and Worcester	51,630	47,640	n/a	n/a
Herefordshire	n/a	n/a	12,680	10,390
Worcestershire	n/a	n/a	37,380	40,860
Former Shropshire	36,930	26,110	n/a	n/a
Shropshire (post 1.4.98)	n/a	n/a	21,320	18,100
Telford and Wrekin	n/a	n/a	14,680	10,540
Former Staffordshire	95,770	71,710	n/a	n/a
Staffordshire (post 1.4.98)	n/a	n/a	62,220	60,910
Stoke-on-Trent	n/a	n/a	21,140	14,690
Warwickshire	43,390	30,280	40,730	34,290
Birmingham	107,800	66,870	100,400	70,270
Coventry	29,400	19,740	25,930	21,210
Dudley	29,400	18,910	27,100	20,750
Sandwell	31,010	19,090	28,010	19,850
Solihull	20,620	14,390	18,850	15,500
Walsall	27,470	20,080	24,920	20,890
Wolverhampton	25,100	15,840	21,570	16,950
East of England	437,170	348,220	429,810	389,630
Former Cambridgeshire	60,520	42,020	n/a	n/a
Cambridgeshire (post 1.4.98)	n/a	n/a	43,630	32,700
Peterborough	n/a	n/a	15,240	13,180
Norfolk	65,130	41,580	63,670	46,860
Suffolk	45,610	49,610	43,680	54,160
Former Bedfordshire	43,380	46,380	n/a	n/a
Bedfordshire (post 1.4.97)	n/a	n/a	24,150	37,660
Luton	n/a	n/a	18,470	12,300
Former Essex	133,590	97,650	n/a	n/a
Essex (post 1.4.98)	n/a	n/a	105,200	91,090
Southend-on-Sea	n/a	n/a	13,790	12,600
Thurrock	n/a	n/a	13,310	8,840
Hertfordshire	88,940	70,980	88,670	80,250

Full-time equivalent pupils in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools, January 1997 and 2006, by local authority area and government office region in England

	1997		2006	
	Nursery/ primary	Secondary	Nursery/ primary	Secondary
London	603,380	375,150	607,160	423,140
Inner London	221,150	117,540	224,610	127,780
Camden	11,130	10,930	11,370	9,950
City of London	200	—	230	—
Hackney	17,620	7,350	17,580	6,990
Hammersmith and Fulham	9,630	6,040	9,740	6,860
Haringey	20,700	10,070	21,170	11,660
Islington	16,180	7,580	14,320	8,060
Kensington and Chelsea	6,700	3,310	7,250	3,510
Lambeth	18,730	6,590	19,720	8,050
Lewisham	21,090	10,860	21,180	11,000
Newham	27,280	15,660	29,280	18,280
Southwark	22,600	9,160	22,540	10,230
Tower Hamlets	22,470	13,060	22,250	14,370
Wandsworth	17,400	9,280	17,090	10,430
Westminster	9,410	7,660	10,900	8,400
Outer London	382,230	257,610	382,550	295,360
Barking and Dagenham	16,830	10,140	17,410	12,630
Barnet	25,150	19,780	25,310	19,550
Bexley	21,400	15,320	19,850	18,320
Brent	21,910	13,570	22,730	16,420
Bromley	24,200	18,650	23,720	22,420
Croydon	29,750	15,480	28,630	18,620
Ealing	25,800	14,180	24,800	15,180
Enfield	25,170	18,960	26,160	22,150
Greenwich	21,120	13,640	20,480	14,540
Harrow	19,460	8,300	19,040	9,040
Havering	20,670	14,700	18,940	16,590
Hillingdon	20,780	15,010	22,710	17,080
Hounslow	18,660	15,290	17,830	16,590
Kingston upon Thames	10,860	8,180	11,070	9,570
Merton	14,710	7,620	13,810	8,600
Redbridge	20,280	16,840	22,860	20,650
Richmond upon Thames	11,220	7,690	12,270	7,160
Sutton	13,870	12,420	14,220	16,160
Waltham Forest	20,420	11,840	20,710	14,070
South East	639,790	454,810	615,660	514,190
Former Berkshire	63,540	49,650	n/a	n/a
Bracknell Forest	n/a	n/a	8,410	6,200
Windsor and Maidenhead	n/a	n/a	8,410	10,280
West Berkshire	n/a	n/a	11,810	12,240
Reading	n/a	n/a	9,980	6,030
Slough	n/a	n/a	11,300	8,910
Wokingham	n/a	n/a	11,800	10,810
Former Buckinghamshire	64,250	38,310	n/a	n/a
Buckinghamshire (post 1.4.97)	n/a	n/a	38,400	35,140
Milton Keynes	n/a	n/a	20,650	15,100
Former East Sussex	53,570	36,280	n/a	n/a
East Sussex (post 1.4.97)	n/a	n/a	35,200	28,700
Brighton and Hove	n/a	n/a	16,320	12,130
Former Hampshire	137,760	86,210	n/a	n/a
Hampshire (post 1.4.97)	n/a	n/a	97,010	72,670
Portsmouth	n/a	n/a	13,860	9,780
Southampton	n/a	n/a	15,880	11,490
Isle of Wight	7,310	10,970	6,890	12,150
Former Kent	135,290	104,810	n/a	n/a
Kent (post 1.4.98)	n/a	n/a	108,750	98,940
Medway	n/a	n/a	22,120	20,390
Oxfordshire	43,790	36,530	44,690	37,760
Surrey	76,340	51,700	77,070	59,620
West Sussex	57,940	40,340	57,110	45,850
South West	389,870	291,010	375,070	325,910
Isles of Scilly	160	110	250	—
Bath and North East Somerset	12,870	11,480	11,980	12,620
Bristol, City of	33,910	16,520	29,770	15,480
North Somerset	14,650	11,880	14,740	13,000
South Gloucestershire	22,410	15,220	22,030	17,100
Cornwall	40,310	29,820	38,520	32,870
Former Devon	83,650	62,050	n/a	n/a
Devon (post 1.4.98)	n/a	n/a	52,440	43,420
Plymouth	n/a	n/a	18,960	18,550
Torbay	n/a	n/a	9,500	9,230
Former Dorset	46,300	43,580	n/a	n/a
Dorset (post 1.4.97)	n/a	n/a	24,520	30,170
Poole	n/a	n/a	10,260	8,690
Bournemouth	n/a	n/a	10,320	9,890
Gloucestershire	46,200	34,960	43,360	40,710
Somerset	38,150	28,850	36,470	33,130
Former Wiltshire	51,290	36,550	n/a	n/a
Wiltshire (post 1.4.97)	n/a	n/a	35,310	29,440
Swindon	n/a	n/a	16,620	11,620

n/a = Not applicable.
"—" = Nil or negligible.

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Schools: Rural Areas

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of rural schools that are likely to close in each year to 2015. [150258]

Jim Knight: The Department has not made an estimate of the number of rural schools that are likely to close in each year to 2015. Decisions about school closures are made by the local authority, or schools adjudicator. When considering proposals, local authorities and the schools adjudicator are required to have regard to statutory guidance which contains a presumption against closing rural primary schools. While this does not mean that no rural primary school will ever close, the case for closure must be strong and in the best interests of educational provision in the area.

Local authorities are responsible for the overall planning of school places in their area and we expect them to ensure that school places are where parents want them.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the structural changes necessary in the schools system to drive up standards; and if he will make a statement. [149939]

Jim Knight: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State made a statement to the House on 10 July setting out the Government's plans for raising standards in schools. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 put in place a new framework which will underpin these plans, including the creation of trusts to strengthen the governance of schools and enable schools to forge permanent relationships with external partners. The Act requires local authorities to promote diversity and increase choice, and gives them new powers to commission school places in response to parental demand. Local authorities also have enhanced powers to tackle poorly performing schools. The academies programme will continue to drive up standards in disadvantaged communities.

As my right honourable Friend made clear, the Government's focus is on standards. We are confident that the framework that we have put in place gives schools and local authorities the tools they need to deliver better outcomes for children and families.

Secondary Education: Admissions

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of parents did not receive their first choice of school on transfer of their child from primary to secondary education, broken down by local education authority, in the last period for which figures are available. [149946]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* The Department does not routinely collate data on preferences met, but did obtain this information from a number of local authorities during March 2007. A copy of the data received will be placed in the House Library.

Outcome of the secondary school admissions process in England for entry in September 2007

Authorities	*Number of offers issued*	*Number who obtained a preferred school*	*Percentage who obtained a preferred school*	*Number who obtained first preference*	*Percentage who obtained first preference*	*Number without any offer*	*Vacant school places*
Barking and Dagenham	2,360	2,210	94.00	1,689	71.50	0	215
Barnet	3,383	2,991	88.40	2,058	60.80	0	0
Barnsley	2,774	2,739	98.70	2,614	94.20	36	327
Bath	1,616	1,555	96.00	1,498	93.00	0	223
Bedfordshire	4,650	4,567	98.21	4,299	92.45	0	259
Bexley	2,772	2,687	97.00	1,728	62.34	85	0
Birmingham	14,694	13,795	87.34	10,005	63.35	0	0
Blackburn	1,933	1,745	90.00	1,558	81.00	0	28
Blackpool	1,562	1,507	96.50	1,442	95.20	0	216
Bolton	3,520	3,444	97.84	3,281	93.21	0	70
Bournemouth	1,468	1,411	96.11	1,042	70.98	0	204
Bracknell Forest	1,229	1,145	93.00	—	—	0	39
Bradford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brent	2,767	2,580	92.00	1,963	69.80	45	42
Brighton	2,238	2,088	93.30	1,871	83.60	0	92
Bristol	3,641	3,451	95.00	3,173	87.00	0	650
Bromley	3,350	3,164	95.00	2,199	66.00	0	0
Buckinghamshire	5,855	5,511	92.40	3,345	56.08	0	83
Bury	2,083	2,046	98.20	1,893	90.90	37	0
Calderdale	2,414	2,347	97.20	1,945	80.60	0	85
Cambridgeshire	1,298	1,298	89.80	974	67.40	146	0
Camden	1,298	1,298	89.80	974	67.40	146 (10%)	0
Cheshire	7,616	7,236	95.00	6,893	90.50	202	731
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cornwall	5,520	5,449	99.00	5,366	97.20	0	774
Coventry	3,278	3,082	94.25	2,976	88.73	196	478
Croydon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cumbria	5,595	5,548	99.20	5,563	95.90	0	0

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Darlington	1,206	1,043	86.60	802	66.50	0	24
Derby City	2,592	2,553	98.50	2,259	87.01	39	305
Derbyshire	8,463	8,295	98.00	8,036	95.00	0	706
Devon	8,128	7,990	98.30	7,612	93.65	0	0
Doncaster	3,417	3,374	98.75	3,251	95.14	43	559
Dorset	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dudley	3,903	3,365	86.20	3,099	79.00	0	47
Durham	5,568	5,516	99.00	5,424	97.40	0	940
Ealing	3,218	3,002	93.28	2,270	70.50	0	26
East Riding	3,620	3,586	99.00	3,518	97.00	20	420
East Sussex	5,221	4,857	93.00	4,578	87.70	0	487
Enfield	3,711	3,500	94.00	2,388	64.30	211	237
Essex	15,575	15,195	97.56	13,054	83.81	0	1,463
Gloucestershire	7,238	6,796	9390	5,892	81.40	0	0
Greenwich	2,601	2,452	94.27	—	—	0	254
Hackney	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Halton	1,328	1,334	99.60	1,288	97.00	6	343
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,138	1,138	88.50	728	62.00	136	225
Hampshire	14,575	14,285	98.00	13,820	95.00	0	1,190
Haringey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Harrow	1,775	1,754	98.75	1,569	88.00	0	115
Hartlepool	1,119	1,119	100.00	1,101	98.00	0	132
Havering	2,736	2,599	95.00	2,161	79.00	137	227
Hereford	1,972	1,921	97.42	1,768	89.66	0	191
Hertfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hillingdon	3,054	2,913	95.40	2,233	73.10	0	357
Hounslow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Isle of Wight High Schools	1,521	1,480	97.00	1,453	95.50	0	135
Islington	1,512	1,512	96.00	1,083	73.00	74	225
Kensington and Chelsea	700	609	83.00	427	61.00	111	0
Kent	15,774	15,170	96.10	11,682	74.00	97	1,321
Kingston Upon Hull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kingston Upon Thames	1,446	1,352	92.00	875	60.00	22	51
Kirklees	4,773	4,773	100.00	4,150	86.90	0	517
Knowsley	2,210	2,086	94.40	1,852	88.78	0	0
Lambeth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lancashire	13,342		98.00		92.00	0	0
Leeds	8,132	7,657	94.20	6,704	82.40	0	0
Leicester City Council	3,371	3,210	95.20	2,888	85.70	177	323
Leicestershire	13,104	13,102	99.98	12,895	98.4	2	0
Lewisham	2,878	2,705	94.00	1,648	58.40	0	27
Lincolnshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Liverpool	5,933	5,429	92.00	4,629	78.02	0	0
Luton	2,423	2,280	94.00	2,009	83.00	0	145
Manchester	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Medway	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Merton	1,631	1,522	93.30	—	—	0	125
Middlesbrough	1,767	1,644	95.97	1,367	79.80	0	281
Milton Keynes	2,880	2,735	95.00	2,678	93.00	0	0
North Somerset	2,220	2,206	99.36	2,182	98.20	0	0
Newcastle	3,132	3,038	97.00	2,855	91.20	99	0
Newham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norfolk	11,018	10,698	95.60	10,143	90.60	16	1,479
North Lincolnshire	1,919	1,904	99.22	1,852	96.51	0	0
North East Lincolnshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

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North Somerset	2,030	2,015	99.26	1,987	97.88	0	199
North Tyneside	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northumberland Middle to High	3,813	3,813	100.00	3,748	98.00	0	0
Nottingham City	2,790	2,720	97.49	2,493	89.35	50	904
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oldham	3,116	3,018	96.80	2,835	91.00	98	232
Oxfordshire	6,242	6,130	98.20	5,675	90.92	0	664
Peterborough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plymouth	2,703	2,658	98.34	2,549	94.30	0	376
Poole	1,117	1,097	92.00	1,053	88.00	23	196
Portsmouth	1,764	1,739	98.69	1,665	94.49	0	293
Reading	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Redbridge	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Redcar and Cleveland	1,660	1,607	97.00	1,555	94.00	0	254
Richmond	1,393	1,236	89.00	924	66.00	86	0
Rochdale	2,732	2,715	99.37	2,570	94.07	0	511
Rotherham	3,486	3,444	98.80	3,326	95.40	0	268
Rutland	294	292	99.30	278	94.50		26
Salford	2,353	2,276	97.00	2,096	87.00	53	0
Sandwell	4,153	4,025	96.61	3,181	76.59	0	0
Sefton	3,229	3,021	95.90	2,851	90.91	0	427
Sheffield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shropshire	3,123	3,081	98.60	2,877	92.00	0	0
Slough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Solihull	2,621	2,591	99.00	2,101	80.00	0	0
Somerset	4,362	4,079	93.51	4,079	93.51	198	496
South Gloucestershire	2,958	2,928	98.90	2,828	95.60	*	298
South Tyneside	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Southampton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Southend	1,974	1,911	96.80	1,239	64.83	63	111
Southwark	2,537	910	86.80	1,267	51.00	0	82
Staffordshire	10,905	10,580	97.02	10,192	97.20	325	0
St. Helens	2,011	2,000	99.45	1,938	96.37	0	156
Stockport	3,129	3,014	96.30	2,684	85.70	0	12
Stockton	1,276	1,276	100.00	1,276	100.00	18	346
Stoke on Trent	2,720	2,661	98.00	2,504	93.20	59	0
Suffolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sunderland	2,488	2,373	95.00	2,252	91.00	0	0
Surrey	11,185	10,481	94.00	9,358	84.00	0	249
Sutton	2,105	2,019	94.00	1,382	65.00	33	0
Swindon	2,466	2,390	97.00	2,334	95.00	0	199
Tameside	3,120	2,997	96.05	2,740	87.82	0	95
Telford and Wrekin	2,011	1,967	97.81	1,812	90.10	0	308
Thurrock	1,868	1,838	98.00	1,662	89.00	0	78
Torbay	1,618	1,511	93.00	1,333	82.40	0	138
Tower Hamlets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafford	2,522	2,377	94.20	1,372	93.00	0	0
Wakefield	3,736	3,717	99.50	3,648	97.60	0	411
Walsall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Waltham Forest	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wandsworth	—	—	92.60	—	52.00	0	0
Warrington	2,318	2,274	98.00	2,230	96.00	0	154
Warwickshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Berkshire	1,556	1,542	99.00	1,430	92.00	8	138
Westminster	1,001	1,001	92.00	748	69.00	83	101
Wigan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

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Authorities	*Number of offers issued*	*Number who obtained a preferred school*	*Percentage who obtained a preferred school*	*Number who obtained first preference*	*Percentage who obtained first preference*	*Number without any offer*	*Vacant school places*
West Sussex	6,492	6,301	97.00	5,947	92.00	7	302
Wiltshire	4,750	4,665	98.20	4,398	92.60	85	679
Wirral	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wokingham	1,740	1,727	99.25	1,436	83.15	0	211
Wolverhampton	2,791	2,637	94.48	2,169	77.71	0	403
Worcestershire	8,055	7,841	97.35	7,663	95.13	0	613
York	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	435,071	405,088	93.11	356,257	81.88	3,126	27,323

Notes:
1. This data was produced as a result of an ad-hoc request, asking local authorities for information on preferences met on national offer date (1 March) i.e. the date on which all offers for entry to secondary school in September 2007 should be sent.
2. As the Department does not specify how this data must be measured and reported, as it is not routinely collected, there are differences in how individual local authorities may have measured preferences met, e.g. most would have measured the proportion of parents living in their area who were offered a place at their first preference of school (regardless of the location of that school); while others measure the proportion of those offered a place at a school in that area for whom it was a first preference (regardless of where the parent resides).
3. The picture in most, if not all, local authority areas would have changed. National offer date is only the beginning of a process. Following receipt of offers of school places, parents have to say if they will accept them. Some will not, e.g. because they have moved away, taken a place at an independent school etc. These places can then be reoffered to other parents, who may be made an improved offer from that sent to them on 1 March. Between offer date and the end of July, many parents also appeal against refusal of places at preferred schools. In 2005-06, 36.4 per cent. of secondary school admission appeals were successful.
Source: Data provided to the DfES during March 2007 (see notes).

Secondary Education: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what evidence the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority had that the new secondary curriculum will be effective; and if he will place in the Library copies of that evidence. [150386]

Jim Knight: The revised curriculum will be effective in providing flexibility for catch-up classes in English and mathematics; effective in providing flexibility to allow pupils to extend and deepen their understanding in areas where they have particular aptitudes and interests; and effective in providing pupils with the personal attributes and practical life skills they will need for success at work and in their daily lives.

The approach taken by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority in developing the new curriculum builds on evidence from work carried out with schools and colleges going back a number of years. For example, the 'futures in action' programme, which has been running since 2005, has continued to demonstrate a high degree of consensus about many of the characteristics of how the curriculum should be shaped. QCA's work is also supported by the results of its international comparisons and its annual curriculum monitoring programme, which includes interviews and questionnaires with head teachers, deputy heads, teachers and pupils.

It is not practical to collect all of this research evidence, from the UK and abroad, and to place copies of all relevant documents in the Libraries of the House. However, much of this information can be accessed via the QCA's website at:

www.qca.org.uk/curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will ask the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority to publish the agenda and minutes of the external committee for the secondary curriculum. [150387]

Jim Knight: The Department has no plans to ask the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority to publish the agendas and minutes of its secondary curriculum review external committee.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what basis it was decided to separate concepts, processes and knowledge in the revised programmes of study for the national curriculum. [150388]

Jim Knight: The aim of the secondary curriculum review was to clarify the fundamental aspects of subjects which underpin their study and draw on content to promote deeper understanding.

We do not expect teachers to teach concepts, processes and discretely, but to integrate them in the classroom.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will conduct a comparative analysis of the proposed secondary curriculum and the curricula of those education systems that perform best in international comparisons. [150391]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority has been compiling comparative information on curriculum and assessment frameworks since 1996. The work is managed and updated by the international information unit at the National Foundation for Educational Research. It provides descriptions of government policy on education for 20 countries.

The countries concerned are: Australia, Canada, England, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the USA and Wales.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what revisions were made to the revised national curriculum programmes of study following the statutory consultation process. [150392]

Jim Knight: Changes were made to the mathematics programmes of study to develop the key concepts to make them more in line with those in other subjects and to show what underpins the study of mathematics. The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority met with the advisory committee on mathematics education to discuss the changes.

Revisions were made to the key concepts, key processes and range and content of citizenship programmes of study to provide greater clarity of what should be offered in the light of Sir Keith Ajegbo's review on diversity and citizenship.

The modern foreign languages programme of study was amended to provide an illustrative list of the European and major world languages which can be taught.

Changes were made to retain 'systems and control' and 'resistant materials' as elements of compulsory study within the key stage 3 design and technology curriculum.

Changes were made to align better the personal wellbeing programmes of study with the social and emotional aspects of learning programme.

The economic wellbeing programmes of study were renamed economic wellbeing and financial capability.

In other subjects drafting changes were made to provide greater clarity.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many responses to the secondary curriculum statutory consultation relating to a programme of study at key stages 3 and 4 were received from parents, broken down by subject; [150393]

(2) whether the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority actively sought the involvement of parents during the statutory consultation period for the new secondary curriculum; [150395]

(3) how many parents were involved with activities undertaken by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority on the statutory consultation period for the new secondary curriculum; [150396]

(4) how many events for parents were held by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority as part of the consultation process for the secondary curriculum review. [150397]

Jim Knight: There were no specific consultations with parents covering the programmes of study for particular subjects.

The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, working with St. Martin's college, held two consultation events for parents in Sandwell on 16 March 2007 and in Bristol on 22 March 2007. The QCA also exhibited at the education show, which was widely attended by parents and teachers, though numbers were not collected.

The widespread media coverage generated by the consultation launch and subsequent features and newspaper supplements were designed to ensure that all parents could engage with the review if they so wished.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 310W, on Secondary Education: Curriculum, how many responses the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority received in relation to the secondary curriculum review consultation on the *(a)* programme of study and *(b)* supporting materials from (i) parents and (ii) pupils. [150418]

Jim Knight: A total of 10,613 people had direct contact with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority regarding the new curriculum through conferences, young people's forums and workshop events.

There were 1,891 responses to the online consultation questionnaire. 39 of these came from parents and 15 from pupils. Data are not broken down by programme of study or supporting materials.

The following table outlines the profile of respondents to the online consultation in detail. Of the 1,891 responses to the survey, 1,596 were from individuals and 295 were from groups.

Respondent type	*Number of respondents*
School	1,219
Classroom or subject teacher/lecturer	623
Subject manager	356
Curriculum co-ordinator/manager	244
Course leader	192
Member of senior management team/leadership team	145
Head Teacher	38
School governor	35
Special educational needs teacher	32
Programme manager	22
Head of year	28
English as an additional language teacher	5
Other (within school)	70
Local authority	119
Subject association/subject advisor/subject lecturer/subject inspector	105
Teacher/professional association	98
Higher education institution	41
Parent	39
Pupil	15
An organisation representing aspects of diversity	10
National youth organisation	10
Employer	7
An organisation representing aspects of inclusion	6
Governing body/national associations for school governors	6
National parents association	1
Other	212

Source:
Ipsos MORI

Secondary Education: Sponsorship

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on his policy that every secondary school should have a business and university partner. [149864]

Jim Knight: It is the aspiration of the Government for every secondary school to have a business and university or college partner. Already over 85 per cent. of secondary schools, through becoming specialist schools, have developed relationships with local businesses. We currently have over 200 secondary, primary and special schools working towards trust status, which will cement partnerships with the private sector, higher education and further education sectors, and voluntary sector, in order to support strong school leadership. My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State announced on 10 July his intention to encourage universities to take a much greater role in the academies programme, and the abolition of the requirement for universities and high-performing schools and colleges to provide £2 million before they can sponsor an academy.

The Secretary of State has invited the National Council for Educational Excellence to advise him on how businesses, universities and colleges can play a bigger part in support of schools, and on how independent and maintained schools can work together to raise standards for the benefit of all.

Teachers: Autism

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to promote specialist teacher training for teachers dealing with children with autism. [150436]

Jim Knight: All teachers, as part of their initial teacher training and induction period, must demonstrate that they can differentiate their teaching to meet the needs of pupils, including those with special educational needs or disabilities, and know how to seek advice from those with specialist knowledge, such as the school's SEN co-ordinator.

Once qualified, all teachers are expected to discuss their own development needs in performance management reviews, and to address development priorities. This could include strengthening knowledge and understanding of SEN, including autism. Where schools have identified a need to strengthen knowledge and understanding of SEN or disabilities, as a school priority, this should be addressed through their school improvement and development plans.

All schools receive a school development grant that they are able to use to support improvements in any aspect of teaching and learning. This includes professional development. A wide variety of courses are available covering SEN and disabilities, ranging from awareness raising through to in-depth studies leading to specific qualifications. It is, however, a matter for individual teachers and their schools to determine their own particular training and development needs. Local authorities may retain a proportion of this grant, under certain conditions, to provide specific training and development of SEN.

In 2002, we published jointly with the Department of Health 'Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD): Good Practice Guidance', which offered a series of pointers to good practice, including a number on in-service training. The guidance advised that

"all those who plan or provide for children with ASD should have some knowledge and understanding of autism".

In October 2007, the Department plans to formally launch its inclusion development programme which will help enhance teacher confidence in key areas of SEN. The programme will focus initially on speech, language and communication needs and dyslexia, since the ability to communicate is fundamental to learning and progression for all children with SEN and disabilities. It is envisaged that it will then address the needs of learners with ASD and behavioural, emotion and social difficulty, with other types of needs covered over time.

The Department is also working with voluntary sector organisations and others to support the establishment of an Autism Trust, which will aim to improve teachers' specialist skills in working with children with ASD. We will announce further details later this year.

Teachers: Bureaucracy

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps were taken to reduce the bureaucratic burden on teachers in each year since 2000-01; and if he will make a statement. [149935]

Jim Knight: Since 2000-01 the Government have taken a number of actions to address the bureaucratic burden on teachers and we continue to work to ensure that teachers' time is spent on key activities that support teaching and learning.

The key to helping schools and teachers on the ground is the new relationship with schools. The Department has built a new relationship with schools aimed at reducing bureaucratic burdens on them while reinforcing school autonomy at the same time as sharpening school accountability. This relationship included the introduction of a new inspection framework which halves the time and effort schools expend on inspection while focusing inspection even more closely on improving teaching and learning. The new relationship is also supporting and simplifying schools' external accountability by the deployment of a nationally accredited school improvement partner to every school.

The Government, employers and a majority of school work force unions signed 'Raising Standards and Tackling Workload: a National Agreement' in 2003. This set out a number of changes to teachers' contracts intended to bring downward pressure on working hours, and these were implemented between 2003 and 2005.

The agreement included a provision that teachers could no longer be required routinely to undertake a range of administrative or clerical tasks.

Implementation of the national agreements' provisions have been overseen by the Workforce agreement monitoring group (made up of the Agreement's signatories) and the group continues to work to ensure that teachers and head teachers have conditions of service which enable them to focus on their core roles of teaching and leading and managing teaching and learning.

In 2003, my Department also set up the implementation review unit comprising representatives from among head teachers, teachers and support staff currently working in schools. Appointed through an open, public appointments process, this was the first ever panel of

this type to scrutinise the work of a major Government Department. Working independently of, but in partnership with the Department and its agencies, the IRU both challenges and supports the Department on examining policy design and implementation from a burdens and bureaucracy perspective.

We have also rationalised data collections and set up a system to ensure that we collect only essential data from schools, scrutinised by external practitioners through a star chamber board on which head teachers sit. Wherever possible, data are collected by sample. The data are collected once only and used many times. This has led to a significant decrease in the number of requests for new data from schools.

The Department takes the views of schools and teachers very seriously. Discussions with head teachers and detailed research showed that schools wanted to be able to choose the printed publications they needed, when they needed them, and to be able to order multiple copies. In response to this, we stopped regular paper mailings to all schools; and since December 2004, have successfully introduced an online ordering service where schools are now able to either download or order paper based copies of publications they need. A regular fortnightly e-mail is sent to schools to inform them of new publications.

Teachers: Pay

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent discussion he has had with the schoolteachers' review body on *(a)* holding a review into the level of teachers' pay and *(b)* the level of teachers' pay; and if he will make a statement. [150174]

Jim Knight: The Government submitted written evidence to the STRB on 24 May, in respect of the remit set on 29 March, and the Secretary of State and I attended an oral evidence session with the STRB on 12 July. The Secretary of State also wrote to the chairman of the STRB on 5 June about the current pay award.

Teachers: Recruitment

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding has been allocated to the Teach First scheme for each of the next five years. [149884]

Jim Knight: We have confirmed that Teach First will be expanding—indeed this was announced in the Budget 2005. Precise funding allocations to the teacher training providers and schools working with Teach First depend on numbers recruited against agreed targets.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to attract more of the best graduates into teaching; and if he will make a statement. [149887]

Jim Knight: The highly successful advertising campaigns run by the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) have contributed significantly to increases in graduate recruitment to teaching, and there is evidence that this has had a positive effect on schools' ability to attract high quality teachers. Teacher vacancy rates are, at 0.6 per cent., now considerably lower than rates for other comparable professions.

Over 75 per cent. of new entrants to teacher training are now graduates who take a post graduate certificate of education or career changers on employment-based routes such as the graduate teacher programme. More trainee teachers than ever have a degree at 2:1 or higher.

We offer a training bursary of £9,000 to those taking a PGCE in shortage subjects, which currently include maths, science, English, modern foreign languages, technology, music and religious education. A golden hello of £5,000 is also paid for maths and science (£2,500 for the other shortage subjects) when a new teacher has completed their induction in schools. A bursary of £6,000 is offered to trainees taking a primary PGCE or a PGCE in history, geography and physical education.

During the past five years we have been running the student associate scheme, which focuses on maths, physics and chemistry and places high quality undergraduates in schools for up to 15 days to provide curriculum support for teachers and to carry out project work with pupils. It also gives participants a taste of teaching as a career. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills has just announced that participation in the scheme is to be doubled.

The Government also provides funding for Teach First a relatively new programme that recruits and trains particularly high-quality graduates to teach shortage subjects in challenging schools for two years, with the option to make a longer-term career in teaching beyond this time. In his statement to the House on 10 July, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families said that he will consult on a new Teach Next programme to promote mid-career routes into teaching, especially for people from industry and the sciences.

Teaching Methods: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what total funding was allocated for personalised learning in each year since 2004-05, broken down by initiative; what the planned figures are for each year to 2012-13; and if he will make a statement. [149934]

Jim Knight: No funding was specifically allocated for personalised learning in 2004-05. In 2006-07, £500 million was allocated for personalised learning. In 2007-08, £990 million was allocated.

This money was included in schools base budgets, with no conditions of grant, and was not allocated to specific initiatives. Our guidance to schools indicated that our priorities for the funding were: to support intervention and catch-up provision for children who have fallen behind in English and maths; to support the education of gifted and talented learners; and to help learners from deprived backgrounds to access after-school and year-round activities.

The comprehensive spending review full allocations (for the period 2008-11) for personalised learning will be announced in due course. This will include funding for two areas of work that have already been announced:

£150 million (£50 million in each of the three years of the CSR period) for assessment for learning, a key element of personalising learning. This was announced by the Secretary of State in his statement on 10 July;

funding to support 300,000 pupils to receive one-to-one tuition in English and Maths, 30,000 children being supported by the Every Child a Reader programme; and the establishment of the Every Child Counts programme. This was announced in Budget 2007.

Extended schools are also an important part of personalising learning for all children. The Secretary of State announced a subsidy of £265 million for extended schools over the CSR period on 10 July. This consists of £8.5 million in 2008-09, £40 million in 2009-10 and £217 million in 2010-11. This extra investment is to help disadvantaged children to access out-of-school activities, which can support their learning.

Teenage Pregnancy

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the teenage pregnancy rates was in each year since 1990-91; and what he expects it to be in 2007-08. [149930]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 17 July 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what estimate has been made of teenage pregnancy rates for each year since 1990-91 to 2007-08. (149930)

Teenage conception figures for girls aged under 20 are routinely published by ONS for England and Wales and by health authority areas. These figures are estimates of the number of conceptions that resulted in a live birth, stillbirth or legal termination.

The number and rate of teenage conceptions and also conceptions to girls aged under 18 (used to monitor the Government's target on teenage pregnancy) for England and Wales, 1990 to 2005 (the most recent year for which figures are available), are shown in the attached table. Figures for 2005 are provisional.

Conceptions by age: number and rate for England and Wales, 1990-2005[1]

	Under 20		Under 18	
	Number	Rate[2]	Number	Rate[3]
1990	113,330	68	44,756	48
1991	101,625	64	40,088	45
1992	93,417	62	37,551	44
1993	87,163	60	35,794	42
1994	85,352	59	36,091	42
1995	86,586	59	37,880	42
1996	94,872	63	43,489	46
1997	96,007	63	43,358	46
1998	101,627	65	44,119	47
1999	98,787	63	42,028	45
2000	97,666	62	41,348	44
2001	95,970	61	40,990	43
2002	97,107	60	41,951	43
2003	98,592	60	42,162	42
2004	101,262	60	42,198	42
2005	101,888	60	42,187	41

[1] Figures for 2005 are provisional.
[2] Rate per 1,000 females aged 15-19.
[3] Rate per 1,000 females aged 15-17.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Aimhigher Programme: Finance

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans his Department has to fund the Aim Higher programme beyond September 2008. [149492]

Bill Rammell: While the overall comprehensive spending review settlement for DfES has been announced we are working through the implications of the recent machinery of government changes and are not yet in a position to comment on specific programmes. We hope to be in a position to make an announcement in the near future.

Apprentices

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of apprenticeships are *(a)* work-based and *(b)* college-based; and if he will make a statement on the future of apprenticeships. [149519]

Bill Rammell: In England, 100 per cent. of Learning and Skills Council funded apprentices must spend a significant period of their learning in a work-based environment in employment in order to complete a full apprenticeship. In addition, some learners participate in programme led apprenticeships in preparation for full apprenticeships. PLAs enable learners to take some of the required apprenticeship qualifications, such as key skills, in a further education college or with another provider before taking up employment as an apprentice. In 2005-06, 24,580 learners, 12.3 per cent. of the combined total of 199,480 PLA and apprenticeship starts, started a programme led apprenticeship and 174,900 or 87.7 per cent. started an apprenticeship in employment.

The apprenticeship programme has been extremely successful with the number of apprentices in learning rising threefold since 1997 and now standing at some 250,000. Quality has also improved, with the completion rate now standing at almost 60 per cent., up from just 24 per cent. five years ago. As a result, the apprenticeship programme is recognised as the principal route for acquiring nationally recognised, high quality occupational skills which contribute to the strength of our economy. We now want to build on that success by expanding the programme further so that in 2013 any suitably qualified young person will be entitled to an apprenticeship place. In addition we have accepted the recommendation of the Leitch review of skills for a target of 500,000 apprentices in learning in the UK by 2020.

Civil Servants: Qualifications

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make it his policy to encourage colleagues with postdoctoral titles to employ them in public as an encouragement to learning. [148220]

Bill Rammell: There is no departmental policy on this and I believe that the use of academic titles should remain a matter of personal choice.

Degrees: Employment

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the employment rate of students who did not complete their degree in each of the last five years. [149780]

Bill Rammell: The information is not held centrally.

Departments: Compensation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what total amount of compensation claims was made against public bodies for which his Department is responsible in the last 12 months; and if he will list the 10 highest such claims, identifying the nature of each case. [148185]

Mr. Lammy: This information is not held centrally by the Department and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Ethnic Groups

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make a statement on his policy on support for minority groups within his Department. [148206]

Mr. Lammy: The Department was established on 28 June 2007 but, like predecessor Departments, we will be putting an equality and diversity delivery plan in place as a key part of our human resources strategy.

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will list the *(a)* national and *(b)* European court cases since 1997 whose judgements have required a change in policy by his Department. [148217]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested is not routinely collated and so could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Racial Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [149250]

Mr. Lammy: No complaints of racial abuse were investigated in the Department in the last 12 months. Formal complaints of racial abuse would be investigated quickly and thoroughly and, where complaints were upheld, appropriate disciplinary action would be taken. All cases are treated seriously.

The Department believes that each and every individual has the right to be treated fairly, with dignity and respect. As such, we do not tolerate unacceptable behaviour towards others. The overall aim of our harassment and bullying policy is to prevent such unacceptable behaviour occurring but, where it does occur, to ensure that appropriate and effective action is taken to deal with it and prevent it happening again. This applies to everyone in the Department. Every individual is personally responsible for their own behaviour, and every manager is responsible for enforcing the policy in accordance with the guidance and procedures set out in our staff handbook.

Education: Finance

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much funding each relevant education institution received for improving retention in each of the last 10 years. [149092]

Bill Rammell: The Higher Education Funding Council for England allocates funding directly to higher education institutions towards the costs of widening participation activities. Since 2003-04 this allocation has included an element for improving retention, which is intended to increase student success. I have arranged for a table to be placed in the House of Commons Library detailing the amounts of funding allocated to each institution for the four years from 2003-04 to 2006-07. There was no specific allocation to institutions for improving retention prior to 2003-04: institutions then, as now, were expected to support student retention activities from within their overall block grant.

Student success within institutions arises from a wide range of factors including teaching quality and student support services. Supporting student success is therefore intrinsically linked with the total investment that institutions make, of which the improving retention element of the widening participation allocation is just one part.

Postgraduate Education

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has to encourage more UK-domiciled graduates to study at postgraduate level. [149034]

Bill Rammell: Between 1996-97 and 2005-06, the latest year for which data are available, the number of UK domiciled students entering higher education to study at postgraduate level rose by 35,000 (26 per cent.) to 170,000. We will continue to support our world-class higher education system so that it remains attractive to students, whatever their background.

Postgraduate Education: Social Class

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what percentage of postgraduates were from socioeconomic classes four to seven in each of the last 10 years, broken down by subject. [149033]

Bill Rammell: The latest information for enrolments on postgraduate courses by subject of study are given in the tables. A new classification for recording subject of study was introduced in 2002-03 and so figures from 2002-03 onwards are not comparable to earlier years.

Figures for postgraduate enrolments by social class are not available.

Number of UK domiciled postgraduate enrolments at higher education institutions in England (excluding the Open University) by subject of study, 1995/96 to 2001/02

Subject of study	*1995/96*	*1996/97*	*1997/98*	*1998/99*	*1999/2000*	*2000/01*	*2001/02*
Medicine and dentistry	6,220	7,075	7,230	7,410	7,670	7,855	8,165
Subjects allied to medicine	10,070	11,040	12,130	13,605	14,195	15,600	17,615
Biological sciences	8,445	9,320	9,485	9,965	10,330	10,540	10,765
Veterinary sciences	240	305	250	255	245	230	260
Agriculture and related	785	805	895	970	1,015	1,225	1,370
Physical sciences	9,740	9,610	8,790	8,575	8,355	8,080	8,135
Mathematical sciences	2,210	2,020	1,815	1,635	1,740	1,790	2,115
Computer sciences	6,600	7,010	7,455	8,380	8,825	9,075	9,090
Engineering and technology	12,555	12,185	12,205	12,385	11,245	12,715	12,840
Architecture, building and planning	6,540	7,185	6,755	6,985	6,355	6,360	6,765
Social economic and political studies	17,505	18,070	17,875	18,425	17,845	17,790	18,180
Law	7,930	7,820	8,410	8,690	9,140	10,190	10,840
Business and administrative studies	34,110	37,415	38,450	38,540	38,740	37,365	37,605
Librarianship and information science	2,665	2,960	3,075	3,220	3,530	3,855	3,920
Languages	5,870	5,990	5,945	5,945	6,105	5,830	6,045
Humanities	6,970	7,525	7,695	8,065	7,880	7,900	8,080
Creative arts and design	5,560	6,080	6,315	6,355	6,710	6,780	6,840
Education	46,310	47,895	48,625	48,885	48,220	51,585	54,660
Combined	3,230	3,200	3,355	3,700	3,925	4,200	4,515
Total	193,550	203,525	206,750	211,985	212,065	218,970	227,800

Note:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December excluding those writing up, on sabbatical or dormant. Students from the Open University are also excluded from the analysis.
Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record

Number of UK domiciled postgraduate enrolments at higher education institutions in England (excluding the Open University) by subject of study, 2002/03 to 2005/06

Subject of study	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*
Medicine and dentistry	7,955	8,040	8,355	8,515
Subjects allied to medicine	19,240	21,940	23,880	24,520
Biological sciences	13,240	13,790	14,200	14,625
Veterinary sciences	235	270	285	340
Agriculture and related sciences	1,470	1,310	1,175	1,085
Physical sciences	8,165	8,275	7,940	7,930
Mathematical sciences	2,060	2,540	2,095	2,125
Computer sciences	8,625	7,855	6,905	6,055
Engineering and technology	11,985	11,285	11,235	10,520
Architecture, building and planning	6,775	6,840	6,965	7,715
Social sciences	17,490	18,145	17,940	18,500
Law	12,320	12,275	12,075	11,895
Business and administrative studies	40,305	37,585	36,565	35,375
Mass communications and documentation	3,805	3,790	3,740	3,740
Languages	6,555	6,765	6,380	6,300

Number of UK domiciled postgraduate enrolments at higher education institutions in England (excluding the Open University) by subject of study, 2002/03 to 2005/06

Subject of study	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Historical and philosophical studies	8,295	8,395	7,855	7,880
Creative arts and design	7,295	7,600	7,560	7,735
Education	57,710	61,340	64,020	66,235
Combined	780	830	615	640
Total	234,315	238,875	239,790	241,730

Note:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December excluding those writing up, on sabbatical or dormant. Students from the Open University are also excluded from the analysis.
Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record

Research Councils: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what the projected *(a)* total budget and *(b)* administration costs of each of the research councils is for (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-10; [148914]

(2) what the *(a)* total expenditure and *(b)* total administration cost of each of the research councils was in each year since 1997. [148915]

Ian Pearson: The total expenditure and total administration cost of each research council since 1997 is given in the following tables. From 2004-05 all of the research councils have adopted a standard definition for administration costs. Prior to this there were some definitional differences between the research councils. The total expenditure figures for 2007-08 are the budget allocations. Budget allocations for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not yet been made.

Table 1: Research councils total expenditure

£ million

	AHRC[2]	BBSRC	EPSRC	ESRC	MRC	NERC	CCLRC[3]	PPARC[3]	STFC
1997-98	x	188.7	393.8	66.2	305.2	n/a	145.1	190.3	x
1998-99	x	206.9	390.9	69.3	299.6	214.1	147.2	203.7	x
1999-2000	x	209.1	401.5	72.3	321.8	219.0	144.7	193.2	x
2000-01	x	230.7	430.5	76.9	339.1	238.6	146.3	227.9	x
2001-02	x	248.7	542.1	81.8	372.1	258.5	165.5	226.6	x
2002-03	x	275.8	569.3	88.1	403.3	278.7	167.9	252.6	x
2003-04	x	278.4	470.7	100.0	447.0	312.4	220.1	284.7	x
2004-05	x	302.3	510.4	116.0	447.9	328.8	318.0	307.6	x
2005-06	84.3	326.5	573.4	135.5	525.8	364.2	370.2	337.0	x
2006-07	98.8	386.5	659.2	160.1	551.3	381.1	349.3	338.3	x
2007-08[1]	97.3	410.6	738.2	150.7	552.2	401.0	x	x	609.7

[1] 2007-08 budget allocations.
[2] AHRC became a research council on 1 April 2005.
[3] STFC became a research council on 1 April 2007, formed from a merger of CCLRC and PPARC.

Table 2: Research councils administration expenditure

£ million

	AHRC[2]	BBSRC	EPSRC	ESRC	MRC	NERC	CCLRC[3]	PPARC[3]	STFC[3]
1997-98	x	5.9	20.7	3.6	12.8	n/a	15.1	3.1	x
1998-99	x	6.0	20.2	4.0	12.3	11.4	15.5	3.0	x
1999-2000	x	6.2	20.1	3.9	12.7	11.8	15.8	3.3	x
2000-01	x	5.9	19.2	3.9	12.8	12.4	16.0	3.4	x
2001-02	x	6.2	19.3	4.4	13.7	14.3	16.4	3.6	x
2002-03	x	6.3	18.1	4.8	14.5	3.2	17.0	4.3	x
2003-04	x	7.1	19.9	5.4	14.5	3.0	17.4	4.7	x
2004-05	x	8.3	20.7	5.8	16.9	19.7	19.1	6.2	x
2005-06	3.7	9.3	17.1	4.1	16.6	20.9	20.7	6.2	x
2006-07	3.9	10.2	20.2	3.8	16.6	21.7	24.1	6.4	x
2007-08[1]	4.1	11.1	22.1	3.8	18.4	16.2	x	x	8.4

[1] Research councils own forecasts.
[2] AHRC became a research council on 1 April 2005.
[3] STFC became a research council on 1 April 2007, formed from a merger of CCLRC and PPARC.

Research Councils: Official Hospitality

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the expenditure of each of the research councils was on hospitality and entertainment in each year since 1997. [148913]

Ian Pearson: The expenditure of each research council on hospitality and entertainment since 1997 is given in the following table. Research councils hospitality expenditure primarily takes the form of refreshments for visitors, particularly those undertaking review work or providing advice as members of boards or committees. The research councils do not generally fund any entertainment activities.

Research councils expenditure on hospitality and entertainment

£ million

	AHRC[1]	BBSRC[2]	EPSRC	ESRC[2]	MRC	NERC[2,3]	CCLRC[4]	PPARC[2,4]	STFC[4]
1997-98	x	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	x
1998-99	x	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	x
1999-2000	x	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	x
2000-01	x	n/a	0	n/a	0	0.2	0	n/a	x
2001-02	x	0	0	n/a	0	0.3	0	n/a	x
2002-03	x	0	0	n/a	0	0.4	0	n/a	x
2003-04	x	0	0	n/a	0	0.4	0	0.1	x
2004-05	x	0.1	0	0	0	0.7	0	0.1	x
2005-06	0	0.1	0	0	0	0.7	0	0.1	x
2006-07	0	0.1	0	0	0	0.7	0	0.1	x

[1] AHRC became a Research Council on 1 April 2005. [2] Identification of this type of expenditure not produced in all years for BBSRC, ESRC, NERC, PPARC. [3] NERC figures include hospitality at scientific meetings, public events and conferences. [4] STFC became a Research Council on 1 April 2007, formed from a merger of CCLRC and PPARC.

Students: Expenditure

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the total cost was to the public purse of student maintenance support to *(a)* part-time undergraduate and *(b)* full-time undergraduate students in each of the last three academic years. [149086]

Bill Rammell: The cost to Government of student maintenance support for the last three financial years is shown in the following table. Figures exclude fee grants and fee loans paid to higher education institutions:

£000

Financial year	Full-time maintenance support—student loans in RAB terms[1] and student grants	Part-time maintenance support
2004-05 outturn	690,907	8,368
2005-06 outturn	871,843	12,871
2006-07 estimated outturn	1,066,464	18,400

[1] The student loans RAB charge estimates the future cost to Government of subsidising and writing off student loans issued in that year. It does not show cash lent to students, which has risen each year since the introduction of student loans.

PRIME MINISTER

Business Council for Britain

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what the remit is of *(a)* the Business Council for Britain and *(b)* the Chancellor's high-level group; [148468]

(2) how often he expects to meet the members of the Business Council for Britain; [148469]

(3) what steps he plans to put in place to ensure that the work of the Business Council for Britain does not overlap with that of the Chancellor's high-level group; [148470]

(4) whether minutes of the meetings of the Business Council for Britain will be published. [148471]

The Prime Minister: As Chancellor, I announced in the Budget 2006 a commitment to work with the financial sector to establish a high-level group to develop and support a new strategy to promote London as the leading international financial centre. My right hon. Friend the Chancellor will continue this work with the high-level group.

On the Business Council for Britain, which will assist the Government in putting in place the right strategy to promote the long-term health of the UK economy, I refer the hon. Member to my written statement on 28 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 36WS.

Chequers

Norman Lamb: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 26 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 2036W, to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald), on Chequers, when he expects the information on guests who have been entertained at Chequers to be ready for publication; and what the reason is for the time taken to do so to date. [149398]

The Prime Minister: The information requested will be published in due course.

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the financial arrangements in place in respect of the continued occupation of Chequers by his predecessor; and how long he expects that occupation to continue. [150256]

The Prime Minister: My predecessor no longer has the use of Chequers.

Committees: National Security

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister what *(a)* matters were discussed and *(b)* decisions were taken at the first meeting of the new National Security Committee on 12 July. [150451]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the press briefing given by my spokesman on 12 July 2007. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website at http://pm.gov.uk/output/Page12436.asp and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister how much was spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants within his office's areas of responsibilities in the last 12 months. [149053]

The Prime Minister: For these purposes, my office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron) on 12 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1641W.

Departments: Racial Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which he is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [149245]

The Prime Minister: For these purposes, my office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron) on 12 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1641W.

Members: Surveillance

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister whether it is his policy that no authorisation will be given for the interception of communications in respect of *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* Members of the House of Lords; and if he will make a statement. [150253]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my predecessor, Mr. Blair on 27 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 330W.

Middle East: Special Envoy

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister what discussions he has had with the *(a)* United States President, *(b)* Russian President, *(c)* UN Secretary-General and *(d)* presidents of the European Commission and European Council on the appointment of a special envoy on behalf of the Quartet initiative in the Middle East. [148717]

The Prime Minister: I have discussed the middle east peace process with a wide range of world leaders.

Ministerial Duties: Olympic Games

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister what the reasons were for locating the Minister of State for the Olympics in the Cabinet Office. [149227]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the press briefings given by my spokesman on 28 June 2007. Transcripts of these are available on the No. 10 website (http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page12386.asp), and copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

Ministers: Official Residences

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister if he will list the official residences occupied by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* former Ministers. [150255]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the press briefing given by my spokesman on 12 July 2007. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website at http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page12448.asp and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Ministers: Pay

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister what the total cost was of *(a)* ministerial salaries and *(b)* private offices in each Government Department in 2006-07. [149333]

The Prime Minister: A full list of ministerial salaries is available on the civil service website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/other/parliamentary/pay/index.asp

A copy of the list has been placed in the House Library. The information requested in respect of private offices is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Petitions: Internet

Margaret Moran: To ask the Prime Minister what examples of the practice known as astroturfing have been identified in respect of petitions on the No. 10 website. [149450]

The Prime Minister: Criteria on the acceptance and publication of e-petitions is available on the No. 10 website (http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/terms). A copy of this web page has been placed in the Library of the House.

Politics and Government

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister what *(a)* primary and *(b)* delegated legislation regulates machinery of Government changes; what changes have been made to each since enactment; what further amendments are planned; and if he will make a statement. [149334]

The Prime Minister: The main piece of legislation that is relevant to machinery of government changes is the Ministers of the Crown Act 1975, which consolidated the existing legislation in this area.

Since its enactment, the Act has been amended by the Constitutional Reform Act 2005, the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005 and the Ministry of Overseas Development (Dissolution) Order 1979 (SI 1979/1451).

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 18 July 2007

TRANSPORT

Airports: Security

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures are in place to regulate and monitor the performance of private companies responsible for providing security at UK airports. [149761]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The national aviation security programme lays down the security measures and standards in the UK. Airports, airlines and others are legally bound to comply with mandated security measures but they are free to sub-contract specific statutory security tasks to third parties. The Department for Transport monitors through its compliance activity the standards of implementation and where performance is below the standards required will take action against the regulated party to ensure that improvements are made.

Humber Bridge

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for how much longer one carriageway in each direction is likely to remain closed on the Humber Bridge; on what basis it was decided that work on the bridge should not be carried out on a 24 hour basis; and if she will arrange for the tolls to be reduced while work is being carried out. [150263]

Ms Rosie Winterton: These are all matters for the Humber Bridge Board.

Off-road Vehicles: Leisure

Mr. Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance her Department has given local authorities on the use of off-road vehicles for recreational purposes; and if she will make a statement. [150228]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

DEFRA has published two guidance documents on the use of off road vehicles for recreational purposes, "Regulating the use of motor vehicles on public rights of way and off road—A guide for Local Authorities, Police and Community Safety Partnerships" and "Making the Best of Byways". Together these documents set out the powers available to tackle illegal practices, provide good practice examples, and give advice on both the practical management and maintenance of routes.

Public Transport: Crimes of Violence

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many incidences of violent crime were recorded by the British Transport Police since 2004, broken down by region. [150574]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is not held by the Department for Transport but by the British Transport Police who can be contacted at: British Transport Police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN, E-mail: general.enquiries@btp.pnn.police.uk.

Railways: Freight

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects the Minister for Railways to announce the upgrading of the freight route between Southampton and Birmingham. [150288]

Mr. Tom Harris: As detailed in the then Secretary of State's written ministerial statement to Parliament of 18 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 134-6WS, the Southampton to west coast mainline rail gauge enhancement scheme is one of the strategic freight schemes being considered for funding from the productivity strand of the Transport Innovation Fund.

Final decisions on each of the schemes under consideration will be taken through the Department's investment appraisal framework on an individual basis, as each business case is completed. I hope to be in a position to make further announcements about the individual schemes in the course of this year.

Railways: Vehicle Access Barriers

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what evaluation she has made of the trial of vehicle access barriers at Victoria and Waterloo stations. [149578]

Mr. Tom Harris: The aim of the trial was to test the practicalities of deploying and maintaining portable access control barriers in an operational environment.

The trial proved that such barriers could be deployed while maintaining adequate passenger flow rates and emergency access. It also proved, however, that the deployment of such barriers needs very careful planning due to their weight and the resulting loading on the supporting structure.

Further to this trial the Department for Transport is undertaking survey work at stations, in co-operation with operators and the British Transport Police, to assess options for more permanent vehicle access control measures. We are also working with operators to ensure that vehicle access control issues are taken into account as part of planned station developments.

Railways: Standards

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many trains were cancelled in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* the last 12 months; and what reasons were given for cancellations, broken down by train operating company. [150575]

Mr. Tom Harris: Train cancellation data for the rail network as a whole is collected and processed by Network Rail. For a response, the hon. Member may wish to contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address:

John Armitt,
Chief Executive,
Network Rail,
40 Melton Street,
London NW1 2EE

Roads: Safety Measures (Cornwall)

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions her Department has had with Cornwall county council on road safety issues in Cornwall. [150153]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There have been no recent road safety specific issues discussed between the Department for Transport and Cornwall county council.

In December 2006, the Department notified Cornwall of its assessment of their second local transport plan, covering the period 2006-07 to 2010-11. The road safety element of the plan was assessed as being "Excellent" which meant that the Department considered that Cornwall are on track to achieve beyond the 2010 national road safety targets.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members: Postal Services

Mr. Allen: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will take steps to restore the availability of casual stationery and envelopes in the Members' Post Office; and how much has been saved by preventing Members from using franked envelopes in the Members' Post Office. [149643]

Nick Harvey: The Post Office has continued to supply limited amounts of stationery including prepaid envelopes, and these are now recorded against Members' names. Savings of around £5,000 have been made in the first quarter of 2007-08 by ending the issue of casual stationery and envelopes in the Members' Post Office.

In its report on the Communications Allowance (First Report 2006-07, HC 319), the Members Estimate Committee directly linked the new allowance to an annual limit of £7,000 per Member on pre-paid stationery. The House approved the report on 28 March 2007.

The operation of the arrangement will be kept under review.

PRIME MINISTER

Ministers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister if he will place in the Library copies of the letters of appointment of each of the Ministers in the Government. [148924]

The Prime Minister: In forming the new Government, I spoke to Ministers and discussed the Government's priorities, but did not exchange letters of appointment.

Select Committees: Publications

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister when he expects the Government to respond to the fifth report of the Public Administration Select Committee session 2005-06, "Whitehall Confidential? The Publication of Political Memoirs" HC689. [150489]

The Prime Minister: The Government are considering the report of the Public Administration Select Committee, "Whitehall Confidential? The Publication of Political Memoirs" and will respond shortly.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Civil Servants: Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the salary range is for each pay band of civil servants in the Cabinet Office. [148908]

Gillian Merron: Since April 1996 all Departments and agencies have had delegated responsibility for the pay and grading of staff, except for those below the senior civil service. Current Cabinet Office salary ranges for each pay band can be found at:

http://careers.civil-service.gov.uk/Index.asp?txtNavID=176&txtOverRideDocID=144&635132=&internal=true

Details on current senior civil service pay bands is available from:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/performance/scs

Departments: Postal Services

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what volume of correspondence his Department sent *(a)* by Royal Mail and *(b)* by other commercial delivery services in each of the last five years; and what the reasons were for the use of other commercial delivery services. [150443]

Gillian Merron: Information on the volume of correspondence sent by *(a)* Royal Mail and *(b)* by other commercial delivery services can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The vast majority of our mail services are provided by Royal Mail. Commercial delivery services are used when a 'same day' service is required within the UK and for time sensitive international deliveries

Departments: Publicity

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the cost effectiveness of advertising commissioned by his Department in the last 12 months. [148504]

Gillian Merron: The Cabinet Office currently only uses advertising for recruitment purposes. Cost effectiveness plays a key part in recruitment advertising, for example all vacancies are advertised on the Civil Service Gateway at no cost. For the graduate fast stream, which the Cabinet Office runs for the whole of the civil service, the Cabinet Office employs a mixed media approach, which a 2007 survey of applicants confirmed as the most cost-effective.

Cost-effectiveness is a key part of the Cabinet Office's best practice guidance for Government communicators when commissioning advertising, this can be seen at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/government_communication/engage/planning_process.asp

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what funding his Department provided to the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service in each of the last five years; and what funding his Department plans to provide in each of the next three years. [150031]

Mr. McFadden: BERR funding for ACAS over the last five years is shown in the following table:

	£ million
2003-04	46.0
2004-05	47.3
2005-06	47.3
2006-07	45.2
2007-08	43.0

These figures do not include the following provided by BERR to ACAS:

Investment Funding of £15.2 million to finance efficiency savings for the three years from 2005-06;

Capital Funding of £1.2 million for 2005-06, £1.0 million for 2006-07 and £1.0 million for 2007-08.

Funding for the period covered by the 2007 comprehensive spending review (i.e. 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11) has yet to be agreed with ACAS.

Departments: Ministerial Duties

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the priorities of the Minister for the South West are in 2007. [148287]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

As the Minister for the South West, I am conducting a series of visits to all counties in the region to seek the views of local political leaders and other interested parties about their priorities. My role will be to champion the region and to represent the region in the formulation of central government policy.

Employment: Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if his Department will bring forward proposals to increase the discretion of employment tribunals in their consideration of the rules governing employment disciplinary procedures. [150103]

Mr. McFadden: BERR keeps the employment tribunal rules under constant review, with the objective of improving the delivery of justice for all parties.

Employment: Industrial Disputes

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department plans to abolish fixed conciliation periods in employment disputes. [150105]

Mr. McFadden: The consultation paper "Resolving disputes in the workplace", published on 21 March 2007, invited views on whether the fixed terms for conciliation in employment disputes should be repealed. My Department's plans on the way forward will be set out in our response to that consultation which will be published in due course.

Mediation

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the level of awards made to injured parties in employment disputes who have *(a)* settled and *(b)* not settled their cases through mediation. [150099]

Mr. McFadden: Mediation is a confidential process, private to the parties involved. No award is made in relation to cases that are settled through a mediation process prior to a tribunal hearing.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what information his Department makes available to the public on mediation in employment disputes; how this information is made available; and if he will make a statement. [150104]

Mr. McFadden: BERR makes information available to the public on employment dispute resolution through the Directgov and Business Link websites. BERR also funds the work of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) including the provision of mediation and conciliation for employment disputes.

Parental Leave: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate his Department has made of the number of people from low income families in Tamworth constituency taking *(a)* paternity leave and *(b)* maternity leave in the last period for which figures are available. [150304]

Mr. McFadden: The most recent estimates of take-up of maternity and paternity leave are based on the Maternity and Paternity Rights and Benefits in Britain: Survey of Parents, conducted in 2005. The survey is based on a random sample of mothers who had a baby in December 2003 and their partners.

Of mothers in paid work, all took at least some of their entitlement to maternity leave. 93 per cent. of fathers took some time off around the time of the birth. Of the 93 per cent. who took some time off, 79 per cent. took paternity leave.

The Department does not collect data on low income families so has not estimated the number of low income families which have taken up paternity or maternity leave. The Department does not collect data on take-up of maternity and paternity leave at constituency level.

Post Office: Land

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the sites being considered by the Government for release for development of affordable homes include sites owned by the Post Office. [150101]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

No. The recent review of surplus land was directed at central Government Departments and their agencies and as Royal Mail Holdings, of which Post Office Ltd. is a wholly owned subsidiary, is a self-financing public corporation, they were not included in the review.

Regional Development Agencies: Official Hospitality

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the expenditure of each regional development agency was on hospitality and entertainment in each year since 1997. [148912]

Mr. Timms: The following table shows the regional development agencies' (RDAs) expenditure on hospitality and corporate entertainment since their creation to the last full financial year. There are some variances between RDAs in the way this expenditure is classified and recorded.

RDA	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
AWM	8,500	28,500	[1]163,500	8,600	8,900	8,000	15,816	43,862
EEDA	n/a	n/a	n/a	5,849	11,608	11,118	12,534	7,153
EMDA	284	17,870	6,510	38,722	48,344	48,301	48,185	20,077
LDA	0	209	31,220	16,801	23,133	19,462	27,341	19,202
NWDA	7,144	16,750	21,556	32,908	38,834	35,639	44,975	45,209
ONE	6,659	2,849	30,853	50,644	40,360	34,600	40,421	38,324
SEEDA	24,304	34,689	47,063	36,089	50,858	50,640	35,995	42,061
SWRDA	8,937	13,045	17,723	25,362	17,065	20,552	21,531	17,785
YF	3,405	20,095	19,616	44,992	64,428	39,276	29,397	42,460

[1] Exceptional hospitality costs in respect of the 2002 Ryder Cup. This was one off expenditure giving significant coverage to the West Midlands around the globe.

Regional Planning and Development: South West Region

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment the Minister for the South West has made of the regional strategy for the South West. [148286]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

There are two regional strategies—the regional spatial strategy and the regional economic strategy. As the 'Governance of Britain' (Cmd 7170) set out, as the Minister for the South West, along with the other regional Ministers, I will advise the relevant Secretary of State on the approval of regional strategies.

WALES

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what legislative provisions introduced by his Department since 1997 have been repealed; [149699]

(2) what legislative provisions introduced by his Department since 1997 have not yet been brought into force. [149700]

Mr. Hain: The information is as follows:

Government of Wales Act 1998

Parts have been repealed by the Government of Wales Act 2006 as set out in schedule 12 of that Act.

Health (Wales) Act 2003

The entire Act was brought into force on 26 November 2003. Parts of schedule 1 and 3 were repealed by the NHS (Consequential Provisions) Act 2007; Part of schedule 2 was repealed by the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2005 and part of schedule 3 by the Government of Wales Act 2006.

Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004

The entire Act has been brought into force. The substantive provisions were brought into force by three commencement orders, with effect from dates between 1 January and 20 July 2005; the rest had come into force on Royal Assent.

Sections 2, 6-11 and 65(2) were repealed by the Government of Wales Act 2006. Parts of schedule 2 (which contains amendments of other enactments) have been repealed by the Government of Wales Act 2006, the Health Act 2006, the NHS (Consequential Provisions) Act 2007, and the Education and Inspections Act 2006. Part of section 54 was repealed by the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (Relaxation of Restriction on Disclosure) Order 2005.

Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Act 2005

The Act has been brought into force on 12 October 2005, except for section 20 and paragraph 15(5) of schedule 1; as a consequence of the Government of Wales Act 2006, the following provisions have been repealed with effect from 25 May 2007:

sections 12(9), 16(9), 21(11), 23(6), 24(2)(b) and (3), 44(3) and parts of schedules 1 and 6.

Commissioner for Older People (Wales) Act 2006

The entire Act has been brought into force. The substantive provisions were brought into force with effect from 14 October 2006; the rest had come into force on Royal Assent.

Parts of section 27(1) (definitions) have been repealed as a consequence of the Government of Wales Act 2006 and changes in NHS legislation. Section 28(6) has been repealed as a consequence of the Government of Wales Act 2006. The repeals were made by the Government of Wales Act 2006 (Consequential Modifications and Transitional Provisions) Order 2007 and the NHS (Consequential Provisions) Act 2007.

Transport (Wales) Act 2006

The entire Act has been brought into force. The substantive provisions were brought into force with effect from 26 May 2006; the rest had come into force on Royal Assent.

Sections 2(6) and (7) and 5(9) were repealed as a consequence of the Government of Wales Act 2006 by the Government of Wales Act 2006 (Consequential Modifications and Transitional Provisions) Order 2007.

Government of Wales Act 2006

No provisions have been repealed and the Act has now come into force in accordance with section 161 except for sections 107, 108 and 110 to 115 which will only come into force in accordance with section 105.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what criminal offences have been introduced by his Department in primary legislation since October 2006. [149702]

Mr. Hain: None.

Ministerial Red Boxes

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many ministerial red boxes his Department bought in each of the last five years; what the cost of each was; who the suppliers were; and what tendering process was used in selecting them. [150417]

Mr. Hain: Ministerial boxes are used by successive Ministers over many years. No new boxes have been ordered in the last five years.

Any new ones would be ordered through contracts put in place by the Ministry of Justice.

Flags

Mr. Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will hold discussions with the First Minister on the flying of the Union Flag on UK Government buildings in Wales. [150220]

Mr. Hain: In line with the Government's decision to relax the rules for flying the Union Flag on Government buildings, while consultation on changing the rules takes place, the flying of the Union Flag on UK Government buildings in Wales is a matter for the individual Departments.

Gender Identity Disorder

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the Chief Executive of Health Commission Wales on the legal requirement to provide treatment for gender dysphoria and the implications for institutions providing services in England for Welsh patients; and if he will make a statement. [149527]

Mr. Hain: The responsibility for health in Wales has been devolved to the Welsh Assembly Government. I have regular discussions with the First Minister on a range of issues including the commissioning of services by the NHS in Wales.

It is a legal requirement for health bodies to ensure that they do not impose a 'blanket ban' on particular procedures or diagnoses without taking regard of the individual circumstances in each case. However, it is up to the local health boards in Wales to make decisions on setting local priorities for the commissioning and funding of services.

Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will hold discussions with Cabinet colleagues on the use of private finance initiatives in UK Government-sponsored projects in Wales. [150221]

Mr. Hain: The private finance initiatives are an important part of the Government's strategy for delivering high quality public services.

In assessing where PFI is appropriate, the Government's approach is based on its commitment to efficiency, equity and accountability and the principles of public sector reform. PFI is only used where it can meet these requirements and deliver clear value for money without sacrificing the terms and conditions of staff.

Where these conditions are met, PFI delivers a number of important benefits. By requiring the private sector to put its own capital at risk and to deliver clear levels of service to the public over the long-term, PFI helps to deliver high quality public services and ensure that public assets are delivered on time and to budget.

It is a matter for individual Government Departments to decide whether to use PFI in projects in Wales applying normal value for money principles.

Tidal Power: Severn Estuary

Mr. Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment he has made of the *(a)* advantages and *(b)* disadvantages of tidal power generation in the Severn Estuary; and if he will make a statement. [150216]

Mr. Hain: The Government's energy strategy outlined in our Energy White Paper (EWP) demonstrates that we firmly believe it is vital that we keep all our options open, including the various opportunities and technologies that tidal power has to offer us.

Wales is supremely well placed to harness the benefits of tidal and wave power because we have such an extensive coastline. However, we are some way off from drawing final conclusions. That is why the Government are working with the Welsh Assembly Government, the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC), the South West Regional Development Agency and other key interested parties to look strategically at the tidal resource in the UK.

As our EWP states, the SDC launched a study, the purpose of which is to consider whether the impact of climate change justifies the potential costs and benefits

of all tidal technologies including the barrage and tidal lagoons, and their public acceptability. The SDC aims to publish the report this towards the end of the summer.

The work that the SDC is undertaking will not be the only study on tidal technologies. Further detailed studies will need to be conducted, and that these will also include for example, assessments on the environmental impact and the EU Birds and Habitats Directive. So the SDC study will by no means be the last word, but a progressive next step.

It is vital that we consider all options if we are to respond to the twin challenges of climate change and security of supply. Tidal technology has an important role to play in meeting these challenges.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Casinos

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on the *(a)* Casino Advisory Panel, *(b)* casinos impact scoping study and *(c)* development of the (i) Gambling (Inviting Competing Applications for Casino Premises Licences) Regulations 2007 and (ii) Gambling (Categories of Casino) Regulations 2006. [150546]

Mr. Sutcliffe: When the Casino Advisory Panel submitted its Final Report to the Secretary of State on 30 January 2007 its total costs were approximately £400,000.

A group led by Lancaster university has been commissioned to advise on the methodology for the assessment of the social and economic impact of the new casinos. This work has cost £50,000.

The Gambling (Inviting Competing Applications for Casino Premises Licences) Regulations 2007 and Gambling (Categories of Casinos) Regulations 2006 were prepared by officials and lawyers working for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. No external costs were incurred in the development of these regulations.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1178W, on the Olympic Games, on what date KPMG stopped providing ongoing advice on the cost of the Olympics. [146542]

Tessa Jowell: I have been asked to reply as Minister for the Olympics.

KPMG were contracted to provide advice to the Department until July 2006. Following that KPMG have been contracted by the Olympic Delivery Authority to provide ongoing assistance in compiling their cost estimates.

Radio: Western Isles

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assistance is planned for improvements to the infrastructure for local radio in the Western Isles. [150313]

James Purnell: The Government have no role in the building or improvement of local radio infrastructure. Ofcom has responsibility for spectrum planning issues, while broadcasters themselves are responsible for transmission matters, including the building and maintaining of transmitters.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission: Powers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to require the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission to apply to a court before *(a)* confiscating a driving licence and *(b)* removing a passport; what the reasons are for the proposed element of judicial involvement in each case; and if he will make a statement. [146621]

Mr. Plaskitt: As is currently the case with the Child Support Agency, the Commission will need to apply to the court to seek an order disqualifying the non-resident parent for holding or obtaining a driving licence.

The Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill does however make provision for the Commission to administratively disqualify the non-resident parent for holding or obtaining travel authorisation. The disqualification would though be suspended, pending a court hearing, in the event that the non-resident parent lodged an appeal against the decision within 28 days of receiving the notification.

The loss of a driving licence has the potential to have an immediate and serious impact on the non-resident parent's day to day life, as well as implications for others—because people driving while disqualified are also uninsured. We have therefore decided that this decision should remain with the court. By contrast, most people require passports on relatively few occasions during the year, such as when taking foreign holidays.

Departments: European Union

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many officials in his Department are *(a)* involved in assisting European Council negotiations, *(b)* involved in assisting and advising the European Commission, *(c)* seconded to the European Commission, *(d)* involved in monitoring EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives, *(e)* involved in enforcing compliance with EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives and *(f)* involved in other work related to the European Council, Commission or Court of Justice. [146084]

Mr. Plaskitt: Officials throughout the Department for Work and Pensions are involved in a full range of EU business. Those working specifically on the activities listed total: 16 in the International Employment and Social Policy Division; four in the Private Pensions Policy and Regulation Division; two in the Family, Poverty and Work Division; nine in the Law, Governance and Special Policy Group; eight in

European Social Fund Division; and 25 in Jobcentre Plus, supporting EU labour market mobility. The Department has two officials seconded to the European Commission, but a complete breakdown of the figures as requested would incur disproportionate cost.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Beaches: Safety

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people *(a)* died and *(b)* were injured as a result of accidents on and around (i) local authority and (ii) privately owned beaches in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [149497]

John Healey: Information on the national total of deaths and injuries on local authority and privately owned beaches is currently not held centrally.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and *(c)* other interested parties on (i) responsibility and (ii) facilities for beach safety; and if she will make a statement. [149498]

John Healey: The provision of information and practical beach safety measures is at the discretion of beach owners, including local authorities. Awareness of these issues is high among coastal authorities and many undertake these activities as part of their strategy to support and encourage tourism.

In February 2007, following discussions between the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, the Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group and the Department, the group wrote to all coastal local authorities in England, recommending to those with specific responsibilities for managing beaches, the offer by the RNLI to provide local authorities with a risk assessment service at no cost.

Community Development: Bedfordshire

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what arrangements her Department had in place to monitor the Bedfordshire Citizen Service Partnership; and what information her Department holds on arrangements for oversight and scrutiny of the partnership put in place by Bedfordshire county council. [149422]

John Healey: At the start of the project the Department agreed outcomes and milestones for the Bedfordshire Citizen Service Partnership with the lead authority, Bedfordshire county council.

Bedfordshire county council was responsible for putting in place arrangements to monitor progress on the project. The Department requested quarterly progress reports and a final implementation report from the lead authority. Progress reports from the Citizen Service Partnership indicate that a Joint Committee was established, made up of one nominated member from Bedfordshire county council, Luton council, Mid-Bedfordshire district council and South Bedfordshire district council. The responsibility of the Joint Committee was to facilitate all the functions in relation to the electronic delivery of services on behalf of the authorities. It met quarterly.

Community Development: South West Region

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to increase black and minority ethnic engagement and participation in rural community life in south-west England; and what discussions she has had with South West Action for Communities in Rural England Network on this matter. [149408]

Mr. Dhanda: The Commission on Integration and Cohesion was commissioned to investigate issues relating to Cohesion and Integration in August 2006. A report was published on 14 June. Over the next few months the Government will be engaging widely with partners, and will respond fully in the autumn. This will include taking into account issues affecting black and minority ethnic engagement in rural communities.

The Department for Communities and Local Government funded the Black South West Network to work with the South West ACRE (Action for Communities in Rural England) Network to enhance black and minority ethnic engagement in the region.

In March 2007 a multi-agency group, chaired by the South West Regional Assembly, was established to examine the effects of migrant workers on communities in the region and to identify actions necessary to support both those workers and the communities, both urban and rural, in which they live.

Council Tax

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she has examined the value for money obtained from the council tax since May 1997. [148714]

John Healey: Good progress has been made in delivering value for money for local taxpayers, as shown from information contained in annual efficiency statements since 2004-05. The Local Government White Paper sets out steps to ensure a performance framework remains in place to underpin continual improvement in value for money .

Ethnic Groups: South West Region

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of the total population in each South West local authority area were of ethnic minority origin in the latest year for which figures are available. [149409]

Mr. Dhanda: The most recent information available was published in the 2001 census.

The headline Census Population by Ethnic Group statistics are contained within Key Statistics table KS06 which can be accessed via the Neighbourhood Statistics website:

http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/Downloadl.do

Housing Associations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many community controlled housing associations there are in *(a)* England and *(b)* Essex. [147969]

Mr. Iain Wright: Housing associations registered with the Housing Corporation are not defined or categorised as "community controlled". There are 246 housing co-operatives registered with the Corporation in England of which one operates in Colchester, Essex. In addition five registered social landlords in England have been established on "Community Gateway" principles of community empowerment and devolution of management and ownership. Six others are currently seeking registration with the Corporation on this basis, of which one is based in Braintree in Essex.

Regional Government: East Midlands

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will appoint a nine-member all party executive for the East Midlands region as a sounding board for regional issues; [149741]

(2) if she will consider bringing forward proposals to elect a nine-member all party executive for the East Midlands region. [149742]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the oral statement made to the House on 17 July 2007, announcing the publication of the review of sub-national regeneration and economic development. The review sets out the Government's proposals for the future of regional institutions including regional assemblies.

Regional Government: South West Region

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if the Minister for the South West will make it his policy *(a)* not to support the continued existence of the South West Regional Assembly and *(b)* not to allocate any functions or any funding to that Assembly. [149407]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the oral statement made to the House on 17 July 2007 announcing the publication of the Review of Sub-national Regeneration and Economic Development. The review sets out the Government's proposals for the future of regional institutions including regional assemblies.

Religious Buildings: Mosques

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many mosques there are in the UK. [150018]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally.

Shropshire County Council: Unitary Councils

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what documentation her Department received from political lobbyists working for Shropshire county council in *(a)* February, *(b)* March, *(c)* April, *(d)* May and *(e)* June 2007. [147667]

John Healey: We have received no documentation from political lobbyists in connection with the proposal for a unitary Shropshire.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department provided to local councils in *(a)* running and *(b)* funding campaigns over their bids for unitary authority status. [147794]

John Healey: The Department wrote to all chief executives in areas affected by the 16 unitary proposals under consultation, drawing their attention to the code of recommended practice on local authority publicity. The code makes it clear that local authorities should not at any time use public funds to mount publicity campaigns whose primary purpose is to persuade public to hold a particular view on a question of policy, and that authorities must take particular care when publicity is issued immediately prior to an election.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to meet councillors from Shrewsbury council to discuss the unitary authority proposals for Shropshire. [147664]

John Healey: On 19 June, Ministers met with representatives of a number of Shropshire district councils, including Shrewsbury and Atcham to hear their representations on the proposal from Shropshire county council and Oswestry borough council for a unitary Shropshire. The consultation closed on 22 June and we have no plans for any such further meetings.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings her Department has had with lobbyists working for Shropshire county council to discuss the proposed unitary authority for Shropshire. [147665]

John Healey: None.

World War II: Genocide

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the Holocaust Educational Trust's Lessons from Auschwitz project. [150251]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Hendon (Mr. Dismore) on 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 217W.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average farm size was in the *(a)* dairy, *(b)* crop, *(c)* horticulture, *(d)* livestock, *(e)* poultry and *(f)* organic sectors in (i) Cornwall, (ii) the South West and (iii) England in each year since 1979. [149219]

Jonathan Shaw: The following tables show the average holding size in (i) Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (ii) the South West and (iii) England by predominant activity for 1995 to 2005. Holdings which farm organically are included in the results but cannot be identified separately. Data for 2006 will be available later this month.

Source:

June Agricultural Survey.

Average size of registered holdings (hectares) in (i) Cornwall, (ii) the South West and (iii) England 1995 to 2005 by predominant farm type

	Cereals	*General cropping*	*Horticulture*	*Pigs and poultry*	*Dairy*	*Cattle and sheep (LFA)*	*Cattle and sheep (Lowland)*	*Mixed*	*Other*	*Total*
1995										
Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly	66.31	64.32	13.7	11.39	63.49	50.14	33.78	74.06	13.65	41.33
South West Region	118.29	87.93	10.43	16.79	74.48	62.34	35.56	103.78	17.45	51.37
England	119.78	124.53	10.94	16.44	70.32	89.17	35.86	104.35	17.32	63.42
1996										
Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly	67.84	60.27	11.24	10.65	65.35	50.38	33.35	73.87	13.30	40.87
South West Region	119.47	80.35	9.78	16.55	75.53	59.29	35.90	104.74	16.67	50.87
England	120.02	126.25	10.98	16.27	71.35	89.11	35.92	105.58	16.71	63.52
1997										
Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly	67.09	71.84	13.99	10.72	66.16	47.67	34.54	72.05	11.42	40.43
South West Region	119.88	87.34	11.24	16.23	75.61	59.75	36.13	102.95	15.27	50.63
England	122.65	133.25	12.04	15.92	71.48	90.82	36.17	103.55	15.49	63.71
1998										
Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly	67.77	67.41	14.10	10.84	66.55	46.71	34.82	73.77	11.43	40.12
South West Region	119.51	86.95	11.59	15.46	74.43	60.12	35.82	107.36	15.60	50.23
England	121.93	135.31	12.18	15.27	70.85	87.27	35.68	106.10	15.89	63.32
1999										
Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly	73.68	74.00	15.05	10.59	69.38	47.32	33.51	76.25	11.63	40.62
South West Region	124.26	97.34	11.87	15.41	77.03	59.72	34.36	106.87	13.92	48.69
England	123.93	138.57	12.67	15.22	73.36	86.47	34.41	108.16	14.62	62.16

Average size of registered holdings (hectares) in (i) Cornwall, (ii) the South West and (iii) England 1995 to 2005 by predominant farm type

	Cereals	General cropping	Horticulture	Pigs and poultry	Dairy	Cattle and sheep (LFA)	Cattle and sheep (Lowland)	Mixed	Other	Total
2000										
Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly	66.50	84.39	12.00	5.81	72.36	49.81	33.72	70.79	6.13	33.25
South West Region	128.88	100.81	8.65	10.92	82.19	62.41	34.03	101.80	7.73	41.43
England	127.64	145.50	9.92	12.10	78.19	87.64	33.41	106.57	8.25	53.91

	Cereals	General cropping	Horticulture	Specialist pigs	Specialist poultry	Dairy	Grazing livestock LFA	Grazing livestock lowland	Mixed	Other	Total
2001											
Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly	78.62	85.03	12.86	8.44	5.38	77.50	56.13	32.11	61.45	5.69	33.36
South West Region	136.50	101.44	9.98	16.61	12.43	87.77	67.16	31.73	80.92	8.58	40.95
England	130.88	146.51	11.71	16.93	14.18	83.52	86.55	29.65	81.78	10.41	52.25
2002											
Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly	67.42	82.54	13.21	6.40	4.22	76.30	53.10	30.48	53.88	5.17	29.95
South West Region	131.02	107.98	9.78	14.01	8.72	87.36	64.56	31.50	71.00	6.26	37.19
England	130.75	151.74	11.48	15.24	9.99	83.60	87.73	28.66	73.21	6.66	48.43
2003											
Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly	66.93	87.90	14.03	6.58	4.29	79.61	58.24	31.09	56.64	5.26	30.47
South West Region	131.97	99.72	10.17	11.84	8.83	91.70	68.91	31.89	74.87	6.37	37.44
England	131.54	150.50	11.86	13.68	10.18	87.24	90.54	29.16	73.78	6.71	48.13
2004											
Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly	65.86	89.15	15.10	6.37	4.70	82.21	52.71	30.15	69.88	6.01	31.28
South West Region	124.10	102.90	10.46	10.68	8.91	91.41	66.38	31.10	91.40	6.46	37.20
England	126.87	153.64	12.18	12.37	9.79	87.21	87.78	27.74	90.09	6.73	47.54
2005											
Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly	76.05	92.60	14.41	6.14	5.19	81.25	52.69	32.29	64.44	6.73	31.31

	Cereals	General cropping	Horticulture	Specialist pigs	Specialist poultry	Dairy	Grazing livestock LFA	Grazing livestock lowland	Mixed	Other	Total
South West Region	128.73	115.73	10.45	10.24	8.78	92.29	67.34	32.61	82.70	7.36	37.12
England	132.21	153.72	12.20	11.73	8.61	86.93	91.14	28.84	83.57	7.49	47.36

Notes:
1. There have been changes in the farm type classifications therefore comparison over time is not possible for some categories.
2. Prior to 2000 minor holdings are not included in the figures. From 2000 onwards all holdings are included. A minor holding has to meet all the following conditions:
(a) have a total area of less than six hectares
(b) a labour requirement of less than 100 standard person days
(c) no regular full-time farmer or worker
(d) a glasshouse area of less than 100 square metres
(e) the occupier does not farm another holding
3. The introduction of the Single Payment scheme in 2005 has lead to an increase in the number of registered holdings.
Source:
June agricultural survey

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the gross value added in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* the UK was of (i) dairy, (ii) crop, (iii) horticulture, (iv) livestock, (v) poultry and (vi) organic farming in each year since 1979. [149311]

Jonathan Shaw: Please find as follows a table detailing the available data which begins in 1995. Gross value added data for the different sectors of agriculture are not available. Gross output values are therefore provided as an alternative. Data for organic farming are not available.

Gross output values

£ million

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly											
crop output (inc. potatoes)	73	67	54	55	57	45	53	38	41	46	31
horticulture	44	43	39	41	40	43	32	39	53	52	58
livestock	135	120	114	104	96	88	83	107	111	111	87
poultry	6	8	9	7	7	6	6	3	2	3	3
dairy	136	133	125	103	103	91	115	97	102	103	95
South West											
crop output (inc. potatoes)	510	519	434	412	409	361	367	321	333	340	219
horticulture	143	149	140	146	154	148	147	167	175	167	188
livestock	756	704	663	595	528	497	454	573	590	589	477
poultry	147	168	166	148	147	139	139	128	139	148	125
dairy	913	891	824	681	675	593	723	620	644	647	598
UK											
crop output (inc. potatoes)	5,744	5,550	4,512	4,380	4,334	3,814	3,781	3,784	3,996	4,177	2,862
horticulture	1,950	2,045	1,827	1,893	1,931	1,798	1,856	1,847	1,987	1,930	2,063
livestock	5,762	5,784	5,393	4,574	4,236	4,160	3,806	4,431	4,610	4,743	3,646
poultry	1,486	1,662	1,632	1,521	1,403	1,438	1,471	1,390	1,471	1,464	1,428
dairy	3,498	3,495	3,154	2,709	2,654	2,393	2,821	2,466	2,629	2,711	2,592

Note that the fall in output values in 2005 is partly a consequence of the introduction of the Single Payment scheme which is not included in output (as it is decoupled from production).

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average farm income in Cornwall was of *(a)* dairy, *(b)* crop, *(c)* horticultures, *(d)* livestock, *(e)* poultry and *(f)* organic farms in each year since 1979. [149221]

Jonathan Shaw: Table 1 shows average net farm income per farm in Cornwall for those farm types that are sufficiently represented in the Farm Business Survey from 1980. Table 2 shows comparable data for

the South West Government Office Region. Data are not available on a comparable basis for 1979. Data on organic enterprises were not collected prior to 1999-2000.

Net farm income is defined as the return to the principal farmer and spouse for their manual and managerial labour and on the tenant type capital of the business. It excludes all income arising from outside the farm business.

Table 1

Average net farm incomes (£/farm) in Cornwall[1]

March/February years	*[2]Dairy farms*	*Livestock farms*
1980-81	7,500	4,000
1981-82	11,100	8,500
1982-83	11,200	9,400
1983-84	6,500	5,900
1984-85	5,000	4,500
1985-86	13,200	7,500
1986-87	11,900	6,600
1987-88	17,000	14,700
1988-89	23,700	18,200
1989-90	17,200	11,300
1990-91	13,800	9,500
1991-92	16,700	12,200
1992-93	21,500	17,100
1993-94	29,200	21,300
1994-95	19,600	14,300
1995-96	23,900	21,300
1996-97	15,400	8,700
1997-98	10,800	2,700
1998-99	1,100	-500
1999-2000	n/a	-200
2000-01	14,300	3,500
2001-02	35,900	18,100
2002-03	25,600	17,100
2003-04	27,000	17,700
2004-05	n/a	12,100
2005-06	n/a	12,800

n/a = data not available, too few farms in sample
[1] Minimum size threshold for inclusion in the FBS was as follows:
1980-81 to 1991-92—4 BSU (British Size Units)
(1 BSU = 2,000 European Currency Units (now known as euros) of standard gross margin)
1992-93 to 1995-96—8 ESU (European Size Units)
(1 ESU = 1,200 European Currency Units (now known as euros) of standard gross margin)
1996-97 onwards—0.5 SLR (Standard Labour Requirement)
[2] These farms are a subset of livestock farms
Source:
Farm Business Survey

Table 2

Average net farm incomes (£/farm) in South West [1]

March/February years	*[2]Dairy farms*	*Cropping farms*	*[3]Horticulture farms*	*Livestock farms*	*Organic farms*
1980-81	10,400	n/a	n/a	8,100	—
1981-82	14,200	21,800	n/a	11,700	—
1982-83	16,400	12,900	4,400	10,000	—
1983-84	8,300	25,100	n/a	6,700	—
1984-85	8,200	24,500	n/a	6,900	—
1985-86	14,500	2,600	3,800	10,400	—
1986-87	13,900	14,100	n/a	9,100	—
1987-88	23,300	10,100	n/a	17,800	—
1988-89	31,200	6,700	13,000	22,500	—
1989-90	26,100	6,200	11,600	17,400	—
1990-91	27,300	24,700	14,900	19,500	—
1991-92	32,400	19,600	13,300	22,300	—
1992-93	29,400	19,100	14,900	19,600	—
1993-94	21,700	15,300	26,600	15,100	—
1994-95	19,300	8,800	16,100	12,600	—
1995-96	33,000	41,400	29,700	26,800	—
1996-97	25,360	28,300	15,900	20,300	—
1997-98	17,800	15,900	18,200	12,000	—
1998-99	10,400	7,500	25,000	7,600	—
1999-2000	7,900	13,800	35,700	5,400	n/a
2000-01	11,300	8,700	27,000	5,100	n/a
2001-02	27,900	11,200	32,800	16,800	n/a
2002-03	19,500	16,500	29,000	14,400	11,400
2003-04	27,100	29,200	37,600	17,700	19,600
2004-05	31,000	17,300	21,700	17,100	19,100
2005-06	30,800	20,900	26,300	17,400	n/a

n/a = data not available, too few farms in sample
[1] Minimum size threshold for inclusion in the FBS was as follows:
1980-81 to 1991-92—4 BSU (British Size Units)
(1 BSU = 2,000 European Currency Units (now known as euros) of standard gross margin)
1992-93 to 1995-96—8 ESU (European Size Units)
(1 ESU = 1200 European Currency Units (now known as euros) of standard gross margin)
1996-97 onwards—0.5 SLR (Standard Labour Requirement)
[2] These farms are a subset of livestock farms
[3] These farms are a subset of cropping farms
Source:
Farm Business Survey

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what area of land was used by each farming sector in Cornwall in each year since 1979. [149222]

Jonathan Shaw: The total area on registered holdings in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly at June each year from 1981 to 2005 can be found in the following tables. Data for 1979 and 1980 are not available at this level. Figures for 2006 will be available later in the month.

Source:

June Agricultural Census and June Agricultural Survey.

Total area (hectares) of registered holdings in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly 1981 to 2005 by predominant farm type

	Cropping	*Horticulture*	*Pigs and poultry*	*Dairy*	*Cattle and sheep (LFA)*	*Cattle and sheep (Lowland)*	*Unclassified*	*Total*
1981	48,620	5,932	5,762	107,022	13,979	90,866	7,798	279,979
1982	49,328	5,741	6,815	105,732	13,668	90,524	7,759	279,567
1983	47,444	5,593	6,087	106,623	12,976	92,636	7,551	278,910
1984	44,381	3,497	4,309	107,325	12,631	98,936	8,450	279,529

Total area (hectares) of registered holdings in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly 1981 to 2005 by predominant farm type

	Cropping	Horticulture	Pigs and poultry	Dairy	Cattle and sheep (LFA)	Cattle and sheep (Lowland)	Unclassified	Total
1985	47,140	3,775	4,408	103,208	12,634	99,521	8,741	279,427
1986	47,432	4,171	4,409	103,311	12,614	97,551	10,046	279,534

	Cereals	General cropping	Horticulture	Pigs and poultry	Dairy	Cattle and sheep (LFA)	Cattle and sheep (Lowland)	Mixed	Other	Total
1987	13,808	16,428	4,412	1,555	96,153	29,531	56,918	47,226	12,283	278,314
1988	14,272	16,637	4,718	1,532	92,092	29,238	58,822	47,711	13,458	278,479
1989	13,738	15,607	4,772	1,563	90,426	30,724	63,671	43,294	13,955	277,750
1990	12,239	14,766	4,958	1,458	90,300	29,608	65,541	41,835	15,077	275,783
1991	14,483	15,252	4,717	1,597	88,983	30,383	65,555	40,478	16,732	278,182
1992	13,081	15,955	4,884	1,367	84,921	29,991	66,657	43,135	17,906	277,897
1993	13,578	16,230	4,885	1,236	75,089	32,166	75,926	42,442	18,342	279,894
1994	12,742	17,333	5,335	1,482	86,574	29,383	67,835	38,258	18,587	277,529
1995	16,113	16,145	5,438	1,537	83,678	29,429	64,359	41,915	17,429	276,045
1996	18,792	16,334	4,270	1,523	82,345	27,356	64,738	41,517	17,896	274,771
1997	20,128	16,020	5,636	1,822	78,990	23,930	67,596	42,078	15,995	272,195
1998	21,212	15,705	5,569	1,929	75,602	22,188	67,476	42,563	16,659	268,904
1999	24,166	15,835	5,642	1,842	72,639	22,667	67,196	42,473	16,870	269,331
2000	20,748	14,853	6,062	1,301	74,239	22,815	67,982	41,057	16,481	265,538

	Cereals	General cropping	Horticulture	Specialist pigs	Specialist poultry	Dairy	Grazing livestock (LFA)	Grazing livestock (Lowland)	Mixed	Other	Total
2001	25,236	16,922	6,700	481	990	77,504	26,439	57,388	51,128	17,175	279,962
2002	20,765	17,086	7,082	384	857	74,084	25,278	55,664	46,064	17,592	264,855
2003	21,619	17,668	7,057	401	896	73,404	26,789	58,906	47,522	18,642	272,905
2004	21,602	20,326	8,018	402	1,011	73,582	26,776	60,212	48,145	21,309	281,381
2005	24,945	20,927	7,837	436	1,442	69,952	26,768	63,119	44,140	24,279	283,845

Notes:
1. There have been changes in the farm type classifications therefore comparison over time is not possible for some categories.
2. In the years 1981 to 1986, some data for the Isles of Scilly was suppressed for confidentiality reasons. These data are not included in the figures.
3. Prior to 2000, minor holdings are not included in the figures. From 2000 onwards, all holdings are included. A minor holding has to meet all the following conditions:
(a) have a total area of less than six hectares
(b) a labour requirement of less than 100 standard person days
(c) no regular full-time farmer or worker.
(d) a glasshouse area of less than 100 square metres
(e) the occupier does not farm another holding.
4. The introduction of the Single Payment Scheme in 2005 has lead to an increase in the number of registered holdings.
Source:
June Agricultural Survey and June Agricultural Census.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farm holdings there were in each sector of farming in Cornwall in each year since 1979. [149223]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of registered holdings in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly at June each year from 1981 to 2005 can be found in the following table. Data for 1979 and 1980 are not available at this level. Figures for 2006 will be available later in the month.

Registered holdings in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly 1981 to 2005 by predominant farm type

	Cropping	Horticulture	Pigs and poultry	Dairy	Cattle and sheep (LFA)	Cattle and sheep (Lowland)	Unclassified	Total
1981	767	559	475	2,148	181	2,538	761	7,429
1982	772	548	543	2,117	176	2,527	803	7,486
1983	722	514	416	2,081	175	2,845	744	7,497
1984	791	400	322	2,068	162	2,637	739	7,119
1985	822	444	344	1,982	170	2,651	830	7,243

Registered holdings in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly 1981 to 2005 by predominant farm type

	Cropping	*Horticulture*	*Pigs and poultry*	*Dairy*	*Cattle and sheep (LFA)*	*Cattle and sheep (Lowland)*	*Unclassified*	*Total*
1986	801	369	355	1,942	175	2,636	921	7,199

	Cereals	*General cropping*	*Horticulture*	*Pigs and poultry*	*Dairy*	*Cattle and sheep (LFA)*	*Cattle and sheep (Lowland)*	*Mixed*	*Other*	*Total*
1987	228	320	462	249	1,782	707	1,746	716	1,116	7,326
1988	226	321	481	235	1,672	720	1,828	700	1,294	7,477
1989	233	306	473	235	1,616	711	1,960	641	1,416	7,591
1990	200	274	460	171	1,567	661	1,908	590	1,260	7,091
1991	225	264	446	173	1,533	651	1,910	580	1,343	7,125
1992	199	268	448	157	1,427	635	1,935	598	1,367	7,034
1993	202	267	437	147	1,280	648	2,087	601	1,413	7,082
1994	199	265	425	144	1,391	609	2,023	535	1,477	7,068
1995	243	251	397	135	1,318	587	1,905	566	1,277	6,679
1996	277	271	380	143	1,260	543	1,941	562	1,346	6,723
1997	300	223	403	170	1,194	502	1,957	584	1,400	6,733
1998	313	233	395	178	1,136	475	1,938	577	1,458	6,703
1999	328	214	375	174	1,047	479	2,005	557	1,451	6,630
2000	312	176	505	224	1,026	458	2,016	580	2,690	7,987

	Cereals	*General cropping*	*Horticulture*	*Specialist pigs*	*Specialist poultry*	*Dairy*	*Grazing livestock LFA*	*Grazing livestock lowland*	*Mixed*	*Other*	*Total*
2001	321	199	521	57	184	1,000	471	1,787	832	3,021	8,393
2002	308	207	536	60	203	971	476	1,826	855	3,400	8,842
2003	323	201	503	61	209	922	460	1,895	839	3,543	8,956
2004	328	228	531	63	215	895	508	1,997	689	3,543	8,997
2005	328	226	544	71	278	861	508	1,955	685	3,610	9,066

Notes:
1. There have been changes in the farm type classifications therefore comparison over time is not possible for some categories.
2. In the years 1981 to 1986 some data for the Isles of Scilly were suppressed for confidentiality reasons. These data are not included in the figures.
3. Prior to 2000 minor holdings are not included in the figures. From 2000 onwards all holdings are included. A minor holding has to meet all the following conditions:
(a) have a total area of less than six hectares;
(b) a labour requirement of less than 100 standard person days;
(c) no regular full-time farmer or worker;
(d) a glasshouse area of less than 100 square metres;
(e) the occupier does not farm another holding.
4. The introduction of the single payment scheme in 2005 has lead to an increase in the number of registered holdings.
Source:
June agricultural Survey and June Agricultural Census

Animal Welfare: Convictions

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with police forces in England and Wales on establishing a central database for people convicted of animal welfare crimes. [149479]

Jonathan Shaw: There have been no discussions between DEFRA and police forces in England and Wales on this issue. Data about people convicted of cruelty to animals are already stored in centrally held criminal records.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will press for action to be taken under the Berne Convention against countries where control of badgers is undertaken by methods banned under that convention. [150087]

Jonathan Shaw: Badgers (*Meles, meles*) are listed as a protected species under appendix III of the Berne Convention, but they are not an endangered species. The Berne Convention provides for exceptions to be made so as to allow the use of means and methods of killing prohibited under appendix IV, subject to certain conditions. I am not aware that any country is breaching the Berne Convention with respect to badger control.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he has evaluated on the proactive culling of badgers in Ireland in response to bovine tuberculosis; and what assessment he has made of the possible application of this policy to the UK. [149703]

Jonathan Shaw: We have reviewed the published findings of the Irish Four Areas badger culling trial (which were published in Preventative Veterinary Medicine in January 2005), as well as advice from independent scientists on whether the findings of the Irish research can be applied to the situation in England. The experience in the Republic of Ireland is not directly transferable to England because the badger population, farming practices and general environment are all very different. As a result, while we can learn from the Republic of Ireland's experiences, directly applying such a policy here is not possible.

The independent advice, together with a statement from DEFRA's chief scientific adviser, was published on the DEFRA website in March 2005 and can be found in the news archive at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tb/newsarchive.htm

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Irish Government on a vaccination strategy to reduce the incidence of bovine tuberculosis. [149704]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA officials have visited Ireland several times to discuss the UK and Irish work programmes and areas of potential future collaboration, particularly regarding the design of badger field studies and licensing requirements for Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG). The Veterinary Laboratories Agency also has active research links with Irish researchers.

Milk Production

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the volume of milk production was in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England in each year for which figures are available. [149220]

Jonathan Shaw: Precise estimates of milk production in these regions are not readily available. However, the following table provides estimates of the volume of milk produced in Cornwall, the South West and England for the years 1979 to 2006 calculated by applying the average UK milk yield to the number of dairy cows in each region.

Milk production (million litres)

	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	*South West region*	*England*
1979	509	3,648	10,979
1980	519	3,698	10,970
1981	516	3,683	10,793
1982	557	3,904	11,396
1983	581	4,041	11,765
1984	555	3,813	11,043
1985	545	3,751	10,797
1986	563	3,827	10,983
1987	540	3,665	10,439
1988	524	3,584	10,184
1989	517	3,546	10,038
1990	531	3,630	10,290
1991	517	3,503	9,940
1992	517	3,461	9,800
1993	515	3,474	9,790
1994	531	3,598	10,054
1995	521	3,506	9,766
1996	526	3,515	9,889
1997	530	3,503	9,840
1998	508	3,356	9,484
1999	535	3,516	9,896
2000	513	3,332	9,418
2001	555	3,448	9,457
2002	536	3,424	9,495
2003	539	3,428	9,500
2004	520	3,267	9,055
2005	501	3,196	8,886
2006	503	3,157	8,775

Departments: Racial Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [149254]

Jonathan Shaw: During the last 12 months (for the period July 2006 to July 2007) there have been no complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which this Department is responsible that have been either investigated or upheld.

The Department has an internal intranet site which details the departmental policy on bullying and harassment. The site also details further information and the procedures for dealing with complaints of bullying and harassment together with details of local contacts and support advisers who can give help and advice to staff.

Departments: Regulation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what progress his Department has made towards meeting its target of making a 25 per cent. reduction in administrative burdens on business by the end of 2009; [148730]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to business of administrative burdens imposed by regulations from his Department in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement; [148731]

(3) what progress has been made by his Department towards its target of 25 per cent. reduction in administrative burdens on business by the end of 2009; and if he will make a statement; [149207]

(4) what estimate he has made of the cost to business of administrative burdens and regulations from his Department in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [149208]

Jonathan Shaw: The total administrative burden from the 362 DEFRA regulations which, as of May 2005 imposed such a burden, was assessed to be £527.8 million per annum. This represents the Department's

administrative burden baseline. In our Simplification Plan "Maximising Outcomes, Minimising Burdens", which was published in December 2006 and is available from the Library, administrative reductions of around £159 million were identified. This represents a reduction of 30 per cent. on the baseline. Progress since then will be reported in our 2007 plan which is due for publication in the autumn. However, the Department is progressing well toward meeting its net administrative burden reduction target of 25 per cent. by 2010.

The cross-Government administrative burden measurement exercise, which identified the baseline administrative burden, was carried out by Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PwC) on behalf of the Cabinet Office. The exercise used an internationally agreed model, recommended to the Government by business. As the first UK Government to take this radical approach to managing the regulatory burden, there are no comparable data before 2005 when the exercise was carried out.

Energy: Radio

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what comparative analysis he has made of the power consumed by listening to the radio using *(a)* a traditional analogue set powered by the mains, *(b)* a digital radio powered by the mains and *(c)* via a television receiving digital radio through a set-top box receiver; and if he will make a statement. [149719]

Joan Ruddock: The Government's Market Transformation Programme (MTP) has tested a limited number of digital radios. The average energy needed to operate by those radios tested was around 8.5 watts. A typical traditional analogue radio requires 2 watts.

The Energy Saving Trust (EST) recently tested four televisions to estimate the energy consumed by listening to digital radio via a television and set-top box receiver. These tests indicated that listening to digital radio in this way required between 60 and 183 watts. The actual energy used varied according to the type of television, the screen size and whether the screen was on or the display was black. Black screen display is only available for BBC radio channels.

'Screen blanking', which allows the selected radio station to be received in audio only, can reduce the energy consumption to around 25 watts. Although not yet widely available, we expect this technology to become more common in the near future.

Farms: Income

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average farm income was in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the south west and *(c)* England of farms of size (i) less than 5 ha, (ii) 5 to 20 ha, (iii) 20 to 50 ha, (iv) 50 to 100 ha and (v) more than 100 ha in each year since 1979. [149218]

Jonathan Shaw: The following tables show average net farm income per farm in *(a)* Cornwall *(b)* the South West Government Office Region and *(c)* in England of farms of size (i) less than 5 ha, (ii) 5 to 20 ha, (iii) 20 to 50 ha, (iv) 50 to 100 ha and (v) more than 100 ha in each year since 1980. Data are not available on a comparable basis for 1979.

Table 1: Cornwall

	Cornwall: average net farm income per farm (£/farm)[1]				
March/ February years	*Less than 5 ha*	*5 < 20 ha*	*20 < 50 ha*	*50 < 100 ha*	*100 ha and over*
1980-81	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1981-82	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1982-83	n/a	n/a	n/a	11,500	12,900
1983-84	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1984-85	n/a	n/a	n/a	7,100	n/a
1985-86	n/a	n/a	n/a	10,400	18,700
1986-87	n/a	n/a	n/a	5,500	8,100
1987-88	n/a	n/a	n/a	18,800	12,100
1988-89	n/a	n/a	n/a	22,900	9,500
1989-90	n/a	n/a	n/a	11,000	7,000
1990-91	n/a	n/a	n/a	7,600	5,400
1991-92	n/a	n/a	n/a	9,100	4,400
1992-93	n/a	n/a	n/a	15,200	13,900
1993-94	n/a	n/a	n/a	20,300	27,700
1994-95	n/a	n/a	n/a	16,100	13,900
1995-96	n/a	n/a	n/a	19,500	27,200
1996-97	n/a	n/a	n/a	9,000	16,300
1997-98	n/a	n/a	n/a	-900	n/a
1998-99	n/a	n/a	n/a	100	-3,100
1999-2000	n/a	n/a	n/a	200	6,600
2000-01	n/a	n/a	n/a	-100	6,800
2001-02	n/a	n/a	n/a	9,300	36,000
2002-03	n/a	n/a	n/a	13,100	22,600
2003-04	n/a	n/a	n/a	13,300	25,600
2004-05	n/a	n/a	n/a	13,900	24,100
2005-06	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	21,100

n/a = Data not available, too few farms in sample.
[1] Minimum size threshold for inclusion in the FBS was as follows:
1980-81 to 1991-92—4 BSU (British Size Units)
(1 BSU = 2000 European Currency Units (now known as Euros) of Standard Gross Margin)
1992-93 to 1995-96—8 ESU (European Size Units)
(1 ESU = 1200 European Currency Units (now known as Euros) of Standard Gross Margin)
1996-97 onwards—0.5 SLR (Standard Labour Requirement)
Source:
Farm Business Survey

Table 2: Government Office Region South West

	GOR South West: average net farm income per farm (£/farm)[1]				
March/ February years	*Less than 5 ha*	*5 < 20 ha*	*20 < 50 ha*	*50 < 100 ha*	*100 ha and over*
1980-81	n/a	n/a	5,500	8,600	14,000
1981-82	n/a	n/a	8,300	13,800	18,200
1982-83	5,400	1,800	6,200	11,800	23,800
1983-84	n/a	n/a	4,500	7,500	20,300
1984-85	n/a	n/a	4,900	6,900	23,300
1985-86	n/a	7,300	5,800	8,700	14,900
1986-87	n/a	n/a	4,800	9,200	15,500
1987-88	n/a	n/a	12,100	14,900	21,600
1988-89	11,200	n/a	12,200	20,800	26,400
1989-90	20,300	n/a	9,900	14,000	19,200
1990-91	17,500	n/a	7,500	11,900	16,200
1991-92	31,700	n/a	9,800	11,700	25,300
1992-93	14,200	n/a	12,400	17,000	32,100
1993-94	14,700	n/a	12,900	17,100	38,600
1994-95	17,900	n/a	11,500	17,900	39,300
1995-96	30,900	n/a	14,200	24,300	52,500
1996-97	19,100	n/a	8,200	17,800	40,900
1997-98	18,100	n/a	6,300	7,500	20,200
1998-99	18,400	n/a	5,900	4,600	7,700
1999-2000	31,900	17,100	2,900	5,300	11,900

Table 2: Government Office Region South West

GOR South West: average net farm income per farm (£/farm)[1]

March/ February years	Less than 5 ha	5 < 20 ha	20 < 50 ha	50 < 100 ha	100 ha and over
2000-01	42,300	n/a	800	4,100	9,700
2001-02	34,400	n/a	9,300	10,900	19,900
2002-03	32,800	n/a	8,800	11,800	18,300
2003-04	35,400	n/a	10,000	14,500	30,900
2004-05	22,100	n/a	6,800	15,100	25,300
2005-06	22,600	n/a	5,400	17,600	24,200

n/a = Data not available, too few farms in sample.
[1] Minimum size threshold for inclusion in the FBS was as follows:
1980-81 to 1991-92—4 BSU (British Size Units)
(1 BSU = 2000 European Currency Units (now known as Euros) of Standard Gross Margin)
1992-93 to 1995-96—8 ESU (European Size Units)
(1 ESU = 1200 European Currency Units (now known as Euros) of Standard Gross Margin)
1996-97 onwards—0.5 SLR (Standard Labour Requirement)
Source:
Farm Business Survey

Table 3: England

England: average net farm income per farm (£/farm)[1]

March/ February years	Less than 5 ha	5 < 20 ha	20 < 50 ha	50 < 100 ha	100 ha and over
1980-81	n/a	n/a	5,700	8,200	15,600
1981-82	n/a	9,200	7,700	12,200	21,900
1982-83	5,200	2,300	6,300	11,800	27,500
1983-84	n/a	2,700	6,300	9,200	25,300
1984-85	n/a	1,500	6,300	9,700	24,600
1985-86	13,600	5,400	4,600	6,800	12,900
1986-87	16,800	4,000	7,200	9,700	20,300
1987-88	22,600	17,100	8,700	10,800	15,100
1988-89	12,800	14,600	9,200	12,500	19,500
1989-90	25,800	12,900	10,700	13,600	28,400
1990-91	26,600	22,900	7,100	10,700	26,900
1991-92	19,600	20,400	8,300	12,400	30,500
1992-93	13,700	8,700	10,300	16,300	39,000
1993-94	14,200	16,800	9,300	17,700	41,900
1994-95	22,300	20,600	11,000	19,900	51,600
1995-96	31,500	22,700	15,700	24,800	70,900
1996-97	28,800	32,500	10,000	19,800	52,200
1997-98	22,800	9,500	6,300	9,800	23,100
1998-99	18,000	4,400	3,900	7,300	18,200
1999-2000	17,400	10,700	3,600	5,800	12,100
2000-01	25,700	28,600	4,400	6,100	13,800
2001-02	27,000	28,800	11,200	10,100	17,400
2002-03	40,500	27,100	10,200	10,200	19,300
2003-04	35,500	40,000	10,700	14,800	46,600
2004-05	42,500	21,200	10,700	12,600	28,900
2005-06	49,900	26,700	10,600	13,400	26,300

n/a = Data not available, too few farms in sample.
[1] Minimum size threshold for inclusion in the FBS was as follows:
1980-81 to 1991-92—4 BSU (British Size Units)
(1 BSU = 2000 European Currency Units (now known as Euros) of Standard Gross Margin)
1992-93 to 1995-96—8 ESU (European Size Units)
(1 ESU = 1200 European Currency Units (now known as Euros) of Standard Gross Margin)
1996-97 onwards—0.5 SLR (Standard Labour Requirement)
Source:
Farm Business Survey

Net farm income is defined as the return to the principal farmer and spouse for their manual and managerial labour and on the tenant type capital of the business. It excludes all income arising from outside the farm business.

Fisheries

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of levels of fish stocks in UK waters. [150080]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1662-63W.

Fisheries: Quotas

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimates his Department has made of illegal fishing volumes *(a)* inland and *(b)* at sea; and if he will make a statement. [150115]

Jonathan Shaw: By its very nature illegal fishing is clandestine and so it is extremely difficult to make an accurate estimate of the levels of illegal fishing activities. We therefore use the level of prosecutions as a proxy for the level of illegal activity. Data below relates to inland and sea fisheries in England and Wales.

For inland Fisheries, the National Enforcement Database holds information that relates to offences where nets, snares, traps and spears have been used and where unauthorised fishing and failing to return fish has taken place. It predominantly records cases where serious poaching has occurred, which can result in imprisonment.

The following table shows the total number of fisheries convictions per year 2002-06.

	Convictions
2002	46
2003	31
2004	25
2005	70
2006	39

Source:
National Enforcement Database

The total number of convictions under the Sea Fisheries Regulations Act 1966 are as follows.

	Convictions
2002	0
2003	0
2004	4
2005	3
2006	10

Source:
National Enforcement Database

The following table shows the total number of convictions where people have been found to be fishing without a rod licence. This type of conviction holds a maximum fine of £2,500. The Fisheries Offence Prosecution System records cases involving salmon, trout, freshwater fish and eels. It does not include convictions for salt water related cases.

	Convictions
2003-04	3,651
2004-05	4,099
2005-06	4,939
2006-07	4,209

Source:
Fisheries Offence Prosecution System

At sea, the total numbers of sea fisheries offences detected in England and Wales per year resulting in convictions are set out as follows:

	Convictions
2000	131
2001	103
2002	84
2003	112
2004	73
2005	69
2006	88

Note:
The above table refers to the year in which the offences were detected. Convictions may occur in the same or following years.
Source:
Marine and Fisheries Agency—UK Fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance System.

At the international level, with the caveat that estimates are based on a few case studies, recent UK funded work has reported that fish to the value of $4 billion US to $9 billion US are caught illegally worldwide every year. The UK is one of the countries in the international arena leading the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, following the recommendations of the 2006 High Seas Task Force report, "Closing the Net". Together with international partners we have made progress on key projects aimed at exposing illegal activities, deterring them and improving enforcement action against those responsible.

Floods: Shropshire

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures have been put in place to assist those affected by floods in Shifnal in Shropshire. [149199]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The package of immediate support for flood hit areas announced by the Prime Minister on 7 July included a fund of £10 million to local authorities to support the work being done to help recovery for those hardest hit. On 13 July I approved a series of initial Flood Recovery Grant payments to 34 flood hit local authorities to help those in greatest and most immediate need get back on their feet.

On the basis of the relative number of households affected (based on the available information at the time) £50,000 was awarded to Bridgnorth district council in Shropshire. It is up to Bridgnorth district council to spend the money how they wish in line with local priorities and to decide what measures should be put in place to assist those affected in places such as Shifnal.

The £10 million is additional money to any resources provided under the Bellwin scheme which Bridgnorth district council may be in a position to apply for.

Paté de Fois Gras

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals to ban the sale of foie gras. [149284]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell) on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 83W.

Pet Shops

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he proposes to bring forward regulations to ban the sale of puppies and kittens through pet shops. [149481]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA does not propose to ban the sale of puppies and kittens through pet shops. However, new regulations on pet vending will be introduced under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. We are considering a number of changes to improve the welfare of all animals sold through pet shops. All proposals will be subject to public consultation and parliamentary approval.

Sheep: Electronic Tagging

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to the farming industry of implementing the sheep double tagging regulations; and if he will make a statement. [149160]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department's regulatory impact assessment (RIA), produced in 2005 to assess the options available for implementing European Union Council Regulation 21/2004, identified that implementation of the double tagging requirements would actually be cheaper than maintaining the national arrangements in place at the time. A revised RIA is being prepared to assess present day costs, but the 2005 estimates indicated there would be an annual saving to the industry in the order of around £2.8 million a year if double tagging, as provided for by the regulation, was introduced. Double tagging was not introduced at the time because of traceability issues and because it was not supported by industry.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons he decided to withdraw the application to the European Commission for the extension to sheep double tagging derogation; what advice he received on this course of action; and if he will make a statement. [149161]

Jonathan Shaw: The European Union's Food and Veterinary Office report on the latest mission was uncompromising. It identified that compliance with the derogated rules on sheep identification and movement reporting by the industry remained inadequate. The

European Commission made it very clear that they would not propose an extension to the UK derogation from double tagging. With the agreement of sheep industry stakeholders, the application for the derogation was withdrawn. Not to have done so might have compromised the outcome of forthcoming negotiations on the electronic identification of sheep.

Water Supply

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of long-term future water supply. [150083]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency is the statutory body with the duty for managing water resources in England and Wales. Its aim is to ensure that the management and future development of our water resources is carried out in a sustainable manner.

In 2001, the Environment Agency published "Water Resources for the Future—A Strategy for England and Wales". This is a key part of the framework for integrated water resources planning carried out by the Environment Agency and water users, particularly the water companies. The publication considers both national and regional water resource strategies. These strategies set out pressures on water resources and how the Environment Agency expects these to be managed over the next 25 years.

In addition, all water companies in England and Wales have water resource management plans that describe how each company aims to secure a sustainable supply-demand balance for the public water supply over the next 25 years. Under the provisions of the Water Act 2003 these plans became mandatory from 1 April 2007 and for the first time they will be subject to public consultation.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Biometrics

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent tests her Department has carried out on the effectiveness of biometric *(a)* fingerprints, *(b)* iris scan and *(c)* facial identification systems. [149610]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* The Biometrics Centre of Expertise (BCE) was created two years ago and is a part of the Home Office Scientific Development Branch (HOSDB). Its work includes following developments in fingerprint, iris and face recognition technologies. The BCE provide advice to Government Departments (such as UKVisas, Border and Immigration Agency (including eBorders), IPS) running biometric programmes, several of which have included testing as part of the procurement and implementation phases.

The BCE also maintain strong relationships with academia, industry and foreign governments which have conducted biometric testing. The BCE have not specifically commissioned biometric testing in relation to fingerprint, iris or face recognition however, the team has part funded the MTIT (Minutiae Template Interoperability Testing) project—a European project under the Sixth Framework programme (STREP)—which had a substantial testing component.

In policing, the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) took over responsibility from PITO for the IDENT1 national finger and palm print system for the UK police service from 1 April 2007. As part of the supplier selection process for IDENT1 in 2004, PITO undertook extensive operational accuracy benchmarks of the two shortlisted suppliers' proposals. As a result of those tests, the NPIA is able to give assurance to the police service that IDENT1 search accuracy represents the state of the art for large scale biometric systems, in a law enforcement environment, and that it is fully capable of meeting the police requirements for both forensic identification and for the ongoing identity management of offenders, based on their fingerprints.

The matching performance of IDENT1 is routinely monitored and assessed by Northrop Grumman (the system integrator responsible for delivering the service) to ensure that it continues to meet the operational requirements of the UK police service.

The NPIA has undertaken no tests recently on iris or face, but are evaluating the potential for face recognition technologies for policing and plan to undertake some tests shortly.

Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she next expects to visit Bournemouth on official business. [148194]

Mr. Byrne: I have no current plans to visit Bournemouth.

Children: Internet

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* internet service providers, *(b)* social networking sites and *(c)* other IT companies have adapted the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre's report abuse mechanism. [149448]

Mr. Coaker: The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre, which was launched in April 2006, works across the UK and maximises international links to deliver a holistic approach to tackling child sex abuse wherever and whenever it happens, in particular, from those who use the internet and other new technologies in the sexual exploitation of children. It combines police powers with the dedicated expertise of business sectors, government, specialist charities and other interested organisations.

CEOP Centre's report abuse mechanism allows members of the public to report potentially illegal activity (such as allegations of sexual grooming) direct to law enforcement. To date, over 750,000 children across the UK have been educated on how to use this reporting mechanism. The Home Secretary's Task Force has set up a working group which includes representatives from social network providers, CEOP and children's charities, to look at the range of safety issues for children caused by the development and

growth of social networking sites and develop good practice guidelines. We hope to publish this soon. One of the key areas under discussion is the means by which the public can make reports about potentially illegal activity to CEOP when they are online. One of the largest providers of Instant Messaging (IM) services in the UK has embedded the report abuse mechanism into its IM.

Electronic Surveillance: Admissibility of Evidence

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether intercept evidence obtained by British security services is, in any circumstances, available and admissible as court evidence in foreign jurisdictions. [149413]

Mr. McNulty: The statutory prohibition on the use of intercept as evidence applies to all warranted interception undertaken on behalf of any UK intercepting agency, including the security service. However, under the EU Mutual Legal Assistance Convention arrangements, an EU member state can request the UK to undertake interception on behalf of one of its law enforcement agencies. This would be subject to restrictions imposed by the Secretary of State which can stipulate, amongst other things, that the material is not used in evidence.

Entry Clearances

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the independent monitor's report into the issuing of tourist visas for visitors to the UK. [149803]

Dr. Howells: I have been asked to reply.

UKvisas' detailed responses to the specific recommendations made by the Independent Monitor in her 2006 report can be accessed on the UKvisas website at:

www.ukvisas.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1006977150169.

The responses are available under the "Table of Comments by UKvisas in Response to the Independent Monitor's Report 2006".

Insurance: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the police about the accuracy of information provided to them by the Motor Insurers Bureau on uninsured drivers; and if she will make a statement. [150172]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 17 July 2007]:* The police make extensive use of the Motor Insurance Database (MID) to help identify vehicles being driven uninsured and seize around 1,500 vehicles a week. We are aware of very few cases where it has been alleged that inaccurate data have led to an unjustified seizure and the police inform us that such occurrences are very rare.

The Motor Insurers Bureau (MIB) makes information available to the police via the MID.

The accuracy of the MID is solely the responsibility of the insurance industry. It is for the police to decide in any individual case if they believe the information they obtain from the MID is sufficient to give them reasonable grounds for believing that a vehicle is being driven without appropriate insurance. In cases of doubt the MIB also provides a dedicated police helpline. Any challenge to the police seizure would be a matter for the courts.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance she gives to the police about seizing uninsured cars; and if she will make a statement. [150173]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 17 July 2007]:* The police seize vehicles driven by a person without appropriate insurance under section 165A of the Road Traffic Act 1988. The addition of this provision to the 1988 Act was one of a number of roads policing measures included in the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005. Information on all these measures and the powers they confer was given to chief officers of police at the time and has been supplemented subsequently by responses to individual inquiries. How the powers are exercised is an operational matter for individual chief officers and any guidance that might be issued by the Association of Chief Police Officers.

Local Authorities: Terrorism

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with local authorities about civil contingencies and emergency planning in the event of a *(a)* nuclear, *(b)* biological and *(c)* chemical or dirty bomb detonating in the United Kingdom. [149202]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office has no direct responsibility for local authority emergency planning; however, given their important role in civil contingency planning and preparation at a local level, local authorities are represented throughout the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Resilience Programme governance structure. Home Office officials therefore have regular discussions with local authority representatives on a wide range of issues relating to contingency planning for the possible use by terrorists of CBRN materials.

Mujahedin-e Khalq: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish the information produced in camera for the hearing to discuss whether the People's Mujahedin of Iran should be de-proscribed. [150470]

Mr. McNulty: The Proscribed Organisation Appeals Committee (POAC) sits in public save when considering material the disclosure of which is contrary to the public interest. The closed session with a special advocate representing the interests of the appellants enables POAC to consider material that would be the subject of public interest immunity in ordinary High Court proceedings. The special advocate sees the sensitive material and can make submissions upon it.

In respect of the closed material deployed before it, POAC itself decides, in the light of argument from the special advocate, whether the Secretary of State's claim to maintain its confidentiality should be accepted. We will not therefore be publishing any of the closed material that will be heard before POAC.

Police: Driving Under Influence

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer by the Secretary of State for Wales of 5 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1187W, on police: driving under influence, if she will introduce a central record of the number of police officers in Wales prosecuted, disciplined or dismissed for drink-driving offences. [149101]

Mr. McNulty: We have no plans to introduce such a central record. Police disciplinary action, whether in relation to drink driving or other misconduct, is a matter for individual chief officers.

Pornography: Children

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding has been made available to *(a)* Sussex Police and *(b)* all police forces in England and Wales to deal with computer-based child pornography in each of the last five years. [150324]

Mr. McNulty: Government funding for police authorities is chiefly allocated using a funding formula that provides an assessment of the relative need of each police force in England and Wales.

Funding to combat computer-based images of child abuse is not separately identified. Decisions on the distribution of resources are matters for the chief officer and the police authority.

Racial Violence

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many xenophobic crimes there were in *(a)* Southampton, *(b)* Hampshire and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [151028]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally in the recorded crime statistics. The crime statistics have data for racially or religiously aggravated offences as defined by statute but those specifically of a xenophobic nature cannot be separately identified.

Sexual Offences: Internet

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to require social networking sites *(a)* to cross-check new members against registered sex offenders' lists and *(b)* to prevent registered sex offenders from signing up for services. [149426]

Mr. Coaker: Access to information about the personal details and whereabouts of registered sex offenders is restricted to law enforcement agencies. The police do have the power to disclose information about sex offenders to the public in appropriate circumstances. However, we do not intend to make this information routinely available to internet service providers or other persons or organisations not concerned with law enforcement.

The Review of the Protection of Children from Sex Offenders, published on 13 June, indicated that the Government will take steps to enable sex offenders to be required to register their e-mail addresses with the police. This will provide greater assistance to law enforcement agencies in monitoring offenders' use of information and communication technology.

Sexual Offences: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sex offenders are registered in each police force area in Wales. [149455]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to her on 9 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1344W.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many registered sex offenders in each police force area in Wales are *(a)* not at their registered address and *(b)* being searched for by their monitoring team. [149456]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to her on 9 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1344W.

In the event of a registered sex offender being recorded as missing, the police will immediately begin efforts to trace that offender.

Sussex Police: Finance

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget is for Sussex police *(a)* in 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [150340]

Mr. McNulty: The budget for Sussex police authority in 2007-08 is £237.1 million, an increase of 4.4 per cent. or £9.9 million over 2006-07.

We will be announcing details of the police funding settlement for 2008-09 later this year. Sussex police authority will then be in a position to consider its final budget for 2008-09.

Sussex Police: Manpower

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* civilian staff have been employed by Sussex police in each of the last 10 years, expressed as *(a)* a head count and *(b)* as whole time equivalents. [150341]

Mr. McNulty: The available data for full-time equivalent police officers and police staff are given in the table. Headcount figures for police officers exclude those on long term absence, referred to as officers "available for duty", are available from 2002-03 onwards.

Police officer strength for Sussex police force area as at 31 March 1996 to 31 March 2006

As at 31 March:	Full-time equivalent[1]	Headcount[2]
1996	3,074	—
1997	3,085	—
1998	2,996	—
1999	2,847	—
2000	2,822	—
2001	2,855	—
2002	2,893	—
2003	2,989	3,003
2004	3,039	3,145
2005	3,044	3,048
2006	3,092	3,086

[1] Full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items. Figures exclude those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[2] Officers available for duty. Excludes those on long term absence. Data available from 2002-03, following police numbers task force recommendations in 2001.

Police staff strength[1] for Sussex police force area as at 31 March 1996 to 31 March 2006

As at March:	Full-time equivalent[2]	Headcount[4]
1996	1,131	—
1997	1,149	1,250
1998	1,185	1,304
1999	1,393	1,516
2000	1,328	1,430
2001	1,454	1,563
2002	1,507	1,617
2003[3]	1,578	1,706
2004[3]	1,811	1,948
2005[3]	1,950	2,101
2006[3]	1,994	2,157

[1] Civilian staff have been referred to as Police staff since March 2003. Figures exclude Traffic Wardens, Police Community Support Officers and Designated Officers (s.38).
[2] Full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items. Figures exclude those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[3] Strength figures as at 31 March 2003 onwards include those staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. Therefore these figures are not comparable with those provided for other years in the table.
[4] Data not available prior to 1997.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre: Complaints

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many detainees of Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre were removed from the UK before their civil claims for ill treatment were settled in each of the last three years. [149795]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested could only be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the figures provided by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan for the number of Afghan civilians killed by *(a)* Taliban fighters and *(b)* NATO forces in Afghanistan. [148716]

Des Browne: All casualties are a source of profound regret and ISAF and coalition forces seek at all times to avoid them. The targeting process, weapons selection, doctrine, training and rules of engagement all recognise this. The Taliban show no such concerns when they target civilians indiscriminately with suicide bombs or improvised explosive devices, nor when they deliberately kill innocent civilians such as teachers and local leaders for opposing their views.

Aircraft Carriers

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations he has received on the future of the aircraft carrier fleet. [149533]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: My right hon. Friend has received no recent representations on the future of the existing aircraft carrier fleet.

Aldershot Barracks: Housing

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions have been held with *(a)* Aspire Defence and *(b)* Sodhexo Defence on the provision of hot water in non-commissioned officers' living accommodation at Aldershot barracks. [149126]

Derek Twigg: Discussions are routinely held with Aspire Defence Limited about the provision of hot water to existing buildings, while major rebuilding work takes place.

Known faults relating to the provision of plumbing services to the non-commissioned officers' living accommodation in Aldershot are being dealt with promptly by Aspire.

Sodexho have been sub-contracted by Aspire Defence Services (a sub-contractor of Aspire Defence Limited) to provide retail, catering and cleaning services and have no responsibility for the provision of 'hot water' to non-commissioned officers' living accommodation at Aldershot barracks.

Armed Forces: Desertion

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel were reported as absent without leave in each *(a)* month and *(b)* year between January 1997 and December 2003. [147937]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows absence without leave statistics by calendar year between 1997 and 2003:

	Navy	RAF	Army
1997	30	15	1,450
1998	30	15	1,850
1999	35	20	2,055
2000	60	25	2,710
2001	95	25	2,650

	Navy	RAF	Army
2002	105	25	2,950
2003	120	35	2,820

Notes:
1 Both the Navy and the Army record AWOL statistics by the number of incidences of AWOL rather than the number of people who have gone AWOL, so there may be a number of people who are represented more than once in these figures.
2 Figures are rounded to the nearest five and are as at 6 July 2007.

Monthly breakdowns of the figures for the Royal Air Force and the Army could be provided only at disproportionate cost. A table showing the number of Royal Navy personnel absent without leave in each month between 1997 and 2003 is as follows:

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
January	2	6	1	5	4	8	8
February	1	5	5	8	15	9	4
March	3	4	1	1	5	7	7
April	1	0	2	4	10	8	12
May	1	0	2	5	9	6	11
June	2	2	4	4	7	10	13
July	2	0	8	5	14	11	17
August	1	2	3	1	6	16	10
September	5	2	3	5	6	13	11
October	5	4	4	7	6	14	4
November	4	3	2	6	7	4	8
December	5	1	0	4	3	5	13

The RN criterion for personnel being reported as AWOL is that Commanding Officers must ensure missing persons/absentees are reported to Naval Provost Marshal (East) within a period of 24 hours. The Army maintains a central record through those incidents reported to the Royal Military Police which occur when an individual has been absent for seven days. Absences for less than seven days are only recorded at unit level and not held centrally. The RAF figures show the records of incidents of AWOL reported regardless of timescale.

Differences in figures for individual years compared to previous answers occur because personnel may have been wrongly reported as AWOL in the first instance, or conversely they may have subsequently been found to have been AWOL and the records rectified later.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what surveys of patient care his Department undertakes; and if he will publish the results. [149313]

Derek Twigg: The Royal Centre for Defence Medicine at Selly Oak, Birmingham and the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court are both currently conducting surveys of patient care. Both surveys indicate that the overwhelming majority of patients rate their overall care as good, very good or excellent.

I am currently reviewing the survey data that are collected across all defence medical units, with a view to publication of further details in due course.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what complaints mechanism is available to military personnel who wish to register a complaint about living accommodation provided by *(a)* Aspire Defence and *(b)* Sodhexo Defence in military establishments. [149125]

Derek Twigg: Aspire Defence Ltd. is contracted to deliver and maintain new and refurbished single living, working, technical and recreational accommodation, including the full range of support services, to Aldershot Garrison and the garrisons located around the Salisbury Plain Training Area.

If an individual wishes to register a complaint about their living accommodation, or any other aspects of Aspire's service (including that provided by their subcontractors); they can either report it to the Aspire Helpdesk (in person, by telephone or facsimile) or through the chain of command. The Aspire Helpdesk operates on a 24 hour, seven days a week basis, and is available to all personnel. It is performing to an exceptionally high standard, with 97 per cent. of calls being answered within 30 seconds, compared to the contractual specification of 95 per cent.

Sodexho has no responsibilities for the provision or maintenance of accommodation at military establishments. Sodexho, as subcontractors on several PFI contracts, provide Soft Facilities Management services such as cleaning, catering, retail and leisure.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on *(a)* routine maintenance and *(b)* upgrading of armed forces (i) married quarters and (ii) single accommodation in each year since 1997. [149666]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to my answer on 16 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1008W, and to my letter of 20 March 2007, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cases of carbon monoxide poisoning were reported in armed forces accommodation in each year since 1997. [149668]

Derek Twigg: Records going back to 1997 are either no longer available or in a collated form. It will take time to identify what information is available and I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

From the information that is readily available, I can confirm that there have been five suspect cases of carbon monoxide reported since January 2006 in service families accommodation in England and Wales, of which two were substantiated and remedial action taken.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of service families' accommodation was deemed uninhabitable in each year since 2005. [150028]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and it will take time to collate. I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service married quarters were built in each year since 1997. [150126]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and will take time to collate. I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Life Insurance

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make an assessment of the merits of seeking to promote risk-blind life insurance schemes endorsed by his Department for low-risk armed services personnel. [149678]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 16 July 2007]*: As a matter of policy MOD does not endorse or sponsor any commercial insurance scheme. The MOD, therefore, leaves the decision on whether to take out personal insurance to the individual as individual needs vary and personal insurance is a complex issue which is increasingly regulated by the Financial Services Authority (FSA). The MOD does, however, provide significant financial benefits for attributable death and injury during service. These were improved under the 2005 Armed Forces Pension scheme and Compensation scheme introduced on 6 April 2005.

There are two main life insurance schemes available to Service personnel that cover all risks including war and terrorism. Both provide cover to all personnel, regardless of whether they are low or high risk to the insurer. One of these schemes, PAX (which provides personal accident and life cover) is risk blind as the premium is set at a flat rate for all. Whilst premiums under the other scheme, Service Life insurance (SLI), take account of age and smoking history and therefore are not risk blind, they are not loaded for high risk activities and are therefore comparable to those paid by civilians.

Departments: BAE Systems

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many former departmental staff are working in senior management positions with BAE Systems. [148145]

Derek Twigg: The MOD does not hold this information.

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people in his Department have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for (i) inappropriate use of the internet while at work and (ii) using work telephones to access premium rate telephone numbers in the last 12 months. [149194]

Derek Twigg: Information is not held centrally in respect of MOD civil servants and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The following table shows the figures for the armed forces during the period June 2006 to June 2007.

	Disciplined				*Dismissed*			
	Royal Navy	*Army*	*RAF*	*Total*	*Royal Navy*	*Army*	*RAF*	*Total*
Internet	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
Telephone	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0

Notes:
1. The same army service person disciplined for inappropriate use of the internet while at work was also disciplined for using a work telephone to access premium rate telephone numbers.
2. These figures show the records of details held centrally, there may also be cases dealt with at unit/station level by disciplinary or administrative action depending on the circumstances. Records of these are not held centrally.

Departments: Land

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what disposals his Department made of land in Hampshire in each year since 1997; and whether he required any of the land to be used for social housing. [149940]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) supports the Government's housing agenda and works closely with English Partnerships, the regional development agencies, local authorities and other key stakeholders when considering its disposal strategy. This will often include an assessment of development and regeneration opportunities, including the need for social housing, through the preparation of a planning briefer outline planning application. This can be taken forward by prospective purchasers but it is not for the MOD to impose any requirements.

The MOD property assets disposed of in Hampshire for the years requested are listed as follows. The list does not include the Service Families Accommodation (SFA) in Hampshire, that was part of the SFA estate in England and Wales sold to Annington Homes Ltd. in 1996.

While every care has been taken in preparing this response in the time available, the accuracy can not be guaranteed prior to 2000 when electronic records were introduced.

Financial year 2006-07

Clayhall Cottage, 51 Clayhall Road, Gosport
Defence Munitions Dean Hill, Main Site and adjacent land
Royal Navy Military Transport Depot, Hilsea
Queensgate site, Farnborough
Community Centre, Guillemont Fields, Cove
Further land at North Lane, Aldershot
Land at 1 Roman Way, Barton Stacey
Civil Enclave, Farnborough

Financial year 2005-06

HMS Daedalus Technical Site and Residual Airfield areas
HMS Daedalus Main Airfield area.
Fleet Photographic Unit, Stamshaw
Footbridge above Nimrod Drive (Rowner Footbridge)
Portsmouth Private Finance Initiative (SFA) Phase 1, Daedalus
Small plot of land adjacent to Eastney Sports Ground

Strip of land at 54 Military Road, Gosport
Small parcel of Land at Oil Fuel Depot Gosport
Pumphouse Site, Church Crookham
Land adjacent King George V cottages, Minley
Land at Lancaster Way, Farnborough
Minley Farm West, Minley

Financial year 2004-05

The Brambles, 44 Marine Parade West, Lee-on-the-Solent
1-46 Rodney Close, Rowner, Gosport
Land at Seafield Park, Stubbington
Land at Manor House Farm, Barton Stacey
Garden Land at Amport House, Andover
Ski-Slope, Aldershot
Burger King/Car wash site, Wellington Ave, Aldershot
Land at Norris Bridge, Aldershot
RAF Officers' Mess, Farnborough Rd, Farnborough
Land adjacent to Hawley Training Area
Land at North Lane, Aldershot

Financial year 2003-04

Disposal of SCU Leydene, East Meon
Sale of Fort Southwick, Portsdown
2-12 (even) Military Road, Hilsea, Portsmouth
Royal Engineer Lines/St. Lucia Lodge, Bordon
Land at Hospital Road, Aldershot
Land at The Ferns, Aldershot
Vine Cottage Bungalow plot, Aldershot

Financial year 2002-03

Land at United Services Sports Ground, Portsmouth
DERA Alverstoke, Fort Monckton, Fort Road, Gosport
Portsdown Land Based Test Site, Southwick Road, Cosham
DERA Pyestock
DERA Farnborough
Land at St. Christopher's Road, Cove
Land at Lions Field, Oakhanger
Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church Crookham
T site, Farnborough Airfield

Financial year 2001-02

Disposal of Searles House, Winchester
Disposal of Industrial land, Frater Gate, Gosport
Frater Metal Tents site, Royal Navy Armament Depot Frater, Gosport

Financial year 2000-01

Cambridge House
Sale of Pewitt Island
Territorial Army Centre Redan Road, Aldershot
Martin Lines, Church Crookham
Woodland/pond, Pumphouse Triangle, Woolmer
Further land at Pumphouse Triangle, Woolmer
Lasham Timber Mill, Lasham
Territorial Army HQ, Carlton Terrace, Southampton

Financial year 1999-2000

Wireless Transmitter Station Stubbington
Beaumont Stables and Riding School, Aldershot
Lasham Airfield, Lasham
Factory site, Farnborough
Land for link road, Woolmer
Area K, Bordon

Financial year 1998-99

Sale of Royal Navy Victualling Depot Botley
Plot 2 Development land, Norway Road (Rugby Camp)
Sale of Boat Compound, Ferry Road
Plot 1 Development land, Norway Road (Rugby Camp)
Eastney Furniture Store
Disposal of land at United Services Sports Ground, Portsmouth
Anglesey Lodge, Aldershot
Land at Coopers Lane, Bramley

Financial year 1997-98

Sale of Fleet Air Arm Memorial
Land at the junction of Manor Way and Newton Place
Bunker Site, Brune Way
HMS Nelson, Gunwharf
Sale of Royal Marines Association Pavilion, Eastney, Portsmouth
Land at Tipner Lane Portsmouth
Land at Stamshaw Promenade
Hilsea Sportsfield
Sale of land at Hilsea Sportsfields
Ordnance Supply Unit Liphook, Liphook
48, Coopers Lane, Bramley

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants within his Department's areas of responsibilities in the last 12 months. [149043]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Public Appointments

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the business appointments process comprises; and whether interviews are required in addition to written applications. [149732]

Des Browne *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* The Rules on the Acceptance of Outside Appointments by Crown Servants' are set out in The Civil Service Management Code (Section 4.3 Annex A). Applications from MOD staff at Senior Civil Service Pay Band 2 (SCS PB2) or military equivalent and below will be approved at an appropriate senior level within the MOD, taking into consideration the results of internal consultation and representations from competitor companies, and. in the case of SCS PB2 level applicants, the views of the Head of the Home Civil Service. For more senior applicants, the MOD provides the independent Advisory Committee on Business Appointments with a recommendation and the final decision is made by the Prime Minister on the advice of the Advisory Committee.

Interviews are not required, but a meeting may be requested by an applicant before a final decision is taken on their application.

Depleted Uranium: Irish Sea

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many depleted uranium shells were fired into the Irish Sea and the waters feeding into the Irish Sea in each of the last 30 years. [146891]

Derek Twigg *[pursuant to the reply, 5 July 2007, Official Report, c. 1134W]:* The final sentence should read:

The reason for the discrepancies cannot be fully determined as original records have been destroyed, but it is known that in some case, preparatory rounds, which did not contain DU, were included in the earlier data.

Ex-servicemen: Disabled

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average period of time was for former service personnel between their discharge from service and receipt of veterans' disability benefits in each month in the last five years. [148345]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fatalities there were in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each year since 2003. [150162]

Des Browne: Information on casualties and fatalities in Iraq and Afghanistan is published on the MOD website (http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets) two weeks in arrears.

The following table shows the number of fatalities UK forces have suffered while carrying out operations in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2003.

	Operation	
	Telic (Iraq)	*Herrick (Afghanistan)*
2003	53	0
2004	22	1
2005	23	1
2006	29	39
1 January 2007-15 July 2007	32	20

Ministry of Defence Police: Colchester Garrison

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Ministry of Defence Police *(a)* inspectors, *(b)* sergeants and *(c)* constables are employed at Colchester Garrison. [150467]

Derek Twigg: The current number of Ministry of Defence Police officers employed at Colchester is:

	Number
Sergeants	2.5
Constables	6.5

Modern Housing Solutions: Engineers

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many engineers are *(a)* employed and *(b)* privately contracted by Modern Housing Solutions. [150021]

Derek Twigg: Modern Housing Solutions (MHS) does not directly employ any engineers, although there are 1,861 engineers who are sub-contracted by MHS.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to how many days of paid holiday engineers for Modern Housing Solutions are entitled; and at what times of year they are granted holiday leave. [150022]

Derek Twigg: There are no engineers directly employed by Modern Housing Solutions (MHS). All are sub-contracted by MHS and as such their holiday entitlement is at the discretion of their respective employers.

Navy: Military Bases

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when further consultation over the naval bases review will be commissioned; when it will begin; for what reason further consultation is being undertaken; and if he will make a statement. [149484]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The naval base review (NBR) is currently considering a number of broad cross-Government issues. As part of this work, we are currently engaged with other Government Departments including HM Treasury, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for Communities and Local Government. Working with them, we are assessing the possible cross-Government cost implications for the different NBR options to ensure a clear understanding of the best value for the taxpayer.

While this complex pan-Government work is progressing well, further work is required before final conclusions can be reached. One aspect of this additional work might be the need for public consultation.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether a decision has been taken in principle to retain all three naval bases. [149881]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No decisions have yet been taken with respect to the naval base review.

Nimrod Aircraft

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many RAF personnel are stationed at the Nimrod MRA4 trainer facility at Kinloss on an *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary basis; and at what cost in the last period for which figures are available. [149581]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Five RAF personnel are permanently stationed at the Nimrod MRA4 training facility at RAF Kinloss and their costs are estimated at £400,000 per annum. RAF members of the joint MOD/BAE Systems flight trials team who are

stationed at Warton travel to RAF Kinloss to man the simulator as required, to assess the operation of the simulator against the actual aircraft and to confirm its suitability for training. Costs of these personnel are not separately recorded.

RAF Lakenheath: Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many US nuclear weapons are based at USAF Lakenheath, Suffolk; and what plans there are to reduce the number. [149496]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: NATO's Strategic Concept (paragraph 63) states that

> "Nuclear forces based in Europe and committed to NATO provide an essential political and military link between the European and the North American members of the Alliance. The Alliance will therefore maintain adequate nuclear forces in Europe."

It is NATO and UK policy to neither confirm nor deny the presence of nuclear weapons at a given location.

Territorial Army: Expenditure

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total expenditure was on the Territorial Army in each year since 1997. [148234]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Torpedoes: Environment Protection

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what limitations have been imposed on Royal Navy heavyweight torpedo firings following adverse environmental impact assessments in respect of the copper guidance wires; and if he will make a statement. [149883]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We are not aware of any adverse environmental impact statements in respect of the Royal Navy's heavyweight torpedo guide wire system. No restrictions have therefore been imposed on heavyweight torpedo firings.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what matters are to be discussed at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in November; what the Government's objectives for that meeting are; and if he will make a statement. [150264]

Meg Munn: The Ugandan theme for the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting is transforming Commonwealth societies to achieve political, economic and human development. The formal agenda has yet to be confirmed, although there will be reports to Heads of Government from the Commonwealth Secretary-General's Commission on Respect and Understanding and from the Committee on Commonwealth Membership, as well as the selection of a new Commonwealth Secretary-General. My right. hon. Friend the Prime Minister looks forward to taking part in frank and fruitful discussions with his Commonwealth counterparts on these and other key issues at the meeting.

Entry Clearances: Training

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what training programmes are in place for staff assessing visa applications. [149804]

Dr. Howells: Entry clearance officers (ECOs) with no previous entry clearance experience must complete an intensive three-week course before undertaking entry clearance work at our missions overseas. Immigration officers from the Border and Immigration Agency must complete a one-week 'conversion' course. Both courses are based on continuous assessment and all ECOs must obtain a "Pass" mark at the end of their training before they can take up their posting.

Entry clearance managers (ECMs) must complete an eight-day course covering all aspects of visa section management. Officers who have had no entry clearance experience within the previous two years must also complete the three-week ECO course before taking up an ECM position.

In addition, the training team delivers regional training workshops in the ten Director of Visa Services global regions between September and April each year.

Iran: Capital Punishment

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the use of capital punishment, in particular stoning, in Iran over the last 12 months. [149714]

David Miliband: We are deeply concerned at the increasing use of capital punishment in Iran. Last year Iran executed more people than any other country in the world except China (whose population is over 15 times the size). Many of the most basic standards in the application of capital punishment are absent and executions are often carried out in public. Iran is one of a tiny handful of countries that continues to execute juvenile offenders. This abhorrent practice is a clear breach of Iran's international human rights commitments under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and runs contrary to the moratorium on juvenile executions that Iran announced in 2005.

We received reports that a man and a woman, Jafar Kiani and Mokarrameh Ebrahimi, were due to be stoned to death for adultery in Qazvin province in June. The EU presidency made representations to the Iranian authorities, and the executions were halted. We were very disturbed to hear confirmation from the Iranian Judiciary, that Mr. Kiani was subsequently executed by stoning on 5 July. The Head of Iran's Judiciary announced a moratorium on stonings in 2002 and although stoning sentences continue to be handed down by judges, this is the first confirmed report of a sentence being carried

out in recent years. The EU presidency issued an immediate statement, on 10 July, condemning the sentence, which is in clear violation of international laws, and called on Iran to stop the execution of Ms Ebrahimi. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights also issued a statement of concern on 10 July. We are also concerned by the recent announcement by a Judiciary spokesperson that Iran intends to hang 20 criminals imminently.

We remain strongly opposed to the death penalty in all its forms and consider stoning to be a cruel and inhuman punishment. We will continue to urge Iran to uphold its international human rights obligations, to implement fully the moratoria on stonings and juvenile executions and to introduce them into law, as recommended in the UN General Assembly Resolution on Human Rights in Iran adopted in December 2006, in order to abolish these punishments completely.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of trends in use of stoning as a penalty in Iran. [150491]

Dr. Howells: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave him today (UIN 149983) and the reply my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary gave to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks (Mr. Hague) also today (UIN 149714).

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made in the case of Jafar Kiani, recently stoned to death in the village of Aghche Kand, North West Iran, for alleged adultery. [149983]

Dr. Howells: We received reports in June that Jafar Kiani and his partner Mokarrameh Ebrahimi were due to be executed imminently by stoning for adultery. The EU presidency immediately made representations to the Iranian authorities, on behalf of all EU partners, in Tehran and Berlin on 20 June. The Iranian Foreign Ministry and Judiciary gave assurances that the moratorium on stoning, announced in 2002, was still in place and the executions would be halted.

We were therefore extremely shocked to hear confirmation from the Iranian Judiciary that Jafar Kiani was subsequently stoned to death on 5 July, despite these assurances. Although stoning sentences continue to be handed down by judges, this is the first confirmed report of a sentence being carried out in recent years. Mr. Kiani's execution violates both Iran's declared moratorium on stoning and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Iran is a party. The ICCPR states that "in countries which have not abolished the death penalty, the sentence of death may be imposed only for the most serious crimes" and that "no-one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment". The stoning of Mr. Kiani violates both these principles.

The EU presidency issued an immediate statement on 10 July condemning the execution of Mr. Kiani and called on Iran to stop the execution of Mokarrameh Ebrahimi. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights also issued a statement of concern on 10 July. I called in the Iranian ambassador on 16 July to protest this execution. I restated our fundamental opposition to the death sentence in all circumstances and urged the authorities to uphold the moratorium and to ensure that it is applied in the case of Ms Ebrahimi.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what response he has made to the remarks by the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) at the 9 July meeting of the IAEA board of governors that there has been a slowing in the process of commissioning new cascades in Iran's centrifuge facility at Natanz; and what the change in the use of centrifuges at Natanz has been. [149629]

David Miliband: We have noted the remarks of the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Dr. El Baradei, about a slowing in the process of commissioning new cascades at Natanz. We await further information from the IAEA before we can make a detailed assessment of this development, but a key point is that the relevant UN Security Council resolutions require Iran to suspend all enrichment-related activities, not merely to slow down the rate of their expansion.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his latest assessment is of Iran's military nuclear capability. [150179]

Dr. Howells: We have serious concerns about Iran's nuclear programme. The Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported on 23 May that he was still unable to verify certain aspects relevant to the scope and nature of Iran's programme. Therefore, the IAEA was unable to provide assurances about the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities, or about the exclusively peaceful nature of the programme. Until the IAEA can provide such assurances, the international community's concerns about Iran's programme will remain.

Middle East: Terrorism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent representations he has made to the Palestinian authorities on the production of children's videos encouraging attacks on Israeli citizens; and if he will make a statement; [150994]

(2) what recent representations he has made to Arab Governments on the production of children's videos encouraging attacks on Israeli citizens; and if he will make a statement. [150995]

Dr. Howells: Following the broadcast in April of a Palestinian children's TV programme which sought to incite violence against Israel and the US, the then Palestinian National Unity Government asked the TV station to stop the programme. The then Palestinian Information Minister, Mustafa Barghouti said the programme took a "mistaken approach" to the political

situation. The programme was finally pulled on 29 June. We have not made any representations to the Palestinian Authority or Arab Governments on this issue.

The UK continues to condemn any actions which incite hatred and violence.

Moldova: Official Visits

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to support the first ever visit of the President of Moldova to the United Kingdom in autumn 2007; and if he will make a statement. [150243]

Dr. Howells: We are looking at future opportunities for inward visits from Moldova from senior figures including the President of Moldova. The timing of the president's visit, however, has not yet been confirmed.

The UK enjoys a constructive relationship with Moldova and welcomes further co-operation between the UK and Moldova both bilaterally and within the EU. Over the last year, we have welcomed many high profile visitors to the UK, particularly Moldovan Ministers and parliamentarians. The Speaker of the Moldovan Parliament, Dr. Marian Lupu, visited the UK in February last year for meetings with Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials. Valeriu Ostalep, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integration visited the UK in July 2006, while the Minister of Defence, Valeriu Plesca, visited the UK in September 2006, meeting with, among others, my noble Friend the Minister of State for Defence, Lord Drayson. My right hon. Friend the Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon) the then Minister for Europe met President Voronin and other senior figures during his visit to Moldova in February this year, and met the First Deputy Prime Minister, Mrs. Zinaida Grecianii, on her visit here last November.

Nuclear Disarmament

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs by what means he plans to take forward the proposals announced by his predecessor to the Carnegie International conference on 25 June of creating a disarmament laboratory to support a verification of the dismantlement of nuclear warheads and delivery vehicles. [150235]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the former Foreign Secretary announced that the UK would act as a "disarmament laboratory" for the thinking and practical work required to move forward global nuclear disarmament.

As the speech made clear, we are supporting an independent International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS) in-depth study to help determine the requirements for the eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons. In particular, we are working with IISS on holding a workshop to focus on some of the crucial technical questions in this area.

We have also tasked the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston with some detailed work on key stages in the verification of the reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons. This work is beginning and will produce results over the next few years.

Palestinians: Politics and Government

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is *(a)* taking and *(b)* plans to take to strengthen the emergency Government of Mahmoud Abbas; and if he will make a statement. [149943]

Dr. Howells: EU Foreign Ministers agreed at the 18 June General Affairs and External Relations Council to urgent practical and financial assistance including: direct financial support to the new Palestinian Government; support to the Palestinian civilian police; the resumption of the EU border assistance mission at the Rafah (Gaza-Egypt) crossing; and intensive efforts to build the institutions of a future Palestinian state.

On 19 June, my right. hon. Friend the then Secretary of State for International Development announced a £1 million contribution to the International Committee of the Red Cross' work in Gaza and the West Bank. We continue to support the temporary international mechanism, which plays a valuable role in providing assistance to the Palestinian people. We are also working with the new emergency Government to help bring stability and security to the occupied Palestinian territories.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to President Abbas of the Palestinian Authority to amend the Fatah constitution to remove articles that call for eradication of Israel; what response was received; and if he will make a statement. [149944]

Dr. Howells: The Fatah constitution does call for the "eradication of Zionist economic, political, military and cultural existence". But Fatah, as a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), is a signatory to the Oslo Peace Accords, which clearly state that "the PLO recognises the right of the State of Israel to exist in peace and security".

The letter of mutual recognition from Yasser Arafat, representing the PLO at the time, to Yitzhak Rabin, the then Israeli Prime Minister, in September 1993 clearly states

> "the PLO affirms that those articles of the Palestinian Covenant which deny Israel's right to exist, and the provisions of the Covenant which are inconsistent with the commitments of this letter are now inoperative and no longer valid. Consequently, the PLO undertakes to submit to the Palestinian National Council for formal approval the necessary changes in regard to the Palestinian Covenant."

We have therefore not made any representations to Palestinian President Abbas on this issue.

Western Sahara: Referendums

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the UN Secretary General on the possibility of a referendum on the future of the western Sahara; and if he will make a statement. [150507]

Dr. Howells: My right. hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed the question of western Sahara with the UN Secretary-General, but UK officials in New York are in regular contact with their UN counterparts. We will continue, through my meetings and those of officials, to discuss this issue with all interested parties.

The UK regards the status of western Sahara as undetermined, pending UN efforts to find a solution. To this end, the UK fully supports the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his personal envoy to the western Sahara, Peter van Walsum, to assist the parties to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self determination of the people of western Sahara.

The UN Security Council adopted UN Security Council Resolution 1754 on 30 April, which extended the mandate of the UN mission for the referendum in western Sahara. There are no plans for a referendum to be held in the near future. However, the resolution also called for both sides to enter into negotiations without preconditions. The UK welcomes the first round of these talks between the parties, hosted by the UN in Manhasset, New York, on 18-19 June, and the agreement by all parties to take part in a further round in August.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Antisocial Behaviour: Torbay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what initiatives to tackle antisocial behaviour the Government have funded in Torbay since 1997. [148092]

Kevin Brennan: In 2005-06, Torbay council received £216,044 revenue and £46,305 capital Safer Stronger Communities Fund grant from the Home Office. This included £25,000 for a local antisocial behaviour co-ordinator, to prioritise and drive forward action on local issues.

Since 2006-07, Torbay council has received centrally pooled Safer Stronger Communities (SSC) funding from Communities and Local Government. The pooled grant available was £216,044 revenue and £46,305 capital in 2006-07; and £321,848 revenue and £182,475 capital in 2007-08. Although there is no requirement to use this funding for specific antisocial behaviour initiatives, Torbay has agreed through its local area agreement to deliver a range of outcomes using this funding including a reduction in public perceptions of antisocial behaviour.

In 2006-07, Torbay received £14,000 from the Respect Task Force for targeted action against antisocial behaviour, £2,000 for a merchandise procurement and publicity campaign, £5,000 towards project work to scope a single non-emergency number and £7,000 towards a clean up campaign.

As one of the 77 target areas working closely with the Respect Task Force, Torbay has been allocated additional funding in 2007-08 of up to £50,000 for a parenting practitioner to work with parents whose children are involved in or at risk of engaging in antisocial behaviour.

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when he expects the ContactPoint project to commence operation; [150348]

(2) how many people are expected to be able to access ContactPoint; [150349]

(3) what response he has had from local authorities about their preparedness to commence operation of ContactPoint; [150350]

(4) how much has been spent on ContactPoint; and how much has been budgeted for completion of the project; [150351]

(5) what estimate has been made of the annual running costs of ContactPoint once it has been initiated. [150352]

Kevin Brennan: In relation to question 150348, ContactPoint will be available to all local authorities in England by the end of 2008. By that time the system will have also been made available to our National Partners—Barnardo's, NSPCC, NCH, the Children's Society, KIDS, Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre and the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service—who will work with us in implementing the system and who will grant access and manage users in their organisations when it is operational. ContactPoint will be deployed initially in April 2008 to 17 Early Adopter authorities and Barnardo's, the Early Adopter National Partner.

In relation to question 150349, we estimate that there will be some 330,000 ContactPoint users working in education, health, social care, youth justice and the voluntary sector.

In relation to question 150350, we are working closely with all local authorities and National Partners to ensure their readiness for deployment in 2008. They provide regular reports on their progress to the Department, through an online tool—the local authority readiness assessment (LARA) system. Departmental officials also provide significant support to each authority and National Partner, in particular through a team of 11 regional coordinators who offer one to one support and bi-monthly networking and update opportunities. Local authorities and National Partners have also been provided with a range of tools and other support and guidance materials. Progress towards readiness to receive access to ContactPoint is on track.

In relation to question 150351, we spent £28.4 million in 2006-07 and a further £11.2 million in the first three months of 2007-08. The total costs for implementing the system are estimated at £224 million. This includes the costs of adapting systems that will supply the data to ContactPoint and adapting the day-to-day systems used by practitioners they can access ContactPoint from their own systems. It also includes the costs to ensure security, data accuracy and staff training.

In relation to question 150352, running costs thereafter are estimated to be £41 million per year. Most of this will go directly to local authorities to fund staff to ensure the ongoing security, accuracy and audit of ContactPoint.

Children: Day Care

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what consultations his Department has undertaken with different community groups on the provision of child care. [149926]

Beverley Hughes: We consulted widely in the summer and autumn last year on draft statutory guidance to local authorities undertaking child care sufficiency assessments; and between February and May this year on draft statutory guidance to local authorities on securing sufficient child care. Both documents benefited from revisions made in the light of comments from a range of groups, including local authorities themselves, representative organisations and child care providers. Our guidance emphasises the importance of local authorities—whose job it is to facilitate and support child care in their areas—establishing the needs of their different community groups and working to meet them.

Departments: Marketing

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost was of establishing his Department; and how much was accounted for by *(a)* relocation expenses and *(b)* re-branding expenses on (i) signs, (ii) stationery and (iii) departmental publications. [147810]

Ed Balls: There were no costs for relocation or re-branding. Costs for producing branded material in relation to the creation of DCSF were as follows:

	£
Relocation	No cost
Signs	3,750
Stationery (recycling costs of previous stock)	900
Departmental publications	No cost

Departments: Policy

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to publish the goals and direction for his Department for the next 10 years including his Children's Plan; and if he will make a statement. [149868]

Ed Balls: As I set out in my statement to the House on 10 July 2007, we are launching a nationwide consultation to draw up a children's plan for our country. I plan to be able to report the results of that consultation and set out the emerging children's plan in the autumn setting out the goals and directions for the Department for the next 10 years.

Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what data were collected by his Department on reasons for exclusions in maintained primary and secondary schools in 2005-06; [148889]

(2) if he will make a statement on the changes to the collection of data on the reasons for exclusion in maintained primary and special schools. [148890]

Kevin Brennan: In the academic year 2005/06 data on the reason for exclusion were collected from maintained secondary schools only.

Prior to 2005/06 data on the reason for exclusion were collected as part of the Termly Exclusions Survey for maintained primary, secondary, special schools and pupil referral units. However there has been a staggered move to collect exclusions data through the School Census, streamlining data collection and reducing both the number of data collections and the administrative burden on schools.

Secondary schools returned exclusion data via the School Census for the first time in May 2006. Primary and special schools returned fixed period and permanent exclusion data through the census for the first time in May 2007. No data on fixed period or reason for exclusion were collected from primary or special schools for 2005/06. The data collected in May 2007 relate to exclusions occurring in the previous autumn term, therefore data will be available for the 2006/07 academic year.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent exclusions there were of (i) 12-year-olds, (ii) 13-year-olds and (iii) 14-year-olds in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available; what proportion those figures represented of the age cohort in each case; and if he will make a statement. [149147]

Kevin Brennan: The available information on fixed term and permanent exclusions is contained in the following tables.

These tables were published as part of the recent Statistical First Release on exclusions which can be found at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000733/index.shtml.

Maintained secondary schools [1,2]: number of fixed period exclusions by age and gender England, 2005-06[3]

	Fixed period exclusions		
	Boys	*Girls*	*Total*
Number of exclusions			
Age[4]			
4 and under	0	0	0
5	0	0	0
6	0	0	0
7	0	0	0
8	* #	0	#
9	530	80	610
10	860	90	950
11	31,830	6,690	38,530
12	49,370	16,850	66,230
13	61,000	27,730	88,720
14	64,220	28,390	92,610
15	40,030	14,640	54,670
16	760	200	950
17	300	80	380
18	20	10	30
19 and over	10	#	10

Maintained secondary schools [1,2]: number of fixed period exclusions by age and gender England, 2005-06[3]

	Fixed period exclusions		
	Boys	*Girls*	*Total*
Total[5]	248,950	94,750	343,840
Percentage of school population[6]			
Age[4]			
4 and under	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	#	0.00	#
9	4.36	0.69	2.57
10	6.16	0.64	3.46
11	11.15	2.43	6.87
12	16.98	5.97	11.56
13	20.26	9.51	14.97
14	21.35	9.67	15.58
15	13.67	5.11	9.44
16	0.84	0.19	0.50
17	0.43	0.09	0.25
18	0.33	0.21	0.27
19 and over	1.98	#	1.00
Total[5]	14.96	5.77	10.40

= less than five, or a rate based on less than five.
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] For the 2005/06 school year, information on fixed period exclusions from secondary schools was collected via the School Census for the first time (the Termly Exclusions Survey has been discontinued). For exclusions during 2006-07, information on fixed period exclusions will also be collected from primary and special schools.
[4] Age as at 31 August 2005.
[5] There were 140 exclusions for which gender and age were unclassified and three male exclusions for whom age was unclassified. These have been included in the total only.
[6] The number of exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of pupils of each age in secondary schools as at January 2006.
Note:
1. Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1,2]: number of permanent exclusions by age and gender England, 2005-06 (estimates)[3]

	Permanent exclusions		
	Boys	*Girls*	*Total*
Number of exclusions			
Age[4]			
4 and under	10	0	10
5	50	0	50
6	70	10	80
7	110	10	120
8	180	10	180
9	260	10	270
10	280	20	290
11	580	60	640
12	1,210	310	1,520
13	1,750	590	2,340
14	1,960	640	2,600
15	780	190	970
16	30	10	30
17	20	10	20
18	#	0	#
19 and over	0	0	0
Total[5]	7,280	1,860	9,170
Percentage of school population[6]			
Age[4]			
4 and under	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	0.02	0.00	0.01
6	0.03	0.00	0.01
7	0.04	0.00	0.02
8	0.06	0.00	0.03
9	0.09	0.00	0.05
10	0.09	0.01	0.05
11	0.20	0.02	0.11
12	0.41	0.11	0.26
13	0.57	0.20	0.39
14	0.64	0.22	0.43
15	0.26	0.06	0.16
16	0.03	0.01	0.02
17	0.03	0.01	0.02
18	#	0.00	#
19 and over	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total[5]	0.19	0.05	0.12

= less than five, or a rate based on less than five.
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes both maintained and non-maintained special schools.
[3] Figures relating to permanent exclusions are estimates based on incomplete pupil-level data.
[4] Age as at 31 August 2005.
[5] There were 27 permanent exclusions for which gender and age are unclassified. These have been included in the total.
[6] The number of exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of pupils of each age in primary, secondary and special schools (excluding dually registered pupils in special schools) in January 2006.
Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were *(a)* temporarily and *(b)* permanently excluded from English (i) infant schools, (ii) primary schools, (iii) secondary schools and (iv) colleges in each year since 1990-91, broken down by age; and if he will make a statement. [149148]

Kevin Brennan: The available information on fixed term and permanent exclusions is contained in the following tables. The breakdown of infant schools and colleges requested is not available.

Information is not available back to 1990-91. Data were collected for earlier years for permanent exclusions but not published as part of the most recent Statistical First Release.

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2]: Number of fixed period exclusions by type of school—England, 2003/04-2005/06[3]

	2003/04[4, 6]	2004/05[5]	2005/06[5]
Primary schools			
Number of fixed period exclusions	41,300	43,720	n/a
Percentage of fixed period exclusions[6]	12	11	n/a
Percentage of school population[7]	0.97	1.04	n/a
Secondary schools			
Number of fixed period exclusions	288,040	329,680	343,840
Percentage of fixed period exclusions[6]	84	85	n/a
Percentage of school population[7]	8.66	9.94	10.40
Special schools			
Number of fixed period exclusions	15,170	16,170	n/a
Percentage of fixed period exclusions[6]	4	4	n/a
Percentage of school population[7]	17.45	18.91	n/a
All schools			
Number of fixed period exclusions	344,510	389,560	n/a
Percentage of fixed period exclusions[6]	100	100	n/a
Percentage of school population[7]	4.49	5.12	n/a

n/a = Not available
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes maintained special schools. Excludes non-maintained special schools.
[3] In 2003/04, information on fixed period exclusions was collected for the first time.
[4] Information on fixed period exclusions has been derived from Termly Exclusion Survey returns.
[5] For the 2005/06 school year, information on fixed period exclusions from secondary schools was collected via the School Census for the first time (the Termly Exclusions Survey has been discontinued).
For exclusions during 2006/07, information on fixed period exclusions will also be collected from primary and special schools.
[6] The number of fixed period exclusions expressed as a percentage of the total number.
[7] The number of fixed period exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils) in January each year.
Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Termly Exclusions Survey and School Census

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2]: Number of permanent exclusions by type of school—England, 1997/98-2005/06

	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01[3]	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Primary schools									
Number of permanent exclusions	1,540	1,370	1,240	1,440	1,450	1,300	1,270	1,090	970
Percentage of permanent exclusions[4]	13	13	15	16	15	14	13	12	11
Percentage of school population[5]	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02
Secondary schools									
Number of permanent exclusions	10,190	8,640	6,710	7,310	7,740	7,690	8,320	8,070	7,990
Percentage of permanent exclusions[4]	83	83	81	80	81	83	84	85	87
Percentage of school population[5]	0.33	0.28	0.21	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.25	0.24	0.24
Special schools									
Number of permanent exclusions	570	440	380	390	340	309	300	280	210
Percentage of permanent exclusions[4]	5	4	5	4	4	3	3	3	2
Percentage of school population[5]	0.58	0.45	0.40	0.41	0.36	0.32	0.33	0.31	0.23

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2]: Number of permanent exclusions by type of school—England, 1997/98-2005/06

	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01[3]	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
All schools									
Number of permanent exclusions	12,300	10,440	8,320	9,140	9,540	9,290	9,880	9,440	9,170
Percentage of permanent exclusions[4]	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Percentage of school population[5]	0.16	0.14	0.11	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.12

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes both maintained and non-maintained special schools.
[3] Permanent exclusions for 2000/01 are estimated as a number of local authorities have not confirmed the data for their schools.
[4] The number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of the total number.
[5] The number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils in special schools) in January each year.
Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

These tables were published as part of the recent Statistical First Release on exclusions which can be found at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000733/index.shtml.

Pupil Exclusions: Appeals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of appeals against permanent exclusion were decided in favour of parents in each year since 1990-91; and if he will make a statement. [149146]

Kevin Brennan: The available information is contained in the following table. The relevant data has been italicised.

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1]: summary of exclusion appeals, England, 1997/98 to 2005/06

	Appeals against exclusion from a school								
	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Number of appeals lodged	1,290	1,220	950	1,100	1,130	1,070	1,130	1,090	1,060
Number of appeals heard	1,010	960	860	980	1,060	990	1,050	1,030	980
Percentage of appeals heard[2]	78.6	79.3	91.0	89.8	94.2	92.2	92.8	94.8	92.8
Number of appeals determined in favour of the parent/pupil	200	220	320	310	260	210	220	220	240
Percentage of appeals determined in favour of the parent/pupil[3]	*20.2*	*22.8*	*36.7*	*31.9*	*24.4*	*21.1*	*21.2*	*21.5*	*24.1*
Number of successful appeals where reinstatement was directed	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	150	130	110	130
Percentage of successful appeals where reinstatement was directed[4]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	71.3	57.0	49.1	55.5

n/a = Not available.
[1] Excludes non-maintained special schools.
[2] Shown as a percentage of appeals lodged.
[3] Shown as a percentage of appeals heard.
[4] Shown as a percentage of appeals determined in favour of the parent/pupil.
Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Exclusion Appeals Survey.

This table was published as part of the recent Statistical First Release on exclusions which can be found at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000733/index.shtml

Information is not available back to 1990/91. Data were collected in 1995/96 and 1996/97 but not published as part of the most recent Statistical First Release.

Pupils: Intimidation

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Prime Minister's answer of 4 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 956, what the basis was for the Prime Minister's statement that the additional funding for ChildLine would be spread over two years; and if he will make a statement. [150513]

Ed Balls: The Government plan to provide the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children with a £30 million grant to help the NSPCC update and expand its helpline services, including ChildLine, which support vulnerable children and help keep them safe from abuse. The grant will in fact be spread over the next four years.

School Meals: Take-Up

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children in English schools took school meals in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [149118]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the quality, availability and uptake of school meals is not held centrally. However, data from the school census show the proportion taking free school meals as at January 2007 was 13.1 per cent. in maintained nursery and primary schools and 9.6 per cent. in maintained secondary schools. This compares with 13.3 per cent. and 9.9 per cent. respectively for January 2006. Figures for earlier years cannot be provided due to time constraints.

Also, figures from the School Food Trust's 2006 annual survey of school meals take-up in England showed that take-up of school meals in 2005-06 was 42.3 per cent. in primary schools and 42.7 per cent. in secondary schools. Findings from the 2007 survey will be available in August.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools were in *(a)* special measures and *(b)* receipt of intensive local authority support in each local authority area in each year since 1996; and if he will make a statement. [149081]

Jim Knight: The numbers in the table represent the schools in special measures at the end of each academic year since 31 August 1997. The figures for 2006/07 show the position at 31 March 2007, using the most recent information published by Ofsted.

Local authority support is expected in every case of special measures. The nature of the support will vary according to the needs of the individual school and will be reflected in the statement of action for the school which the authority is required to prepare. Ofsted assess the quality of the local authority's support on their monitoring visits to the school.

Local authority	*1996-97*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Barking and Dagenham	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	2	3	2
Barnet	0	3	5	3	2	1	2	8	4	0	2
Barnsley	1	2	3	2	0	0	0	2	2	1	1
Bath and NE Somerset	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
Bedfordshire	5	2	0	2	2	3	3	5	1	1	2
Bexley	0	2	2	1	2	3	2	0	0	0	0
Birmingham	9	10	13	9	6	4	5	5	6	8	4
Blackburn	5	3	4	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	1
Blackpool	1	1	0	2	1	1	2	1	1	0	0
Bolton	1	1	1	3	5	3	4	3	0	1	1
Bournemouth	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Bracknell Forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Bradford	6	3	1	0	0	7	13	12	7	4	4
Brent	2	4	4	5	5	3	2	2	1	2	2
Brighton and Hove	2	4	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bristol	1	7	6	4	4	4	4	4	3	5	6
Bromley	2	3	3	1	1	0	1	2	1	1	1
Buckinghamshire	1	3	2	5	5	2	0	0	1	1	2
Bury	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Calderdale	3	4	3	2	1	0	1	3	1	0	2
Cambridgeshire	3	3	3	2	3	5	4	1	3	1	2
Camden	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Cheshire	0	1	0	2	4	3	2	2	1	1	3
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cornwall	1	2	2	3	2	1	2	4	4	5	4
Coventry	3	4	3	4	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Croydon	5	7	2	0	0	0	2	3	3	2	1
Cumbria	4	6	6	4	2	5	4	6	4	3	5
Darlington	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
Derby City	0	1	0	1	1	3	3	4	3	2	3
Derbyshire	5	18	17	10	6	6	7	3	1	2	3
Devon	4	8	8	3	3	1	2	4	1	3	4
Doncaster	0	2	2	1	0	0	5	7	4	2	2
Dorset	2	3	3	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	0

Local authority	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Dudley	2	2	3	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	3
Durham	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Ealing	1	2	1	3	4	3	1	0	0	1	1
East Riding	1	1	3	5	2	3	3	4	3	1	0
East Sussex	4	3	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	0	2
Enfield	2	1	1	1	3	3	3	4	2	2	3
Essex	10	18	17	18	18	11	8	11	7	6	7
Gateshead	1	1	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	2
Gloucestershire	2	5	5	5	1	1	3	3	2	3	4
Greenwich	6	8	5	2	3	2	2	2	1	0	0
Hackney	8	5	5	3	3	4	5	4	1	0	1
Halton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	3	2	0	0
Hampshire	3	11	8	11	3	3	3	5	2	5	5
Haringey	4	7	5	3	2	0	2	2	1	0	0
Harrow	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Hartlepool	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Havering	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
Herefordshire	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Hertfordshire	6	7	6	4	7	8	8	7	2	0	3
Hillingdon	2	3	2	3	2	1	3	2	3	1	0
Hounslow	2	2	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1
Isle of Wight	0	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	2	1
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
Islington	6	8	4	5	5	2	2	1	0	2	1
Kensington and Chelsea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Kent	15	17	13	8	12	12	14	16	10	1	4
Kingston Upon Hull	7	5	2	4	3	1	2	2	1	1	1
Kingston Upon Thames	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kirklees	3	3	2	3	3	4	5	6	7	2	3
Knowsley	0	3	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Lambeth	11	6	1	2	2	1	3	3	0	0	0
Lancashire	11	15	8	6	2	5	4	2	2	3	6
Leeds	5	5	5	4	3	2	4	4	1	1	4
Leicester City	7	12	10	4	2	1	3	4	2	1	3
Leicestershire	2	1	1	1	4	5	5	7	5	2	2
Lewisham	5	6	2	5	3	4	1	1	0	1	0
Lincolnshire	6	7	8	9	5	3	3	4	6	3	3
Liverpool	9	15	12	3	2	0	0	2	1	1	0
Luton	2	3	2	1	2	4	3	3	2	1	1
Manchester	6	13	10	7	7	7	5	3	1	2	2
Medway	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	1	1	0	0
Merton	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	1
Middlesbrough	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2
Milton Keynes	3	3	2	0	1	1	1	2	1	3	3
Newcastle	4	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2
Newham	6	8	6	6	3	1	1	1	0	0	2
Norfolk	11	9	10	11	9	6	6	5	5	3	9
North East Lincolnshire	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	1
North Lincolnshire	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
North Somerset	1	2	1	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	0
North Tyneside	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
North Yorkshire	4	2	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	2	2
Northamptonshire	3	3	6	7	3	4	4	5	6	6	7
Northumberland	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Nottingham City	4	9	9	7	5	2	5	1	0	3	3
Nottinghamshire	4	9	9	5	5	3	5	5	3	2	3
Oldham	1	2	0	1	2	1	1	3	3	1	0
Oxfordshire	4	8	7	8	6	4	3	5	1	2	2
Peterborough	1	2	2	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	1

Local authority	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Plymouth	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	1	1
Poole	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Portsmouth	1	1	3	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
Reading	0	3	3	4	3	0	0	0	1	1	0
Redbridge	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	2	0	0
Redcar and Cleveland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2
Richmond Upon Thames	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Rochdale	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	3	1	0
Rotherham	1	3	2	1	0	0	0	1	4	3	1
Rutland	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Salford	3	3	1	0	1	1	2	4	6	3	2
Sandwell	7	10	8	6	4	6	6	6	2	2	3
Sefton	0	1	1	1	0	2	2	1	0	0	0
Sheffield	6	9	10	8	8	1	2	2	1	1	2
Shropshire	2	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	0
Slough	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Solihull	1	3	2	1	0	0	1	1	1	3	3
Somerset	2	3	2	2	1	0	1	1	3	5	5
South Gloucestershire	0	0	2	3	1	0	2	1	1	1	1
South Tyneside	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
Southampton	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Southend	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	1
Southwark	4	10	10	7	4	5	5	6	4	2	4
St. Helens	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
Staffordshire	6	5	2	5	5	4	2	4	6	7	8
Stockport	2	2	1	0	0	1	3	1	0	0	0
Stockton on Tees	1	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stoke on Trent	3	7	5	1	2	3	2	1	2	8	6
Suffolk	1	2	3	3	2	3	4	2	1	2	4
Sunderland	2	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Surrey	4	9	4	3	4	4	3	6	8	4	6
Sutton	2	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Swindon	0	1	1	3	4	2	2	3	1	2	0
Tameside	1	4	4	4	3	2	2	3	1	0	1
Telford and Wrekin	1	3	3	2	0	0	2	2	0	2	0
Thurrock	1	3	2	3	4	5	1	1	0	1	0
Torbay	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tower Hamlets	2	6	7	6	4	5	2	0	1	1	1
Trafford	0	1	2	2	2	0	0	1	2	1	3
Wakefield	0	1	4	3	3	2	0	0	0	1	1
Walsall	4	3	6	7	6	6	3	0	1	1	1
Waltham Forest	5	2	2	5	4	3	1	0	1	0	1
Wandsworth	5	5	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	0
Warrington	0	1	3	2	1	1	1	2	3	1	0
Warwickshire	1	4	6	6	3	1	1	4	5	5	4
West Berkshire	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
West Sussex	0	1	4	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	5
Westminster	2	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Wigan	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	2	2	1	2
Wiltshire	2	1	3	5	6	3	3	5	4	5	5
Windsor and Maidenhead	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Wirral	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	4
Wokingham	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Wolverhampton	3	9	7	7	4	4	1	0	0	0	2
Worcestershire	3	2	2	4	8	7	4	6	7	2	3
York	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	362	524	447	394	320	270	282	332	242	208	256

Sure Start Programme: Ethnic Groups

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what representations he has received from ethnic minority groups on the Sure Start scheme; [149923]

(2) what expenditure there has been on targeting the Sure Start scheme at ethnic minority communities; [149924]

(3) what comparative studies his Department has commissioned on the value of the Sure Start scheme to different ethnic minority communities; [149925]

(4) what discussions officials in his Department have had with counterparts in the Department for Communities and Local Government on the assistance provided by the Sure Start scheme to ethnic minority communities. [149927]

Beverley Hughes: Supporting families from black and minority ethnic families is a key priority for Sure Start local programmes and children's centres. The Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) allocates grant funding to local authorities and decisions on spending this are taken locally. However we encourage them to take positive steps to provide services specially targeted to meet the needs of black and minority ethnic families.

A comprehensive national evaluation of the Sure Start programme is being carried out on behalf of DCSF by the Institute for the Study of Children, Families and Social Issues, Birkbeck, University of London. This looks extensively at the experience of ethnic minority communities in Sure Start local programmes and specifically includes an assessment of the impact of Sure Start local programmes on child, family and parental outcomes from which impacts for children and families from different ethnic minority groups can be identified. The national evaluation uses the 2001 census ethnic group classification with results generally focusing on the following groups: White, Mixed Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Black Caribbean, Black African and Other. An early assessment of the impact of Sure Start local programmes on children, families and communities published in November 2005 found no significant differences in outcomes for children and families from different ethnic minority groups. The next phase of the longitudinal study of impacts is due to be published in spring 2008 and will include an assessment of impacts of the Sure Start programme for different ethnic minority groups. In addition, a focused study on how Sure Start Local Programmes worked with black and minority ethnic groups that identifies good practice in working with BME groups has also been carried out as part of the national evaluation and is available on the DCSF website at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/RRP/u015229/index.shtml.

The revised practice guidance for local authorities and Sure Start children's centres, published last November, took account of the findings in the focused study report and gave advice about how to engage and support families from black and minority ethnic communities. We also issued late last year a performance management framework to help local authorities and children's centres judge how well their services were meeting and improving outcomes for families. This included specific advice about monitoring access and outcomes of black and minority ethnic families. In addition, 'Together for Children', the consortium appointed to support local authorities during the children's centre roll-out, have produced a toolkit which features advice and case studies on reaching families at greatest risk of social exclusion, including Black and minority ethnic families.

My officials are in contact with their counterparts at the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) about how Sure Start children's centres provide support to minority ethnic communities and DCLG are also represented on the steering group for the national evaluation of Sure Start. My Department has received no representations from ethnic minority groups on the Sure Start scheme.

Sure Start Programme: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Sure Start programme; and if he will make a statement. [149866]

Beverley Hughes: There is a comprehensive national level evaluation of Sure Start in place, which began in January 2001 and will run until 2008. To date, 24 reports have been published, including four published at the end of June. These can be found at:

http://www.surestart.gov.uk/research/evaluations/ness/nesspublications/

Each element of the evaluation explores how effective Sure Start local programmes (SSLPs) are and provides examples of good practice and understanding that can feed into the future development of children's centres. A number of these studies focus on a specific aspect of work, for example, outreach and home visiting or maternity services, others take a more overarching view such as the reports "Understanding Variations in Effectiveness amongst SSLPs" and "Changes in the Characteristics of SSLP Areas between 2000/01 and 2004/05" that were published last month.

These studies found that SSLPs were most effective when they implemented the programme well across all areas and that particularly important factors were having robust structures for governance and leadership, a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere, and empowerment of providers and users of services. They also found that there had been improvements in Sure Start local programme areas between 2001 and 2005, such as a reduction in the number of children living in workless households that was larger than that for England as a whole, though such changes cannot be directly linked to the work of the Sure Start programme.

Early findings from the evaluation's Impact Study were published in November 2005 and showed that SSLPs had had some positive impacts on parenting and child outcomes, but that more needed to be done to reach the most disadvantaged groups. A fuller assessment of the impact of Sure Start based on a longitudinal study of children at age three years will be published in spring 2008.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on delivery of humanitarian aid in Afghanistan. [149531]

Mr. Malik: According to the United Nations Office for Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)[1], the following has been contributed to the humanitarian effort in Afghanistan over the last three years:

	US $
2004	162,366,273
2005	79,906,460
2006	153,181,425

Prior to 2003, the majority of DFID aid to Afghanistan was focused on immediate reconstruction and humanitarian needs. In 2003-04, the focus shifted to long- term developmental programmes in support of the Government of Afghanistan.

DFID still retains some limited capacity to respond to humanitarian crises. For example, in 2006-07 the UK committed the following humanitarian aid to Afghanistan: £1 million for drought mitigation; £1.2 million to support HALO Trust's de-mining programme; and £30,000 to provide food and other essential items like soap and blankets for 3,000 internally displaced families in Helmand.

Security concerns present difficulties for NGOs and development workers wishing to operate in some areas, particularly the south. This is why the presence of NATO forces, and British troops in Helmand, are essential to create the conditions in which humanitarian aid can be delivered more effectively. The vast majority of Afghans want to see a peaceful, prosperous, democratic country. We will continue to support them.

[1] OCHA website database at:
www.ocha.unog.ch; appeal and funding

Departments: Freedom of Information

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will list the requests made to his Department under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000 in the last six months; and what the *(a)* FOI case reference number, *(b)* request summary, *(c)* request outcome and *(d)*, where appropriate, reason for exemption was in each case. [149030]

Mr. Malik: A list of DFID Freedom of Information requests between January and June 2007 has been placed in the Library of the House.

Developing Countries: Water

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the effects of climate change on the provision of water in developing countries; and what steps his Department is taking on the matter. [150232]

Mr. Thomas: Climate change will affect the availability of water through levels of rainfall increasing (around the equator and in higher latitudes), decreasing (in mid-latitudes), becoming more variable from year to year and being more extreme (excessive rainfall in wet seasons and longer and more pronounced droughts in dry seasons). This will make provision of water in developing countries, where access to clean water is already extremely low and management of water for agriculture and other activities is weak, even harder.

The UK is already committed to helping developing countries increase access to clean water. We are doubling funding available for water and sanitation in Africa to £91 million by 2007-08 and then doubling it again to £200 million a year by 2010-11. We have issued a Global Call to Action, calling for increased money for water and sanitation, for it to be spent more effectively and for the right structures to be in place to make this happen.

We are also working to help developing countries take account of the impact of climate change on their ability to provide access to water. The new £800 million Environment Transformation Fund, announced in the last budget, will provide funds for developing countries to adapt to the impact of climate change, including on water. As the largest donor to the UN's Special Adaptation Funds, at £20 million, we are already helping developing countries take account of adaptation in their planning. We are improving access to relevant climate data for developing countries to plan on the basis of likely water availability. We are funding research into the best local responses to climate change, including to water supply problems, through our £24 million support to African research institutions, and will do the same in Asia and Latin America. We are making sure our own investments, including in the water sector, take account of the impact of climate change, as part of our on-going climate risk assessment exercise in Bangladesh, China, India and Kenya. And the impact of climate change will be central to our new water resource management strategy.

In the longer term, the Government are working to minimise the impact of climate change on developing countries by achieving a post-Kyoto deal which stabilises greenhouse gas emissions below a dangerous level.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department provides to increase water provision in developing countries. [150233]

Mr. Thomas: Provisional estimates of DFID bilateral expenditure show that DFID spent, £46.8 million on water and sanitation in financial year 2006-07.

In addition to direct bilateral expenditure on specific water and sanitation projects, spending on a range of other projects and programmes across DFID's portfolio will contribute to improving water supply and sanitation in developing countries. DFID's total support to the water sector—including through the World Bank, the multilateral development banks and the EC—was estimated to be £242 million in 2005-06, the latest year for which figures are available on this basis.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate his Department has made of the number of people in the world without access to clean drinking water; and whether it is predicted that this figure will rise or fall in future years. [150231]

Mr. Thomas: The number of people lacking access to clean drinking water is estimated to be 1.1 billion.

If current trends continue, the number of people without access to clean water will decrease further by 150 million by 2015, leaving over 900 million without access. In sub-Saharan Africa the situation is much worse, with the number of people without access to clean water increasing by 60 million between 1990 and 2004, taking account of the increase in population of 217 million. On current trends, between 2004 and 2015 the number of people lacking access to clean water in sub-Saharan Africa will increase by a further 47 million, taking account of projected population increases of 200 million.

St Helena: Airport

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the original budgeted cost for St. Helena airport was; and what the most recent estimated total outturn cost is. [149912]

Mr. Malik: Cost estimates for the St. Helena airport have not been published, as to do so could prejudice the outcome of the current competitive procurement process. DFID continues to update its estimates as additional information becomes available during the development of specifications for the airport and through the tender process.

Western Sahara: Overseas Aid

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid has been provided to western Sahara refugees by his Department; and how much is planned to be provided in 2008-09. [150510]

Mr. Malik: DFID does not have a bilateral aid programme for western Sahara refugees. However, between September 2006 and January 2008 the European Community Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) is providing a €10 million (£6.8 million) package of relief in the sectors of food, water, sanitation, health, education and shelter through various UN agencies and international NGOs. The UK contribution is 17.3 per cent., which is approximately £1.2 million. DFID also contributed $49 million to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in 2006 for its work with refugees across the world, including from western Sahara. DFID's humanitarian aid package for 2008-09 has not yet been agreed.

JUSTICE

Prisoners

6. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to improve the literacy and numeracy of prisoners. [150200]

Maria Eagle: Delivering the basic skills of reading and writing is a key priority, bolstering employability and reducing re-offending as is the achievement of work skills qualifications.

Offender education spend has trebled from £57 million in 2001 to £183 million this year. 36 per cent. of prisoners are engaged in education, up from 30 per cent. 94,200 prisoners improved their literacy, language or numeracy skills by at least one level between 2001-04 and gained 249,104 work skills qualifications in total. The introduction of the Offender Learning and Skills Service planned and funded by the LSC should enable us to build on this issue.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what projection he has made of the prison population in England and Wales on *(a)* 1 October, *(b)* 1 January, *(c)* 1 April and *(d)* 1 July in each year to April 2012. [150503]

Mr. Hanson: Prison population projections have been published in Home Office Statistical Bulletin 11/06 (July 06). Three scenarios (high, medium, low) have been calculated. All figures relate to the last day of the month. The projected prison populations closest to 1 October, 1 January, 1 April and 1 July in each year to April 2012 are shown in the following table.

End of month	*High*	*Medium*	*Low*
September 2007	81,600	80,340	79,090
December 2007	80,200	78,710	77,200
March 2008	83,300	81,590	79,840
June 2008	84,670	82,730	80,730
September 2008	85,970	83,740	81,500
December 2008	84,690	82,160	79,670
March 2009	87,920	85,100	82,370
June 2009	89,410	86,290	83,320
September 2009	90,680	87,290	84,030
December 2009	89,370	85,700	82,160
March 2010	92,560	88,620	84,800
June 2010	94,020	89,810	85,700
September 2010	95,210	90,720	86,290
December 2010	93,810	89,040	84,290
March 2011	96,930	91,880	86,810
June 2011	98,310	92,970	87,590
September 2011	99,420	93,760	88,050
December 2011	97,940	91,950	85,930
March 2012	100,980	94,660	88,320

Revised prison population projections will be published in August 2007.

Young Offenders

7. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young people were in young offender institutions in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007; and if he will make a statement. [150201]

Bridget Prentice: Young Offender Institutions accommodate sentenced prisoners aged from 15 to 21. At the end of June 1997 there were 7,949 sentenced young offenders including 1,673 aged under 18. At the end of May this year there were 9,137 sentenced young offenders including 1,894 aged under 18.

Queen's Speech

8. **Mr. Heppell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will consult Parliament and the public on the contents of the Queen's Speech. [150202]

Mr. Straw: Last Wednesday my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister set out the details of the content of the provisional list of Bills for the next parliamentary Session. His purpose was such that our Government's initial thinking, previously private, could be the subject of widespread discussion and public debate. Full information is now available on the Cabinet Office website and in hard copy. We want to hear from all Parliamentarians, members of the public and individual groups their views on what was proposed.

Victims of Crime and Witnesses: Support

9. **Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to make additional support available to victims of crime and witnesses in court proceedings. [150203]

Maria Eagle: The Government have already done much to support victims and witnesses in criminal proceedings. We have:

- Introduced special measures such as live links, video-recorded evidence-in-chief and intermediaries. An independent evaluation in 2004 found that one-third of witnesses would not have been willing or able to give evidence without special measures
- Given £30 million annually to Victim Support, who provide the Witness Service in every court
- Introduced a statutory Code of Practice to give victims legal rights for the first time
- Spent £2.75 million on new court live link systems to help witnesses give evidence since 2006
- Met the target of having separate waiting facilities in 90 per cent. of magistrates courts ahead of schedule.

Prisoner Rehabilitation Programmes

10. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the impact of prison overcrowding on prisoner rehabilitation programmes. [150204]

Mr. Hanson: The main risk entailed by overcrowding is that prisoners do not complete offending behaviour programmes because they are transferred to another establishment before the programme is completed.

The Prison Service monitors the delivery of all offending behaviour programmes closely. Less than 1 per cent. of those who started offending behaviour programmes in 2006-07 failed to complete because of transfer.

Probation Services

11. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the impact of contestability on probation services; and if he will make a statement. [150205]

Mr. Straw: If we are to tackle re-offending effectively, we need a flexible approach which brings together all those with a contribution to make. We need to be able to commission services at national, regional and local level according to need. Contestability will enable specialist, low-volume, high-cost services to be commissioned at a national or regional level, where that makes sense.

But it also enables the local lead provider to continue to act as provider and commissioner. Lead providers will concentrate on delivering core offender management, while commissioning much of the interventions work from local providers. Provided their performance meets the requirements, the lead provider in a probation area will be the probation trust.

Early Release Scheme

12. **Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to end the scheme of early release of prisoners. [150206]

Mr. Hanson: The end of custody licence was introduced on 29 June as a temporary measure. It is too early to say how long the scheme will be in operation. We will keep under the review the length of time it will remain in use in the light of new prison capacity coming on stream and the review by Lord Carter.

Restraint Methods

13. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms are in place to ensure that methods of restraint used in secure training centres are safe. [150207]

Mr. Hanson: The methods used must be approved by the Secretary of State, who receives advice from the Youth Justice Board. The Board periodically appoints a panel of experts, including medical experts, to assess safety. A full review was conducted in 2004-05 and a further review is currently being established.

Magistrates Courts: Cheshire

14. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make a statement on the future provision of magistrates courts in Cheshire. [150208]

Maria Eagle: HMCS is committed to putting the public first in the delivery of justice. There are currently seven magistrates courts in Cheshire. HM Courts Service will continue to manage the court provision in Cheshire to maintain and improve the justice system for the public.

Governance of Britain Green Paper

15. **Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to his Department's Green Paper on the governance of Britain, if he will make a statement on his future plans for constitutional reform, further devolution and electoral reform. [150209]

Mr. Wills: The Prime Minister and I published the Green Paper, 'The Governance of Britain', on 3 July. A range of reforms have already been introduced, including:

- appointment of regional Ministers;
- publication of the proposed legislative programme, accompanied by the Prime Minister's statement to the House;
- revocation of legislation allowing special advisers to give orders to civil servants;

publication of a revised ministerial code;

creation of the National Security Council; and

commitment of the Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary and Secretary of State for Defence to neither add nor subtract names from the final Honours List passed to HM the Queen.

In the coming weeks, we intend to publish a consultation paper on the role of the Attorney-General, to launch the Goldsmith Review of Citizenship, to set up a Youth Citizenship Commission and to finalise arrangements for regional select committees. In the longer term, it is proposed to introduce a Constitutional Reform Bill to Parliament in the next Session, to complete the voting systems review and to begin work on engaging with the British people on a statement of values. As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said in his statement to the House:

"As we focus on the challenges that we face...our starting point should be to discuss together and then...agree and set down the values, founded in liberty, which define our citizenship and help to define our country."—[*Official Report*, 3 July 2007; vol. 462, c. 819.]

Finally, while we do not envisage further devolution of powers from the UK Parliament to national Assemblies, the Green Paper makes it clear that the Government remain committed to enhancing democracy by devolving more power directly to the people. In line with this we are to consult on a range of measures to fully engage local people in local decisions.

Approved Premises

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of people housed in approved premises are categorised as *(a)* high and *(b)* very high risk in each region; and if he will make a statement. [150138]

Mr. Hanson: As at 28 February 2007, the number of residents housed in Approved Premises in England and Wales categorised as *(a)* high risk of serious harm was 1,165, representing 63 per cent. of all residents. The number categorised as *(b)* very high risk of serious harm was 115, representing 6 per cent. of all residents. These figures do not include the Prospects Approved Premises, which are a specialist resource for offenders with substance misuse problems.

The regional profile of offenders, by risk of harm, was as follows:

	High risk of harm (A)		*Very high risk of harm (B)*	
Region	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
East	60	49	6	5
East Midlands	102	65	16	10
London	184	74	14	6
North East	83	67	13	10
North West	232	75	16	5
South East	88	48	15	8
South West	82	60	8	6
Wales	68	77	8	9
West of Midlands	120	56	9	4
Yorkshire and Humberside	146	57	10	4
Totals	1,165	63	115	6

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make a statement on his future plans for approved premises. [150139]

Mr. Hanson: In September 2004, the Government published a strategy which directed Approved Premises in England and Wales to be used primarily to supervise certain high risk of serious harm offenders on release from custody into the community. That strategy was reviewed and reaffirmed in the context of the Child Sex Offender Review, the report of which was published in June this year.

Approved Premises provide for enhanced supervision of offenders and are, therefore, a valuable public protection resource. Such supervision would be much more difficult to provide if offenders were dispersed into less suitable accommodation in the community.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has recently initiated an Approved Premises Service Review, to make recommendations as to how the supervision of high risk of serious harm offenders in Approved Premises should be commissioned from April 2008.

Oakhill Secure Training Centre: Inspections

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he will place in the Library a copy of the inspection reports on Oakhill secure training centre by the Commission for Social Care Inspectorate. [150329]

Mr. Hanson: In accordance with the service level agreement between Ofsted, the Youth Justice Board and the Ministry of Justice, papers received following the unannounced inspections at Oakhill secure training centre in January and April 2007 will be included as appendices to the report of the next announced inspection of the centre. The inspection will be conducted by Ofsted and is due to take place in October. The report will be a publicly available document.

Prisons: Construction

Mr. Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criteria his Department uses when evaluating the suitability of potential new sites for prisons. [150212]

Mr. Hanson: As part of the 8,000 capacity programme, the National Offender Management Service is looking to identify potential new prisons sites within areas of greatest need.

These sites should be close to or within large urban conurbations, enabling prisoners to be located close to home for family contact and to assist in finding employment on release; near or within reasonable travelling distance of courts; and to have good access to public transport and major roads.

TREASURY

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths of teenagers there were in which alcohol was cited as a cause or contributing factor in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* the last five years. [150412]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 18 July 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths of teenagers there were in which alcohol was cited as a cause or contributing factor in (a) 2007 and (b) the last five years. I am replying in her absence. (150412)

The latest year for which figures are available is 2006. The table below shows the number of deaths of teenagers where an alcohol-related cause was the underlying cause of death or was mentioned as a contributory factor on the death certificate. Figures are provided from 2001 to 2006.

Number of deaths of those aged 13 to 19 where an alcohol-related cause[1] was the underlying cause of death or was mentioned as a contributory factor on the death certificate the death certificate.[2] England and Wales, 2001-06[3]

	Underlying cause of death	*Mentioned as contributory factor*
2001	10	40
2002	1	25
2003	6	35
2004	3	45
2005	9	53
2006	3	42

[1] Selected using the National Statistics definition of alcohol-related deaths. The International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes for the definition are listed as follows:
F10—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol
G31.2—Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol
G62.1—Alcoholic polyneuropathy
I42.6—Alcoholic cardiomyopathy
K29.2—Alcoholic gastritis
K70—Alcoholic liver disease
K73—Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified
K74—Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excluding
K74.3-K74.5—billiary cirrhosis)
K86.0—Alcohol induced pancreatitis
X45—Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol
X65—Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol
Y15—Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent
[2] The number of deaths—where an alcohol-related cause was mentioned as a contributory factor also includes those deaths where the cause was selected as the underlying cause of death.
[3] Data are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Childbirth

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many births there were in each month since January 2001. [150955]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 July 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question on the number of births there has been each month since January 2001. (150955)

The latest available figures on live births by month are for 2005. The table below shows the figures requested for the years 2001 to 2005 and covers live births registered in England and Wales.

Live births in England and Wales, 2001 to 2005, by month

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
January	50,591	49,165	50,579	53,028	52,527
February	45,150	45,150	46,017	49,350	48,080
March	49,793	48,972	50,845	52,793	53,671
April	47,805	47,940	50,761	51,383	52,064
May	51,474	50,726	52,910	52,726	53,610
June	49,483	48,539	51,481	53,313	54,078
July	51,328	51,984	55,425	55,619	56,526
August	50,958	51,122	53,311	54,270	57,230
September	50,680	51,933	54,124	55,556	56,396
October	51,364	52,241	54,159	55,368	55,614
November	48,417	48,611	50,599	52,899	52,279
December	47,591	49,739	51,258	53,416	53,760
Annual total	594,634	596,122	621,469	639,721	645,835

Source:
Birth Statistics, Series FM1 nos. 30 to 343 Table 2.4

Children's Centres: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on funding for children's centres from April 2008. [149532]

Andy Burnham: Treasury Ministers have discussions on a wide range of issues as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of these discussions.

Death

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the death rate from *(a)* stroke, *(b)* heart disease, stroke and related illnesses and *(c)* all cancers was among (i) people aged 65 years and under, (ii) people aged 75 years and under and (iii) all people, in each year since 1977. [150400]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 18 July 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the death rate from (a) stroke, (b) heart disease, stroke and related illnesses and (c) all cancers was among (i) people aged 65 years and under, (ii) people aged 75 years and under and (iii) all people, in each year since 1977. I am replying in her absence. (150400)

The latest year for which figures are available is 2005. The table below shows age-standardised mortality rates from 1977 to 2005 for (a) stroke, (b) all circulatory diseases, and (c) cancer, for people aged under 65, under 75, and all ages.

Age-standardised mortality rates[1] by age group, for selected causes of death: England and Wales, 1977-2005[2]

	Stroke			All circulatory diseases			Cancer		
	Under 65	Under 75	All ages	Under 65	Under 75	All ages	Under 65	Under 75	All ages
1977	212	493	1,206	1,270	2,496	4,873	1,017	1,624	2,151
1978	206	482	1,190	1,294	2,519	4,892	1,022	1,633	2,165
1979	209	480	1,188	1,295	2,500	4,870	1,020	1,631	2,177
1980	192	446	1,118	1,228	2,390	4,653	1,007	1,621	2,170
1981	181	427	1,071	1,179	2,323	4,521	996	1,609	2,164
1982	179	415	1,045	1,139	2,261	4,424	974	1,598	2,151
1983	172	399	1,010	1,127	2,242	4,351	981	1,612	2,175
1984	165	399	1,042	1,070	2,150	4,221	994	1,637	2,240
1985	163	385	1,042	1,058	2,126	4,254	979	1,619	2,235
1986	155	373	999	1,019	2,057	4,078	961	1,598	2,206
1987	149	353	955	979	1,984	3,914	956	1,593	2,213
1988	137	337	927	924	1,914	3,813	952	1,602	2,226
1989	131	322	898	868	1,829	3,701	931	1,583	2,217
1990	125	307	870	837	1,764	3,577	915	1,561	2,190
1991	125	305	879	802	1,715	3,550	899	1,547	2,181
1992	120	288	835	762	1,635	3,406	884	1,530	2,167
1993	114	266	762	756	1,631	3,408	865	1,492	2,107
1994	108	255	726	690	1,510	3,174	839	1,465	2,079
1995	109	253	726	679	1,481	3,133	818	1,439	2,048
1996	108	250	716	654	1,419	3,026	803	1,406	2,008
1997	102	238	686	615	1,337	2,880	770	1,365	1,962
1998	104	233	677	600	1,300	2,828	768	1,354	1,955
1999	98	222	654	565	1,226	2,709	746	1,313	1,909
2000	89	201	603	532	1,138	2,528	731	1,282	1,870
2001	89	206	655	514	1,093	2,527	724	1,265	1,880
2002	90	201	653	497	1,040	2,462	714	1,252	1,871
2003	87	192	635	479	991	2,393	694	1,220	1,836
2004	80	173	575	440	906	2,196	675	1,195	1,803
2005	75	161	539	422	854	2,077	665	1,178	1,783

[1] Rate per million population, age-standardised to the European Standard Population.

[2] Selected using International Classification of Diseases, Eighth Revision (ICD-8) codes for the years 1977 to 1978, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes for the years 1979 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes for the years 2001 to 2005. The codes selected are listed as follows:

Stroke—ICD-8 430-438; ICD-9 430-438; ICD-10 I60-I69

All circulatory diseases—ICD-8 390-444.1, 444.4-458.9, 782; ICD-9 390-459; ICD-10 I00-I99

Cancer (all malignant neoplasms)—ICD-8 140-207; ICD-9 140-208; ICD-10 C00-C97

Between 1984 and 1992, a different interpretation of the World Health Organization selection Rule 3 was used to select the underlying cause of death in England and Wales, to that used internationally. This change means that comparisons between this period, and years before and after, should be interpreted with caution. The impact of the change on mortality statistics was analysed and reported in annual mortality publications for 1984 and 1993-94 (notes 1 and 2). The introduction of ICD-10 for coding cause of death in 2001 also means that figures are not comparable with data for years before this date. Comparisons between the data before and after 2001 should therefore also be interpreted with caution. Articles specifically examining the effects of the change in classification for circulatory disease and cancer trends were published in Health Statistics Quarterly 22 and Health Statistics Quarterly 23 (notes 3 and 4). More information about these changes, as well as the results of the study, can be found on the National Statistics website at www.statistics.gov.uk/icd10mortality.

[3] Data are for deaths registered in each calendar year between 1977 and 1992, and occurrences of death in each calendar year from 1993 onwards.

Notes:

1. Mortality statistics: Cause 1984. DH2 No. 11, pg viii-ix.
2. Mortality statistics: Cause 1993 (revised) and 1994. DH2 No. 21, pg xxv-xxxiii.
3. Griffiths C, Brock A and Rooney C (2004) The impact of introducing ICD-10 on trends in mortality from circulatory diseases in England and Wales. Health Statistics Quarterly 22, 14-20.
4. Brock A, Griffiths C, Rooney C (2004) The effect of the introduction of ICD-10 on cancer mortality trends in England and Wales. Health Statistics Quarterly 23, 7-17.

Defence: Expenditure

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of UK GDP was spent on the defence budget, excluding the costs of campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq, in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [149879]

Andy Burnham: HM Treasury's Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2007 details historical and planned defence budget expenditure, excluding the additional costs of military operations. Annual GDP deflators can be found on the Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/economic_data_and_tools/gdp_deflators/data_gdpfig.cfm

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what legislative provisions introduced by his Department since 1997 have not yet been brought into force. [149695]

Angela Eagle: 60 Acts have received Royal Assent between 1997 and 16 July 2007, all of those have been brought into force in full or in part.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what legislative provisions introduced by his Department since 1997 have been repealed. [149696]

Angela Eagle: Between 1997 and 16 July 2007 60 Acts have received Royal Assent, of those Acts 28 have been repealed in full. Of the 28 Acts that are no longer in force, 26 were Appropriation or Consolidated Fund Acts and the remaining two were repealed as a result of a consolidation exercise.

Departments: Telephone Services

Mr. Breed: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many call centres were used by his Department in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; and what assessment he has made of their efficiency in each year; [149757]

(2) how customer satisfaction with call centres used by his Department is measured; and what the results were of customer surveys carried out in 2005-06 and 2006-07. [149758]

Angela Eagle: There were no call centres used by HM Treasury in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07.

Government Departments: Buildings

Colin Challen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 939W, on Government Departments: buildings, what percentage of commercial sector buildings in England and Wales were occupied by the wider Government estate in each of the last five years. [150399]

Angela Eagle: The earlier answer provided figures for central Departments, their agencies and sponsored bodies. Other occupancy details are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Government Departments: ICT

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which mission-critical information and communications technology projects in Government are proceeding without having gone through a Gateway review process. [149445]

Angela Eagle: The OGC Gateway™ process is mandatory for all projects and programmes within central civil Government. Gateway reviews are carried out at key decision points in the life of a project or programme.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) which mission-critical information and communications technology projects in Government are proceeding despite receiving one or more red lights in the Gateway review process; and, in each case, how many red lights were received and which Department was responsible for the project; [149446]

(2) in what circumstances mission critical information and communications technology projects may proceed despite a red light in the Gateway Review process. [149447]

Angela Eagle: A red Gateway review does not mean that the project or programme must be stopped. A red Gateway means that to achieve success there is at least one issue that requires immediate action.

HM Revenue and Customs: Census

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what access *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency have to (i) Census data and (ii) Census test data. [150639]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 July 2007:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what access (a) HM Revenue and Customs and (b) the Valuation Office Agency have to (i) Census data and (ii) Census test data. (150639)

Neither HM Revenue and Customs nor the Valuation Office Agency have any access to personal census data, including Census Test data. Under the provisions of Section 8 of the Census Act 1920 as amended by the Census (Confidentiality) Act 1991, personal census information which relates to an identifiable individual or household, is kept strictly confidential. It would be a criminal offence to disclose personal information from the census without lawful authority. These provisions also apply to Census Test data.

Anonymised and aggregated statistical census data are available free of charge from the National Statistics website—www.statistics.gov.uk.

Immigrants: Employment

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people who have entered the UK in the last 10 years are included in the figures for employment. [150245]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 July 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the number of people who entered the UK in the last ten years and who are in employment. (150245)

For the three month period ending March 2007 there were 1.5 million overseas born people in employment who had entered the UK in the last ten years. This figure includes those who were children when they arrived.

When interpreting this figure, it is important to bear in mind that the Labour Force Survey (LFS) is not designed to cover everyone who is present in the UK. The survey may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas for the following reasons :-

The LFS sample covers people living in private households, those in National Health Service (NHS) accommodation, and students living in halls of residence who have a UK-resident parent. Students living in halls of residence who do not have a UK-resident parent are not covered by the sample.

The LFS does not cover people living in other types of communal establishment (such as hostels, hotels, boarding houses, or mobile home sites).

Individuals living at sampled addresses are generally included in the survey only if they regard the address as their main residence. Those who have been living at the address for less than six months are not eligible to take part in the survey.

The survey results are weighted to estimates of the 'usually resident' UK population living in private households, NHS accommodation and student halls of residence. The population figures cover long-term international migrants (people who change their country of usual residence for 12 months or more). They do not include people moving to the UK for less than 12 months, nor do they exclude from the usually resident population people moving out of the UK for less than 12 months.

The LFS estimates at this detailed level are only consistent with the UK population estimates published in February and March 2003 and they do not incorporate the more recent population estimates that are used in the headline labour market series.

Estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Office of Government Commerce: Reviews

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will hold discussions with ministerial colleagues on ensuring that departmental audit committees act on recommendations of Gateway reviews; [149444]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that Ministers hold regular reviews of mission critical ICT projects being undertaken by their Department. [149442]

Angela Eagle: The role of departmental audit committees in scrutinising information about a Department's major projects and programmes, including information from Gateway reports, and regular reporting for Ministers on mission critical projects, has been raised by the Public Accounts Committee in their report, 'Delivering successful IT-enabled business change' [HC113 5 June 2007]. The Government will be responding to the PAC's recommendation in a Treasury Minute.

Public Expenditure: Wales

Mr. Paul Murphy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to review the Barnett formula for allocating the block grant for Wales. [150229]

Andy Burnham: The Government have no plans to review the Barnett formula.

Taxation: Environment Protection

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* central and *(b)* local government environmental taxes on cutting (i) toxic and (ii) carbon emissions. [149646]

Angela Eagle: The environmental taxes levied by Government are the climate change levy, landfill tax and aggregates levy.

The climate change levy is estimated to have reduced emissions by a cumulative 16.5 million tonnes of carbon up to 2005 and by 2010 it is estimated to deliver savings of over 3.5 million tonnes of carbon per year.

Landfill tax is expected to save up to 0.2 MtC a year by 2010 and, between 1997-98 and 2005-06 the amount of active waste disposed to landfill fell by 14 per cent.

The aggregates levy is also achieving its environmental objectives; there has been an 8 per cent. reduction in sales of primary aggregates between 2001 and 2005.

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what environmental taxes are levied by central Government. [149686]

Angela Eagle: The environmental taxes levied by Government are the climate change levy, landfill tax and aggregates levy. The Government recognise that other taxes, such as fuel duty and air passenger duty, have a positive environmental impact and can be used to achieve environmental aims and that other measures such as vehicle excise duty have been reformed to build in environmental incentives.

Unemployment: Young People

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many 16 to 18-year-olds are not in education, employment or training, broken down by constituency in ascending order. [150849]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 July 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about young people not in employment, education or training.

Table 1 attached, shows the numbers of 16 to 18 year olds not in full-time education, employment or training, resident in Great Britain parliamentary constituencies, in ascending order, for the 12 months ending in December 2006, from the Annual Population Survey. The table shows that for the majority of constituencies the smaple size is too small to provide estimates. For the remaining constituencies the number of persons, aged 16 to 18, not in full-time education, employment or training, is less than 2,500 in all cases.

Estimates for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, are based on very small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

As the information is extensive, a copy of this table has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Visits

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1879W, on visits, whether he stayed in British Government accommodation in each location. [147098]

Angela Eagle: I have nothing further to add to my hon. Friend's previous answer.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in which accident and emergency departments turnaround teams have been deployed, as stated on page 23 of the Cabinet Office's Capability Review of his Department, published on 22 June 2007; at what cost to the public purse in each case; and if he will make a statement. [147559]

Mr. Bradshaw: In the past a team consisting of people with clinical and national health service management experience provided support to individual NHS trusts, giving them advice and guidance on delivering and sustaining the accident and emergency (A and E) four hour target.

The level of support to organisations varied at different times, including offering a range of advice and support from one-off or occasional telephone advice through to intensive visits. It is therefore not possible to provide a definitive list of every trust that has had some form of contact with the team, nor to provide the cost in each case.

Such a team no longer exists, as the A and E four hour target has been achieved and is now an operational standard for the NHS.

In addition, the former national health service Modernisation Agency's Emergency Services Collaborative was a national time limited programme that aimed to improve emergency care across the whole system; improve patient, carer and staff experience and reduce total journey times through A and E departments. The Department allocated £30 million to the national health service Modernisation Agency to fund this national service improvement programme.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many attendances there have been at accident and emergency departments *(a)* in total and *(b)* per 100,000 population in each year since 1997-98 (i) in England and (ii) broken down by strategic health authority area. [149488]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is not available in the format requested. Available information is provided in the following tables.

Total attendances at accident and emergency (A and E) departments 1997-98 to 2001-02 for England and by regional health authority

	Attendances				
Region	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
England	14,364,146	14,280,388	14,629,025	14,293,307	14,044,018
Northern and Yorkshire	1,908,884	1,900,148	1,940,457	1,884,713	1,891,519
Trent	1,344,814	1,324,409	1,329,038	1,303,643	1,335,057
West Midlands	1,690,182	1,689,095	1,740,155	1,682,401	1,609,279
North West	2,248,105	2,184,748	2,233,799	2,181,244	2,130,246
Eastern	1,123,343	1,131,896	1,173,271	1,171,833	1,177,060
London	2,486,731	2,495,141	2,584,316	2,548,166	2,407,563
South East	2,144,443	2,145,683	2,154,529	2,080,948	2,107,992
South West	1,417,644	1,409,268	1,473,460	1,440,359	1,385,302

Notes:
1. From 2003-04 onwards, attendances at NHS Walk-in Centres are included in the collection for A and E attendances.
2. Mid 1999 population estimates have been used for years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000.
3. Mid 2000 population estimates have been used for years 2000-01 and 2001-02.
4. Mid 2005 population estimates have been used for years 2005-06 and 2006-07.
5. Strategic health authorities (SHAs) were established from 1 April 2002. Prior to this, the national health service in England had regional health authorities.

Source:
Department of Health datasets QMAE and KH09, Office for National Statistics
Mid year population estimates, 1991 Census Based: Office for National Statistics
Mid year population estimates, 2001 Census Based: Office for National Statistics

Total A and E attendances per 100,000 population 1997-98 to 2001-02 for England and by regional health authority

	Attendances per 100,000 population				
Region	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
England	28,703	28,703	29,403	28,588	28,090
Northern and Yorkshire	29,991	29,991	30,627	29,714	29,821
Trent	25,727	25,727	25,817	25,273	25,882
West Midlands	31,657	31,657	32,614	31,533	30,163
North West	33,126	33,126	33,869	32,998	32,227
Eastern	20,888	20,888	21,651	21,464	21,559
London	34,250	34,250	35,474	34,551	32,645
South East	24,667	24,667	24,768	23,807	24,117
South West	28,703	28,703	29,853	28,951	27,845

Notes:
1. From 2003-04 onwards, attendances at NHS Walk-in Centres are included are included in the collection for A and E attendances.
2. Mid 1999 population estimates have been used for years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000.
3. Mid 2000 population estimates have been used for years 2000-01 and 2001-02.
4. Mid 2005 population estimates have been used for years 2005-06 and 2006-07.
5. Strategic health authorities were established from 1 April 2002. Prior to this, the national health service in England had regional health authorities.

Source:
Department of Health datasets QMAE and KH09, Office for National Statistics
Mid year population estimates, 1991 Census Based: Office for National Statistics
Mid year population estimates, 2001 Census Based: Office for National Statistics

Total attendances at A and E departments 2003-04 to 2006-07 for England and by SHA

	Attendances				
SHA	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
England	14,391,522	16,516,845	17,837,180	18,759,164	18,922,275
North East	798,137	862,871	885,107	986,532	1,038,224
North West	2,241,614	2,748,990	2,949,987	3,133,096	3,222,663
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,569,742	1,800,965	1,800,664	1,805,091	1,791,096
East Midlands	929,554	1,010,549	1,099,010	1,152,131	1,180,075
West Midlands	1,598,354	1,764,923	1,851,038	1,913,232	1,937,396
East of England	1,180,380	1,392,253	1,580,932	1,628,944	1,668,379
London	2,634,278	3,078,876	3,533,903	3,849,121	3,746,972
South East Coast	1,154,415	1,290,821	1,385,852	1,460,227	1,481,493

Total attendances at A and E departments 2003-04 to 2006-07 for England and by SHA

	Attendances				
SHA	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
South Central	829,418	948,750	1,046,384	1,074,212	1,094,942
South West	1,455,630	1,617,847	1,704,303	1,756,578	1,761,035

Notes:
1. From 2003-04 onwards, attendances at NHS Walk-in Centres are included are included in the collection for A and E attendances.
2. Mid 1999 population estimates have been used for years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000
3. Mid 2000 population estimates have been used for years 2000-01 and 2001-02
4. Mid 2005 population estimates have been used for years 2005-06 and 2006-07
5. Strategic health authorities were established from 1 April 2002. Prior to this, the national health service in England had regional health authorities

Source:
Department of Health datasets QMAE and KH09, Office for National Statistics
Mid year population estimates, 1991 Census Based: Office for National Statistics
Mid year population estimates, 2001 Census Based: Office for National Statistics

Total A&E attendances per 100,000 population 2002-03-2006-07 for England and by SHA

	Attendances per 100,000 population				
SHA	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
England	28,988	33,129	35,608	37,197	37,521
North East	31,447	33,980	34,777	38,562	40,582
North West	33,045	40,399	43,210	45,764	47,072
Yorkshire and The Humber	31,438	35,952	35,736	35,646	35,370
East Midlands	22,012	23,765	25,680	26,754	27,403
West Midlands	30,134	33,176	34,703	35,658	36,109
East of England	21,769	25,486	28,790	29,395	30,106
London	35,737	41,675	47,572	51,201	49,842
South East Coast	27,802	30,950	33,091	34,653	35,157
South Central	21,312	24,267	26,678	27,193	27,718
South West	29,303	32,362	33,828	34,662	34,750

Notes:
1. From 2003-04 onwards, attendances at NHS Walk-in Centres are included are included in the collection for A and E attendances.
2. Mid 1999 population estimates have been used for years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000.
3. Mid 2000 population estimates have been used for years 2000-01 and 2001-02.
4. Mid 2005 population estimates have been used for years 2005-06 and 2006-07.
5. SHAs were established from 1 April 2002. Prior to this, the NHS in England had regional health authorities.

Source:
Department of Health datasets QMAE and KH09, Office for National Statistics
Mid year population estimates, 1991 Census Based: Office for National Statistics
Mid year population estimates, 2001 Census Based: Office for National Statistics

Accident and Emergency Departments: Preston Royal Infirmary

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* average and *(b)* longest waiting time was for treatment in accident and emergency in Preston Royal Infirmary in each of the last five years. [149066]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not collected centrally. The percentage of people seen within four hours at accident and emergency departments in the Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is shown in the following table.

	Percentage under four hours
2002-03	93.8
2003-04	99.1
2004-05	99.8
2005-06	99.7
2006-07	99.7

Source:
Department of Health dataset QMAE

Ambulance Services: Gloucestershire

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time ambulance stations were located in (i) the Cotswold district, (ii) Stroud district, (iii) Cheltenham borough, (iv) city of Gloucester, (v) the Forest of Dean and (vi) Tewkesbury borough in (A) 1997 and (B) the latest date for which figures are available; and how many he forecasts there will be by the end of (1) 2007 and (2) 2008. [146913]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally.

The hon. Member may wish to approach Great Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust for this information.

Ambulance Services: Rotherham

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the proposed closure of the Yorkshire ambulance service 999 call centre in Rotherham; and if he will make a statement. [150019]

Mr. Bradshaw: Responsibility for local health services now lies with the local national health service. It is now for local NHS organisations to plan, develop and improve local health services according to the health needs of their local populations and within the resources allocated to them. In this instance, this is a matter for the Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

Cardiovascular System: Diseases

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people diagnosed with peripheral arterial disease in England; [148088]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people diagnosed with peripheral arterial disease in the last *(a)* 12 months, *(b)* five years and *(c)* year for which figures are available. [148091]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect this information.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department has any plans to assess the effectiveness of using the ankle brachial pressure index as a means of assessing vascular disease risk; [148089]

(2) what guidance his Department has issued to primary care trusts on the management of peripheral arterial disease. [148090]

Ann Keen: Conducting assessments and providing guidance for new and existing therapies within the national health service is handled by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). NICE can be asked to develop guidance from topics suggested by various sources, including the Department's, health care and public health professionals, patients, carers and the general public.

Chiropody

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many non-registrants with the Health Professions Council used the protected title of *(a)* chiropodist and *(b)* podiatrist in the latest period for which figures are available. [150017]

Mr. Bradshaw: From the figures that we received from the Health Professions Council (HPC), 288 non-registrants of the HPC were issued with a warning letter on protected titles in 2006-07. 136 concerned registrants who may have been using the title or implying that they were chiropodists/podiatrists.

Community Hospitals: Capital Investments

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria his Department uses to assess the needs of primary care trusts in taking decisions to allocate capital funding for community hospitals. [148938]

Mr. Bradshaw: Each primary care trust makes its own assessment of need and the appropriate pattern of services for its own locality. "Our health, our care, our communities: investing in the future of community hospitals and services" sets out ten design principles for primary care trusts (PCTs) to use as a starting point when considering local service redesign and the role of community hospitals. Strategic health authorities (SHAs) will determine how proposals from PCTs in their area can deliver the strategic needs and priorities across the SHA area.

Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how frequently representatives of *(a)* the devolved Administrations and *(b)* his Department meet the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence. [150113]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 17 July 2007]:* Officials from both the Department and the devolved Administrations meet the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence on a regular basis and formally each quarter.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the statutory mechanisms are for monitoring the performance of the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence. [150122]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 17 July 2007]:* The Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence is required by law to submit its annual accounts to the Secretary of State, devolved administrations, Comptroller and Auditor General, in respect of each year. Its annual report is also laid before Parliament.

There are also non-statutory quarterly meetings where the Department, along with the devolved Administrations meet the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence to discuss performance and finance.

Dental Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many orthodontic practices used up their annual allocation of units of orthodontic activity before the end of the last contract year, broken down by primary care trust. [148480]

Ann Keen: The Department does not monitor the performance of individual providers of national health service orthodontic services. It is for primary care trusts, as the commissioning bodies, to monitor services and, where appropriate, take up any concerns with the provider.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentist practitioners ran out of units of dental activity before the end of the contract year in the most recent period for which figures are available, broken down by primary care trust. [148484]

Ann Keen: Information is not held in the form requested. Primary care trusts (PCTs) agree local contracts with providers of dental services (who may be individual practitioners or dental practices), setting out the level of services to be provided over the course of each year. The Department does not assess the performance of individual providers. It is for PCTs, as the commissioning bodies, to monitor services and, where appropriate, take up any concerns with the provider.

Dental Services: Children

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effects of delay in receiving orthodontic treatment upon the dental health of children. [149691]

Ann Keen: The optimum timing of orthodontic treatment depends upon the age and development of individual patients. The Department is supporting primary care trusts in developing commissioning strategies for orthodontic treatment that are more closely related to local health needs and support timely access to care.

Dental Services: Kent

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are registered with a dentist in Kent; how many NHS dental practices there are in Kent; and how many are accepting new NHS patients. [149307]

Ann Keen: Registration data no longer form part of the data available under the new national health service dental contractual arrangements. The new measure is patients seen in the previous 24 months and is not comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

Numbers of patients seen, by adult and child, in the previous 24 months ending 31 March, 30 June, 30 September, 31 December 2006 and 31 March 2007 in West Kent Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Eastern and Coastal Kent Teaching PCT are available in section F1 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England Q4: 31 March 2007" report. This report is available in the Library.

Information is as at England, strategic health authority and PCT level and the report, published by the Information Centre for health and social care, is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalq4

As at 9 July 2007, there were 103 NHS dental surgeries within West Kent PCT and 97 NHS dental surgeries within Eastern and Coastal Kent Teaching PCT.

The areas have been defined using practice postcodes within the PCT area. The figure provides a snapshot of the number of addresses with a contract at the specified date.

No information concerning the amount of time dedicated to NHS work by individual dentists within practices is available.

The number of dental surgeries that are accepting new NHS patients is not collected centrally.

Sources:

The Information Centre for health and social care

NHS Business Services Authority (BSA).

Doctors: Career Structure

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to take legal action against the IT suppliers of the Medical Training Application Service system. [149453]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* The IT supplier of the MTAS system is Methods Consulting Ltd. The contract with Methods Consulting Ltd. is under review.

Doctors: Foreign Workers

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when Ministers *(a)* approved and *(b)* announced that doctors from overseas wishing to apply for specialty training must apply successfully for a highly skilled migrant programme visa following the end of permit-free medical training; and what assessment the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board has made of the effects of the policy. [148312]

Ann Keen: There is no requirement that overseas doctors wishing to apply for specialty training in 2007 must successfully apply for leave to remain pursuant to the highly skilled migrant programme.

In order to be considered for posts alongside United Kingdom and European economic area (EEA) applicants overseas doctors must, in addition to meeting all other eligibility criteria, have the right to work in the UK without restriction on 5 February 2007. Applicants not meeting this requirement will be considered only once suitable UK and EEA applicants have been awarded posts.

Doctors: Training

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of junior doctors who have had their offers for a specialist training post withdrawn by deaneries in the last three months; [148638]

(2) what procedures are in place to prevent junior doctors being informed in error that they have been offered a specialist training post; what estimate he has made of the number of junior doctors so informed; and if he will make a statement. [148640]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally.

Deaneries are responsible for making offers to successful applicants. Deaneries are concerned to ensure that any offers made are accurate, and in the small number of incidents where there has been an error have apologised for any inconvenience and distress to individuals.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations his Department has received from junior doctors whose deaneries have withdrawn offers of a specialist training post in the last three months. [148639]

Ann Keen: Due to the way that correspondence is recorded, this information cannot be supplied without incurring disproportionate cost.

Donors

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has made to increase laboratory testing capacity for the identification of suitable donor organs. [148880]

Ann Keen: Decisions on capacity planning are for local decision.

Education: Finance

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are in place to ensure that the service increment for teaching funding was spent on purposes for which it was allocated. [148555]

Ann Keen: The role of the Department should be to focus on outputs and accountability rather than on ensuring a fixed amount of money is spent for a particular purpose regardless of local priorities.

The service increment for teaching (SIFT) funding was issued as an element of the multi professional education and training budget, which was allocated to strategic health authorities (SHAs) as part of the bundle of central budgets for 2007-08.

In 2007-08 a service level agreement (SLA) and accountability framework has been issued to ensure that SHAs are held to account for the training they support..

With regards to SIFT funding, the SLA requires SHAs to provide sufficient medical and dental placements for local medical and dental students and to ensure both the quality of training and adequate support for the students. SHAs have been asked to submit investment plans showing how they will deliver the requirements of the SLA.

Family Practitioner Services: Working Hours

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision was made in his Department's 2002 Spending Review settlement to finance out-of-hours care. [148907]

Mr. Bradshaw: The funds for providing out-of-hours primary medical care services were included within various funding streams relating to primary medical services, but the total out-of-hours element was not separately identified.

Prior to 2004-05, general practitioners (GPs) were contractually responsible for their registered patients 24 hours a day. GPs covered by the general medical services contract received their funding based on a number of fees and allowances. Only a proportion of these were related to the time of day at which the care was provided. GPs covered by the personal medical services scheme had locally agreed contracts with their primary care trust.

General Practitioners

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date his Department received the approval of HM Treasury for the new contract for the delivery of General Medical Services in the form in which it was agreed in June 2003. [148906]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 7 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 651W.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 246W, on general practitioners, on what dates discussions have taken place at ministerial level since June 2003 as part of the process of reviewing the General Medical Services contract. [148944]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department and HM Treasury Ministers and officials regularly meet to discuss a wide range of issues. As was the case with previous Administrations it is not the practice of Government to provide details of all such meetings.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 246W, on general practitioners, on what dates regular discussions have been held with NHS Confederation, now NHS Employers. [148945]

Mr. Bradshaw: Discussions with the NHS Confederation, now NHS Employers, frequently take place involving officials at all levels and have included the appropriate Ministers in post at the time.

General Practitioners: Gravesham

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GP practices in Gravesham offer out of hours services; and if he will make a statement. [149306]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally. Local primary care trusts are responsible for ensuring that there is a high quality, sustainable out of hours service for all their local population.

All out of hours services must be delivered to the national quality requirements, ensuring patients have access to consistently high quality responsive care and advice regardless of where they live.

Health Hazards: Lighting

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 992W, on health hazards: lighting, what guidance his Department has issued on the treatment of individuals with medical conditions adversely affected by the use of energy saving lightbulbs. [148496]

Ann Keen: No specific guidance has been issued on the treatment of those with medical conditions which may put them at risk of being adversely affected by energy saving lightbulbs.

Health Professions Council

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what factors he took into account in deciding that the Health Professions Council should have an appointed membership. [150014]

Mr. Bradshaw: Chapter 1 of the White Paper 'Trust, Assurance and Safety' sets out a series of measures to ensure the independence of the national professional regulators. In order to exercise their functions effectively and command the confidence of patients, the public and the professions, they need to be seen to be independent and impartial in their actions. To ensure that this is the case, the White Paper proposes that:

- there will be equal membership between lay and professional members, to ensure that professional concerns do not dominate their work;
- all councils will be more accountable to Parliament, presenting annual reports to the United Kingdom Parliament;
- to dispel the perception that councils are overly sympathetic to the professionals they regulate, council members will be independently appointed;
- for councils to focus on strategy. They will become smaller and more-board like, and independently appointed.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many non-registrants with the Health Professions Council were found to be in breach of the regulations on protected titles in the latest period for which figures are available. [150015]

Mr. Bradshaw: From the figures that we received from the Health Professions Council (HPC), 288 non-registrants of the HPC were issued with a warning letter on protected titles in 2006-07.

Health Services: Greater London

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral answer of 11 July 2007, what the source was for the Prime Minister's statement that proposals for the future of health care in London will include the creation of 150 polyclinics. [150030]

Mr. Bradshaw: The technical report which details the analytical work undertaken to support 'Healthcare for London—A Framework for Action' gives an estimated figure of 150 polyclinics across London. The technical report was published alongside 'A Framework for Action' on 11 July 2007.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children *(a)* under the age of (i) one and (ii) five and *(b)* over five years old died from a hospital acquired infection in each year since 2000, broken down by NHS trust. [148477]

Ann Keen: The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes annual reports on statistics of deaths with meticillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bacteraemias or *Clostridium difficile* infection recorded on the death certificate. The latest reports into deaths involving MRSA and *Clostridium difficile* infection were published in Health Statistics Quarterly 33 in February 2007. Data on the number of deaths involving *Clostridium difficile* are not available for the year 2000.

The tables show the total number of deaths with either of these organisms mentioned on the death certificate in children (persons under 16) in England and Wales, by age group, and the number which occurred in national health service hospitals.

It is not possible to assume from this that any infection affecting the deceased was contracted in the hospital where the death occurred. Patients may be transferred between hospitals, nursing homes and other establishments or may have acquired their infections before admission to the hospital in which they died. Data are not provided by individual NHS trust because of the risk of deductive disclosure.

Number of death certificates mentioning MRSA[1] in England and Wales among children (ages 0 to 15), 2000-05[2]

Age	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
All places of death						
Under one	0	1	0	2	1	6
One to four	0	0	1	0	0	0
Five to 15	1	0	0	0	0	0
Deaths in NHS hospitals[3]						
Under one	0	1	0	1	1	6
One to four	0	0	1	0	0	0
Five to 15	1	0	0	0	0	0

[1] Identified using the methodology outlined in annual ONS reports on deaths involving MRSA.
[2] Deaths occurring in 2000-05.
[3] Place of death records where the death occurred. This information does not imply anything about where any infection was acquired.

Number of death certificates mentioning Clostridium difficile[1] in England and Wales among children (ages 0 to 15), 2000-05[2]

Age	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
All places of death					
Under one	0	0	0	0	0
One to four	0	0	1	0	1
Five to 15	0	0	0	1	0

Number of death certificates mentioning Clostridium difficile[1] in England and Wales among children (ages 0 to 15), 2000-05[2]

Age	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Deaths in NHS hospitals[3]					
Under one	0	0	0	0	0
One to four	0	0	1	0	0
Five to 15	0	0	0	1	0

[1] Identified using the methodology outlined in annual ONS reports on deaths involving *Clostridium difficile*.
[2] Deaths occurring in 2001-05. Data for 2000 is not available as deaths in this year were coded to the Ninth International Classification of Disease (ICD-9) which does not have a specific code for *Clostridium difficile*.
[3] Place of death records where the death occurred. This information does not imply anything about where any infection was acquired.

Hospitals: Locums

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which trusts are taking steps to appoint three month locums to hospital posts. [150384]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held centrally. We are aware that there are locum appointments to training being advertised during the round two period. Although locum appointments to training are Deanery approved training posts, it is for local trusts to determine their duration. They can be for any period but are usually from three to six months.

Hospitals: Ministers of Religion

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision is made to hospital chaplains in the national health service; what the total expenditure upon chaplains was in each of the last five years; and what the budget is for chaplains in 2007-08. [147478]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect data on national health service hospital chaplaincy.

The Department is committed to the principle of ensuring that patients and staff in the NHS have access to spiritual care, whatever faith or belief system they follow.

NHS trusts are responsible for delivering religious and spiritual care in a way that meets the diverse needs of their patients. How they do so is a matter for local determination. Budgetary control has been devolved to NHS trusts to allow them to make decisions about how best to use the resources available locally.

Hospitals: Parking

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued to hospitals on the need to provide car parking spaces for patients. [150370]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department issued Health Technical Memorandum (HTM) 07-01 'Transport management and car parking' in 2006. A copy is available in the Library. Section 8 of the document provides detailed guidance on determining levels of car parking provision at hospital sites. It reflects the differing parking needs of patients attending hospital, such as those who are day patients or have appointments at outpatient clinics.

Hyperactivity: Drugs

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what scientific evidence is available to support the existence of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder for which Ritalin and psychiatric drugs are prescribed. [148011]

Ann Keen: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a complex neuro developmental disorder characterised by core symptoms of inattention, hyperactivity and impulsivity that are outside the range of normal for the developmental stage of the person and cause impairment in functioning and was first described in 1902. Diagnosis is based on recognising these behavioural traits and making a judgment as to whether they are outside the range of normal. The traits are present in people without ADHD, and lie along a continuum. There is no diagnostic test as yet.

ADHD is similar to other conditions where there is not yet a biological marker and symptoms are on a continuum, such as blood pressure and height. There is evidence of genetic and environmental components to the aetiology of ADHD and it is highly heritable but the inheritance is complex and likely to be due to a combination of genes acting together. Molecular genetics shows the relationship between various markers of ADHD and neurotransmitter receptor and transporter genes.

Junior Doctors: Location

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what circumstances NHS trusts are required to provide relocation assistance to junior doctors transferring substantial distances for specialty training. [147936]

Ann Keen: Relocation assistance to junior doctors is a matter for the local national health service trusts to decide.

Junior Doctors: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 257W, on junior doctors: training, who the members of the project board were. [148941]

Ann Keen: The Medical Training Application Service project board comprised representatives of the Department, NHS Employers, the Conference of Postgraduate Medical Deans, the Committee of General Practice Education Directors, National Association of Medical Personnel Specialties, Postgraduate Deanery Business Managers, the devolved Administrations and Methods Consulting.

Kidney Patients: Medical Treatments

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the type and rate of complications for each type of dialysis access in each year since 2000. [148845]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate his Department has made of the mean distance from patients' homes to dialysis treatment centres; [148846]

(2) how many patients received treatment for anaemia prior to undergoing renal replacement therapy in the last period for which figures are available; and what the average duration of treatment was. [148877]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average time taken for patients to be referred to renal teams before starting dialysis in the most recent period for which figures are available. [149542]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. Part one of the national service framework for renal services sets standards to be met locally over a ten-year period from 2004. This includes timely and appropriate preparation for renal replacement therapy, preferably a year before dialysis is expected to be needed, and timely and appropriate access to surgery for vascular or peritoneal access (ideally six months before starting haemodialysis, four weeks before starting peritoneal dialysis).

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what transport is provided to patients receiving dialysis from their homes to treatment centres. [149543]

Ann Keen: The national service framework (NSF) for renal services makes clear that patients should have access to efficient patient transport services. It is up to local national health service trusts to determine exactly how to implement the NSF by providing efficient transport services to patients based on their individual circumstances.

Maternity Units: Infectious Diseases

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* MRSA, *(b) Clostridium difficile* and *(c)* other hospital acquired infections there were in each year since 2000 in (i) neonatal and (ii) maternity units, broken down by NHS trust. [148478]

Ann Keen: The specific information requested concerning prevalence in neonatal and maternity units is not collected. The best available data are given as follows but will include both community and health care acquired infections.

Meticillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) collects data on the sex and age of cases of MRSA bloodstream infections through its voluntary surveillance scheme. The scheme does not collect data on where infection was acquired (e.g. neonatal unit, or maternity unit).

The youngest of the standard age groups is under one year.

MRSA bacteraemia reports from children aged under one year (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) 2000 to 2005

	Total
2000	37
2001	44
2002	41
2003	66
2004	47
2005	63

Note:
Figures correct at 5 June 2007.
Source:
HPA voluntary surveillance scheme

Clostridium difficile

The HPA's voluntary reporting scheme collects data on age and sex of cases. The scheme does not collect data on where infection was acquired (e.g. neonatal unit, or maternity unit). The following table shows the number of cases of *Clostridium difficile* for children from birth to one in England, Wales and Northern Ireland from 2000-06.

Age	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Under one month	36	38	36	35	34	37
One to five months	36	51	49	58	48	42
Six to 11 months	35	40	34	43	44	40

The information is likely to be an underestimate as not all laboratories report. Further, testing of children under two years of age may be limited owing to a general belief that the presence of *C. difficile* is not usually clinically significant in this age group as asymptomatic carriage, including production of toxins A and B, is common in this age group. No other data on healthcare associated infections are available by age group.

Maternity Services: Expenditure

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS spent on neonatal units in each of the last five years in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms. [148389]

Ann Keen: This information is not available centrally.

Maternity Services: Intensive Care

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many premature babies were transferred away from their local hospital in order to find an intensive care cot in each of the last five years. [148393]

Ann Keen: The information is not collected centrally.

Medicine: Overseas Students

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had with the Home Office on the financial effect of the new immigration rules on the international medical students from non-European Economic Area countries who choose to study medicine in the UK. [149277]

Ann Keen: There has been no discussion between the Home Office and the Department on this issue.

We have retained a special provision in the Immigration Rules for non-European Economic Area doctors who have completed their undergraduate medical training in the United Kingdom which will give them the opportunity to complete their basic medical training and, in the process gain registration with the General Medical Council.

Mental Health Services: Greater London

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the numbers of people provided with mental health counselling services by *(a)* NHS bodies and *(b)* publicly-supported voluntary groups in each London borough in (i) the last 12 months and (ii) each of the last three years. [150511]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The data requested are not held centrally.

Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus: Animals

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the threat to human health of MRSA in *(a)* live animals and *(b)* animal meat. [146838]

Ann Keen: The scientific evidence does not indicate that Meticillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* in live animals or meat is a significant public health risk. However if the Health Protection Agency receives samples from people who have a link with veterinary work the strains are examined closely to assess whether there may be any animal origin. The Department's expert advisory committee on antimicrobial resistance and health care associated infection will keep this area under review.

Following advice on appropriate cleaning and handling, storage and cooking of meat is important in preparing food safely and preventing/minimising the risk of contamination by micro organisms.

Midwives

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will introduce a guaranteed placement scheme for newly qualified midwives in England. [150131]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department of Health has consulted with NHS Employers, strategic health authorities and the Social Partnership Forum on maximising employment opportunities for newly qualified health care graduates. The consistent message from these consultations is that solutions need to be flexible, locally driven and founded on partnerships between employers, staff side and the higher education sector. Any new initiatives also need to be appropriately tested first.

Accordingly, East of England strategic health authority (SHA) have offered to undertake a feasibility study into establishing a local voluntary guaranteed employment scheme. The feasibility study will last for one year and was launched on 15 May by East of England SHA. The outcome of the feasibility study will determine whether employment guarantee schemes are a viable option. If so, the nature and length of these schemes will be defined upon relevant factors established through the study.

NHS Next Stage Review

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 4 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 970, on the NHS next stage review, on what projects the £750 million community hospital capital funding has been *(a)* allocated to be spent and *(b)* already spent; what mechanisms have been used to allocate funding; and how much has been (i) allocated and (ii) spent on each project. [148937]

Mr. Bradshaw: Allocations from the £750 million community hospital and services capital fund will be spread over the five years ending in 2010-11. Fourteen capital schemes have been approved, supporting a range of different types of community facilities:

new primary care centre in Washington in Sunderland;

redevelopment of the Gosport War Memorial hospital;

development of a new community health centre in Yate, Bristol;

establishment of a Healthy Living park in Minehead, West Somerset;

redevelopment of the Barking hospital;

new health and social care centre in Teddington;

new primary care centre in Hastings;

redevelopment of the Royal South Hampshire hospital;

new primary care centre in Ashfield;

redevelopment of the Felixstowe community hospital;

new primary care centre in Rotherham;

new community hospital in Bristol;

new community hospital in Hornsey; and

additional community services in Calderdale and Kirklees.

The total cost of these schemes is £94.56 million. £33.6 million has been allocated to primary care trusts in 2007-08 reflecting spending profiles. We do not monitor actual spend on individual schemes at the centre. That is for primary care trusts and their strategic health authorities.

Proposals are assessed against the ten design principles set out in "Our health, our care, our community: investing in the future of community hospitals and services".

NHS Treatment Centres: Construction

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS treatment centres were delivered by 2005; and for what the *(a)* construction costs, *(b)* scheduled date for start of construction, *(c)* expected completion date and *(d)* status at 31 December 2006 is of each treatment centre scheme. [148933]

Mr. Bradshaw: By the end of 2005 the following phase one national health service treatment centres were delivered.

Contract location name	*Construction start date*	*Expected completion date*[1]	*Status at 31 December 2006*
Eccleshill NHS Treatment Centre	January 2004	May 2005	Operational
Ilkeston (Interim)	December 2003	January 2004	Closed
Bassetlaw (Interim)	February 2004	April 2004	Closed
Barlborough NHS Treatment Centre	May 2004	June 2005	Operational
Daventry Treatment Centre	Not applicable	October 2003	Operational
Shepton Mallet NHS Treatment Centre	October 2004	June 2005	Operational
Greater Manchester Surgical Centre	Not applicable	November 2005	Operational
Peninsula NHS Treatment Centre	June 2004	May 05	Operational
Bodmin NHS Treatment Centre	February 2005	December 2005	Operational
Gainsborough NHS Treatment Centre	December 2004	January 2005	Operational
Boston NHS Treatment Centre	September 2004	April 2005	Operational
Clifton Park NHS Treatment Centre	December 2004	December 2005	Operational
Capio New Hall Hospital NHS Treatment Centre	Not applicable	September 2004	Operational
Kidderminster NHS Treatment Centre	Not applicable	March 2005	Operational
St. Mary's NHS Treatment Centre	February 2005	December 2005	Operational
Will Adams NHS Treatment Centre	January 2005	September 2005	Operational
Mid and South Buckinghamshire NHS Diagnostic Centre	January 2005	July 2005	Operational

[1] Expected completion dates are as at financial close, actual completion dates may vary.

For the phase one independent sector treatment centre schemes that involved the construction of new facilities, forecast costs based on the bidder's financial models were included within the bid price and are commercially sensitive. As the construction cost risk lies with the preferred bidder, the Department are not advised of the actual construction costs.

NHS Treatment Centres: Finance

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which treatment centres reached financial close in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007 so far; which are expected to reach financial close in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008 and (iii) 2009; and what the actual or expected capital cost and completion date is of each scheme. [148932]

Mr. Bradshaw: Four phase 2 diagnostic independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) schemes reached financial close in December 2006 (north-west, south-west, London and west midlands). Two phase 2 elective schemes have to date reached financial close in 2007—Cheshire and Merseyside in May 2007, and Northumberland, Tyne and Wear in June 2007.

Of those phase 2 schemes which have reached financial close, all contracts are for a five-year term except the Cheshire and Merseyside electives scheme, which is for a four-year term.

The following phase 2 schemes are moving through the procurement process and are expected to reach financial close by the end of 2007.

Phase 2 electives:

Avon Gloucestershire and Wiltshire;

Cumbria and Lancashire elective surgery;

London North;

Hampshire Isle of Wight;

Greater Manchester CATS (A);

Greater Manchester CATS (B);

Essex;

North East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire;

Cumbria and Lancashire CATS; and

Renal.

Phase 2 diagnostics

South East;

North East;

PET CT (North); and

PET CT (South).

Financial close dates are based on current planning assumptions and ongoing negotiations and therefore subject to change. On average, phase 2 schemes run to five-year contract terms.

Two further ISTC schemes, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire and Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridge are expected to move forward through the procurement process to financial close through 2007-08.

No phase 2 ISTC schemes are currently expected to reach financial close in 2009.

As the procurement of phase 2 is ongoing, it is not possible for commercial reasons to provide information on expected costs relating to individual schemes, including any expected capital costs.

NHS Treatment Centres: Private Sector

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 17 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 925W, on NHS treatment centres: private sector, when he expects to publish the Healthcare Commission's full report on the quality of care in such centres. [147024]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 2 July 2007]:* I understand the Healthcare Commission intends to publish its full report on the Quality of Care in independent sector treatment centres on the 19 July 2007.

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a list of the contracts that have been placed with independent sector treatment centres, broken down by NHS trust together with the annual quantum of treatments purchased and the annual contract cost. [149412]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following phase one independent sector treatment centre contracts are in place:

Facility name	Lead primary care trust	Total activity
Eccleshill NHS Treatment Centre	Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	121,455
Midlands NHS Treatment Centre	South Staffordshire PCT	150,755
Barlborough NHS Treatment Centre	Barnsley PCT	21,449
Daventry (service completed)	Closed	4,880
Shepton Mallet NHS Treatment Centre	Somerset PCT	111,094
Greater Manchester Surgical Centre	Oldham PCT	89,726
Peninsula NHS Treatment Centre	Plymouth PCT	49,534
Bodmin NHS Treatment Centre	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	56,194
Boston NHS Treatment Centre	Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	14,512
Clifton Park NHS Treatment Centre	North Yorkshire and York	24,241
Horton NHS Treatment Centre (Banbury)	Oxfordshire PCT	44,759
Cobalt NHS Treatment Centre	Newcastle PCT	20,351
Capio New Hall Hospital NHS Treatment Centre	Hampshire PCT	15,818
Horton NHS Treatment Centre (Banbury)	Milton Keynes PCT	7,248
Blakelands NHS Treatment Centre	Milton Keynes PCT	22,551
Capio Reading Hospital NHS Treatment Centre	Milton Keynes PCT	12,588
Gainsborough NHS Treatment Centre	Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	9,242
Nottingham NHS Treatment Centre	Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	342,113
Kidderminster NHS Treatment Centre	Worcestershire PCT	36,000
Cheshire and Merseyside NHS Treatment Centre	West Cheshire PCT	99,268
Mid Kent NHS Treatment Centre	West Kent PCT	104,110
North East London NHS Treatment Centre	Barking and Dagenham PCT	58,345
Mid and South Buckinghamshire Diagnostic Centre	Buckinghamshire PCT	74,880
St Mary's NHS Treatment Centre	Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	355,299
Will Adams NHS Treatment Centre	Medway Teaching PCT	32,345
Sussex Orthopaedic NHS Treatment Centre	Brighton and Hove City PCT	55,547
Havant	Hampshire PCT	78,600

Notes:
1. The above excludes pathfinder contract and GSUP1 and GSUP2.
2. The total activity column includes all indicative activity volumes i.e. procedures, diagnostics and outpatients for the duration of the contract. These figures are subject to change and are based on estimates.

Two phase two ISTC schemes have contracts awarded. The Cheshire and Merseyside scheme is contracted to deliver approximately 67,000 procedures and the Northumberland, Tyne and Wear scheme is contracted to deliver approximately 83,300 procedures over the duration of the contracts. These figures are subject to change.

Contract values are not disclosed as they are considered commercially confidential. The Department is currently reviewing what information is provided on phase one contracts, however, no decision has yet been taken.

NHS Trusts: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts employ a director of infection prevention and control. [148641]

Ann Keen: "The Health Act 2006 Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Health Care Associated Infections" which came into force on 1 October 2006 requires all national health service bodies to designate a Director of Infection Prevention and Control (DIPC). The Healthcare Commission (HCC) will be monitoring compliance with the code of practice as part of the annual health check.

The data are not available in the form requested. However, the following table shows the number of DIPCs in position from HCCs 2005-06 assessment as at 31 March 2006.

	Total number of DIPCs in position	Total number of NHS establishments
Ambulance Trusts	31	31
Learning Disability Trusts	3	3
Mental Health Trusts	82	83
Primary Care Trusts	302	363

NHS: Buildings

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will set a long-term target to eliminate the NHS estate repair backlog by April 2011; and if he will make a statement. [148934]

Mr. Bradshaw: All national health service trusts are responsible for managing their assets to ensure that they are in good condition and safe for patients and staff. This includes managing investment to undertake any repairs that may be required to secure and maintain compliance with fire and health and safety requirements.

These investment decisions will be prioritised locally and will be based on risk assessment, reconfiguration planning, available resources and the introduction of new facilities to replace those that no longer meet local service needs.

As part of the overall objective to reduce the extent of the Department's central performance management of the NHS, trusts are responsible for satisfying the Healthcare Commission that care and treatment is provided from well designed and well maintained buildings.

NHS: Complaints

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times he and his predecessor decided a reference from a local overview and scrutiny

committee should not go to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel in the last two years; and how many references from overview and scrutiny committees he and his predecessor received in that period. [148607]

Ann Keen: As of 10 July 2007, there were 23 referrals from overview and scrutiny committees to the Secretary of State for Health between 1 July 2005 and 10 July 2007. The Secretary of State has sought the advice of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel in relation to eight of the 23 referrals.

NHS: Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007 to (Mr. Francois) the hon. Member for Rayleigh, *Official Report*, column 1313W, on NHS: consultants, what estimate was made of the cost of new consultants' contracts at the time of the 2002 comprehensive spending review settlement for his Department; and what his current estimate is of the cost of the contracts over the period of that review. [146948]

Ann Keen: We estimated during SR2002 that the costs of introducing the consultant contract would be an additional £565 million over the first three years.

The National Audit Office (NAO) report on the consultant contract, published in April 2007, included two sets of plausible methods for calculating the actual cost of the contract. The NAO estimated that the contract may have cost the national health service, over the first three years between £649 million and £765 million more than if consultants had remained on the old contract, compared to departmental funding of £715 million over that period.

NHS: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce the number of attacks on *(a)* NHS and *(b)* social care staff who are working in the community. [148142]

Ann Keen: In April 2003, the national health service security management service (NHS SMS) was created and assumed responsibility for tackling violence against NHS staff. A comprehensive strategy detailing both preventative and re-active measures to reduce the number of attacks against NHS staff working in the community has been implemented and includes the creation of the role of a professionally trained and accredited local security management specialist (LSMS) for each health body.

The LSMS is responsible for the management of issues related to attacks against NHS staff supported by a national structure and guidance such as 'Tackling Violence Against Staff 2007, Not Alone—a Guide For Lone Workers 2005', and the 'Non Physical Assault Explanatory Notes 2004'.

In April 2004, mandatory conflict resolution training for all NHS front line staff was introduced with the aim to equip staff with the skills to deal effectively with potentially violent situations.

The NHS SMS remit includes social care staff where they are employed directly by the NHS or deliver NHS services.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on strengthening criminal penalties for those who attack *(a)* NHS and *(b)* social care staff. [148143]

Ann Keen: In April 2003, the NHS Security Management Service (NHS SMS) was created and assumed responsibility for tackling violence against national health service staff. The NHS SMS remit includes social care staff where they are employed directly by the NHS or deliver NHS services.

The NHS SMS is currently working with the Home Office to introduce new powers to deal with nuisance and disturbance behaviour on NHS premises with a view to minimising the potential for attacks against NHS staff.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will provide the data behind the statement made by the Chief Executive of the NHS on page nine of his Annual Report 2006-07, published on 21 June 2007, that the NHS has been in underlying deficit for the last 20 years. [147566]

Mr. Bradshaw: The statement was based on a combination of available data but also knowledge about the way in which we know national health service organisations have previously been able to mask the existence, or extent, of deficits prior to the transparency we have brought in.

We know, from audited summarised accounts, that in 11 out of the last 20 years the NHS recorded a bottom line net deficit, ending 2005-06 with a net deficit of £547 million.

We also know that, throughout this time, a number of factors may have worked to mask the existence or extent of the deficit. For example, prior to 2001-02, when the NHS operated under a cash financing regime based on annual allocations and in-year cash injections, the payment of bills could be delayed to deliver in-year spending controls and manage the financial outturn. Following the introduction of Resource Accounting and Budgeting rules, the NHS developed the practice of using capital resources to support current revenue expenditure and were allowed to move money round the system by way of brokerage and other forms of support.

On this basis, it is reasonable to conclude that the NHS has been in underlying deficit for the last 20 years.

However, the introduction of a stronger, fairer and more transparent financial regime, coupled with a renewed emphasis on performance management, has enabled the NHS to end 2006-07 in its strongest financial position for many years, to tackle underlying deficits, and to establish a firm and sustainable financial position for 2007-08 and beyond.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which people in *(a)* the NHS and *(b)* his Department did not take sufficient action to tackle deficits inside the NHS, as referred to on page 12 of the NHS Chief Executive's Annual Report 2006-07, published on 21 June 2007. [147568]

Mr. Bradshaw: The national health service Chief Executive was not referring to individual people. The point he was making was that because the deficits we were facing last year had built up over a number of years, it follows that both the NHS and the Department as a whole had not taken enough action at the appropriate times to stop this build up.

NHS: Flags

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has given to health trusts on the flying of the Union flag on a daily basis at national health service premises; and if he will make a statement. [150118]

Mr. Bradshaw: Individuals, local authorities and other organisations, including national health service trusts, may fly the Union flag whenever they wish subject to compliance with any local planning requirements. This is considered a matter for local determination and no guidance has been issued to the NHS.

NHS: Land

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the review of surplus NHS land to explore opportunities for its transfer and development to provide additional homes will apply to property owned by NHS foundation trusts. [150100]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* The Department is examining how the review will apply to the NHS foundation trust sector.

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are employed in the NHS in *(a)* England and *(b)* Gloucestershire; and what percentage of each are employed in (i) management, (ii) administrative, (iii) scientific, (iv) research and (v) front line medical roles. [149516]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is shown in the table. The annual national health service workforce census does not separately identify research staff.

NHS staff in England and Gloucestershire[1] by specified staff group, as at 30 September 2006

Headcount

				Of which:	
		England	*Percentage*	*Gloucestershire[1]*	*Percentage*
All NHS staff[2]		1,338,779	100	16,185	100
Frontline medical staff[3]		675,260	50.4	8,243	50.9
Of which:					
	HCHS Doctors[4]	90,243	6.7	819	5.1
	GPs[5]	36,008	2.7	622	3.8
	Qualified Nurses (incl Practice Nurses)	398,335	29.8	4,447	27.5
	Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	134,498	10.0	1,616	10.0
	Qualified ambulance staff	16,176	1.2	739	4.6
Clerical and administrative staff		224,302	16.8	2,606	16.1
Managers and senior managers		36,751	2.7	530	3.3

[1] The figures for Gloucestershire are based on 2006 primary care trust and trust boundaries and consists of Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Gloucestershire Partnership NHS Trust, Gloucestershire PCT, South Gloucestershire PCT and Great Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust.
[2] Total for all NHS staff will not equal the sum of the component parts as only specified staff groups are shown.
[3] Front line medical staff has been defined as HCHS doctors, general medical practitioners, qualified nurses (including GP practice nurses), qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff and qualified ambulance staff. It does not include support to clinical staff such as nursing assistants, trainees and helpers.
[4] Excludes medical hospital practitioners and medical clinical assistants, most of whom are GPs working part-time in hospitals.
[5] General medical practitioners includes GP Providers, GP Others, GP Retainers and GP Registrars.
Sources:
The Information Centre non-medical, medical and dental and general and personal medical services censuses.

NHS: Reviews

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the terms of reference are of Professor Darzi's review of the NHS. [150420]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 17 July 2007]:* The terms of reference are available in the Library.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether ongoing reconfigurations around the UK will be affected by Professor Darzi's review of the NHS. [150432]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 17 July 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the oral statement given by my right. hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 4 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 961-78W.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects Professor Ara Darzi to complete his NHS review. [150433]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 17 July 2007]:* The review will report by June 2008 with an interim report in October 2007.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether Professor Darzi's NHS review will assess the impact of private sector health providers upon the NHS. [150434]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 17 July 2007]:* The terms of reference for the review are available in the Library and we will set out more detail on the work of the review in due course.

Nurses: Children

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* neonatal and *(b)* paediatric nurses there were in England in each of the last five years; and what estimate he has made of the number due to retire over the next five years; [148386]

(2) how many full-time equivalent advanced neonatal nurse practitioners were employed by hospital trusts in England in each of the last five years. [148387]

Mr. Bradshaw: The annual national health service work force census does not separately identify the number of neonatal nurses from the rest of the nursing work force.

The number of paediatric nurses in the last five years is shown in the following table.

We do not have collated information on the estimated numbers of retirements, this is a matter for strategic health authorities to build into their local work force plans.

Qualified nurses, midwives and health visitors working in the paediatric area of work

Headcount, England

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*[1]
Paediatrics	18,014	18,437	18,917	19,178	18,634

[1] More accurate validation in 2006 has resulted 9,858 duplicate records being identified and removed from the non-medical census. (These 9,858 duplicate records, broken down by main staff group, are: 3,370 qualified nurses; 1,818 qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff; 2,719 support to doctors and nurses; 1,562 NHS infrastructure support; and 389 in other areas.) The impact of duplicates on FTE has been minimal with the removal of 507.

Nurses: Schools

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to increase recruitment of school nurses following reported trends in the number of such nurses reaching retirement age; and if he will make a statement. [148754]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is for individual primary care trusts to determine how to use the funding allocated to them to commission services to meet the school nursing needs of their local populations. Work force planning is for strategic health authorities to manage locally.

The Department along with the Department for Children, Schools and Families is continuing to ensure that the profile of school nurses remains high nationally. In partnership the Departments have published; "Looking for a school nurse?" and a "School Nurse: Practice Development Resource Pack", which will support the expansion and development of the school nursing service.

Ministers and the chief nursing officer continue to communicate the importance of school nurses to the national health service, and work with professional bodies to promote their modern role. Managers will need to develop their workforce to support their local school nursing services in ways best suited to meet the needs of their community.

As at September 2006 there were 1,129 school nurses with a school nurse qualification. This is an increase of 35 per cent. since 2004.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that every primary care trust will have at least one full-time, year round, qualified school nurse by 2010 as referred to in the Choosing Health paper. [150290]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department along with the Department for Children, Schools and Families is continuing to ensure that the profile of school nurses remains high nationally.

In partnership the Departments have published 'Looking for a school nurse?' and a 'School Nurse: Practice Development Resource Pack', which will support the expansion and development of the school nursing service.

Ministers and the Chief Nursing Officer continue to communicate the importance of school nurses to the national health service, and work with professional bodies to promote their modern role. Managers will need to develop their work force to support their local school nursing services in ways best suited to meet the needs of their community.

The Department is also ensuring that newly appointed regional directors of public health and strategic health authorities work force directors are focused on this issue.

However, it is for individual primary care trusts to determine how to use the funding allocated to them to commission services to meet the school nursing needs of their local populations.

As at September 2006 there were 1,129 school nurses with a school nurse qualification. This is an increase of 35 per cent. since 2004.

Nurses: Training

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what level of continuous improvement training is provided in the NHS for specialist continence nurses as part of their continuing professional development; and what his plans are for the future provision of such training. [147855]

Ann Keen: Education and training, including continuing professional development, for all nurses is the responsibility of their employers. In addition, the Nursing and Midwifery Council, the nurses' regulatory body, require that they maintain competence in their field of practice, as a condition of their continued registration.

Transplant Surgery: Kidneys

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people *(a)* received a kidney transplant and *(b)* were on the national transplant list for kidneys in each year since 2000; and what the average waiting time from referral to the list and surgery was. [148841]

Ann Keen: The information is as follows.

Kidney transplants[1], United Kingdom 2000-06, by donor type

	Donor type		
	Deceased	*Living*	*Total*
2000	1,361	348	1,709
2001	1,385	358	1,743
2002	1,350	372	1,722
2003	1,297	451	1,748
2004	1,442	463	1,905
2005	1,312	543	1,855
2006	1,396	671	2,067

Numbers listed for a kidney transplant[1] at the end of year, UK, 2000-06

	Status		
	Active	*Suspended[2]*	*Total*
2000	4,891	1,235	6,126
2001	4,934	1,289	6,223
2002	5,046	1,373	6,419
2003	5,156	1,402	6,558
2004	5,299	1,666	6,965
2005	5,736	1,520	7,256
2006	6,331	1,827	8,158

[1] Including all combinations eg kidney/pancreas.
[2] Suspended means the patient has been temporarily removed from the list. This happens for such reasons as being too ill to undergo the operation or being away on holiday.

Waiting time to kidney transplant, registrations to the list 2000-03, UK

Age	*Days*
Adult	836
Paediatric[1]	159

[1] Under 18 years

Transplant Surgery: Manpower

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many transplant co-ordinators are employed in the NHS; and what the figure was in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [148842]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Wheelchairs: Finance

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many electric indoor and outdoor wheelchairs were funded by the NHS in each of the last five years; [150076]

(2) how many electric indoor and outdoor wheelchairs are being funded by *(a)* strategic health authorities and *(b)* primary care trusts; [150077]

(3) what total sum of money has been allocated to the NHS in 2007-08 to provide *(a)* manual wheelchairs, *(b)* electric indoor and outdoor wheelchairs and *(c)* other wheelchairs for people with mobility problems; [150078]

(4) what advice he gives to primary care trusts on assessments for indoor and outdoor wheelchairs. [150079]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally. All national health service wheelchair services are funded out of general allocation funding to primary care trusts. It is up to individual PCTs to determine their allocation of resources to wheelchair services and to set their own eligibility criteria for their service. Decisions about the type of wheelchair provided to an individual will be based on an individual assessment of their needs and the PCTs eligibility criteria.

NHS wheelchairs are supplied and maintained free of charge to people whose need for a wheelchair is permanent. Indoor/outdoor electric chairs can be provided to disabled people who cannot propel a manual chair. Attendant controlled power chairs are also available.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 19 July 2007

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in improving the security situation in Afghanistan. [149467]

Des Browne *[holding answer 17 July 2007]:* The security situation in Afghanistan remains stable if fragile in places. The Afghan army with the International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF) continue to undertake operations to improve the security situation and extend the authority of the Government of Afghanistan across the country. The Taliban are not able to hold territory in the face of offensive action by Afghan and International Security Assistance Forces but they are able to threaten security in parts of eastern and southern Afghanistan by means of improvised explosive devices, suicide bombers and small-scale ambushes.

In Helmand, recent operations have expanded ISAF influence around Sangin and Gereshk, enabling increased development activities, such as work on the irrigation system in Sangin.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will arrange for a copy to be placed in the Library of each Monthly Manning Report for the Armed Forces on the date of its publication. [146009]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I have arranged for a copy of the Army Monthly Manning Report, dated 1 March 2007, to be placed in the Library of the House.

Due to the introduction of a new personnel administration system for the Army during March 2007, this report is currently suspended.

No equivalent Monthly Manning Report is produced for the naval service or Royal Air Force.

Military Bases: Wales

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the timetable is for the construction and occupation of the new military training academy at MOD St. Athan. [147283]

Derek Twigg: Metrix Consortium have been declared the preferred bidder for package 1 of the Defence training review programme. For package 2 there is a significant affordability gap and work has been ongoing to develop a whole programme solution. The scale of the facility to be constructed at St. Athan will therefore depend on the outcome of this further work with Metrix. Our current forecast indicates that construction at the St. Athan site is planned to start after contract signature in late 2008, or early 2009, with the final phase of completion scheduled for 2013.

Trident

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure has been incurred since 14 March 2007 on *(a)* the Trident D5 missile life extension programme and *(b)* the initial review of the need to replace the Vanguard-class ballistic-missile submarine platform for Trident D5 nuclear weapons systems. [150265]

Des Browne *[holding answer 18 July 2007]:* No expenditure has been incurred since 14 March 2007 on the Trident D5 missile life extension programme. The programme to replace the Vanguard-class ballistic-missile submarine platform incurred expenditure of around £900,000 from 1 April to 30 June 2007, the most recent quarter for which information is available.

PRIME MINISTER

Departments: Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in the former Department of the Deputy Prime Minister in the last three years; and at what total cost; [146990]

(2) how many staff in the former Department of the Deputy Prime Minister have taken *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in the last 12 months. [147044]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

The Deputy Prime Minister's Office was established in May 2006. Because of the small number of staff involved, disclosing the information requested could breach staff confidentiality. Information for periods before May 2006 is held by The Department for Communities and Local Government.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departments: Buildings

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1640W, on Departments: buildings, what the role is of the employees of his Department occupying each building. [151036]

Gillian Merron: Information on the role of employees is provided in our departmental reports and annual resource accounts which are published on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/reports/

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House how many people in her Office have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for (i) inappropriate use of the internet while at work and (ii) using work telephones to access premium rate telephone numbers in the last 12 months. [149188]

Helen Goodman: None.

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House how much was spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants within her Office's areas of responsibilities in the last 12 months. [149051]

Helen Goodman: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons spent £316.96 on overnight accommodation for civil servants in the last 12 months.

Departments: Racial Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which she is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [149247]

Helen Goodman: None.

SCOTLAND

Departments: Advertising

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the cost effectiveness of advertising commissioned by his Department in the last 12 months; [148508]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office does not normally undertake advertising campaigns and in 2006-07 was involved in only a small number of advertisements for appointments.

Departments: Correspondence

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many people are employed in his Department to work on ministerial correspondence. [150564]

David Cairns: Ministerial correspondence is processed by two clerical officers, who also undertake wider administrative functions. Drafting ministerial replies is part of the role of a pool of around 20 policy officials in addition to their other duties.

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many people in his Department have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for (i) inappropriate use of the internet while at work and (ii) using work telephones to access premium rate telephone numbers in the last 12 months. [149185]

David Cairns: None.

Official Visits

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on how many occasions in the last 12 months the Secretary of State for Scotland visited Scotland in an official capacity. [147625]

Des Browne *[holding answer 10 July 2007]:* My predecessor visited Scotland on 18 occasions in his official capacity as Secretary of State for Scotland in the 12 month period to end June 2007. In addition to this, during weekends and parliamentary recesses my right hon. Friend also executed official responsibilities in Scotland. Since my appointment on 28 June, I have visited Scotland on one occasion in my capacity as Secretary of State for Scotland when I carried out a range of official responsibilities.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Basketball

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library a copy of the Mallin report on basketball. [150991]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I will place a copy of the independent Mallin review of basketball in the House Library following its anticipated publication later this month.

Casinos

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many consultations his Department has held on the proposals for new casinos as a result of the Gambling Act 2005. [150545]

James Purnell: There have been two consultations on the new casinos permitted under the Gambling Act 2005. These are:

Gambling (Categories of Casino) Regulations and draft Order for the implementation of the Gambling Act 2005—Formal Consultation Exercise. The consultation closed in September 2006.

Gambling Act 2005: Gambling (Inviting competing applications for Casino Premises Licences) Regulations. The consultation closed in May 2007.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* management consultants and *(b)* external consultants and advisors were employed by his Department in each year since 2000. [149003]

Margaret Hodge: I am able to provide information on how many management consultants, external consultants and advisers were employed by DCMS in

each year since 2000. However, the Department does not collect this information in separate categories in the format requested.

	Management and external consultants	*Advisers*
2000	2	1
2001	12	1
2002	10	1
2003	14	1
2004	10	2
2005	13	3
2006	17	3
2007 to date	9	3

Museums and Galleries: West Midlands

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how much funding under the Renaissance initiative has the West Midlands been allocated in each year of the programme; and if he will make a statement; [148339]

(2) how much Renaissance funding will be available for *(a)* Herefordshire, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* England in each of the next five years; [148340]

(3) if he will make a statement on the distribution of Renaissance funding in *(a)* Herefordshire, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* England; [148341]

(4) what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Renaissance funding within the context of the comprehensive spending review in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* England; and if he will make a statement. [148351]

Margaret Hodge: Investment by Renaissance in the regions in regional museums is as follows:

	£ million
West Midlands region	25.1
All English regions	138.2
All English regions, plus national initiatives	149.2

The West Midlands is currently one of three English regions to have received proportionately more funding than the other six.

It is not possible to provide a complete financial breakdown at the county level for all aspects of Renaissance, as the programme focuses on need and impact at the regional level. However, to date, Herefordshire has benefited directly from the following strands of Renaissance:

£67,600 investment for a museum development officer post for Herefordshire for 2006-08;

Museum service development grants funded by the Museum, Libraries and Archives Council in the West Midlands;

Museum development funding focussed on the needs of small and medium sized museums;

The skills development programme, providing training for museum professionals and volunteers; and

Support from the five partner institutions in the West Midlands Renaissance hub which includes funding an accreditation adviser who has been working with museums in Herefordshire.

Sports: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many sports clubs there were in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each of the last 10 years. [151404]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS does not hold the information requested. There is no central register for sports clubs in England.

Sports: VAT

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will discuss with the Chancellor of the Exchequer the removal of VAT on sports tuition to help schools and local councils provide sports training for young people. [150911]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has no plans to discuss the VAT treatment of tuition in sport with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. There is already a wide ranging exemption from VAT for education. This relief also covers most sports tuition in schools, and similar tuition by local authorities and charitable bodies that do not seek to make any profit from this activity.

Television: Scots Gaelic Language

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with Ofcom and the other strategic partners on a commitment to a date for first transmission by the Gaelic language television channel; and what the outcome of such discussions has been. [150314]

James Purnell *[holding answer 18 July 2007]:* None, but I understand that the Gaelic Media Service, the BBC and Ofcom are working together with the intention of launching the Gaelic Digital Service as soon as possible.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Climate Change: Legislation

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with Northern Ireland Ministers on the co-ordination of legislation on climate change across the UK. [149416]

Paul Goggins: The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has not had any discussions with Northern Ireland Ministers about the co-ordination of legislation on climate change across the UK. However, Arlene Foster MLA, in her role as Northern Ireland's Environment Minister, met with David Miliband when he was Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to discuss this issue and other matters, in June of this year. Also, officials in DEFRA and DOE(NI) remain in close contact as this work develops.

Department: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what criminal offences have been introduced by his Department in primary legislation since October 2006. [149723]

Paul Goggins: The criminal offences introduced by the Northern Ireland Office since October 2006 are shown in the following tables. For completeness both Acts and Orders in Council are included.

Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007

Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007	*Offence*
Section 10	Disclosing juror information without lawful authority.
Section 15	Failure to comply with a notice to provide information to NIHRC; failure to comply with an order made by a county court to provide such information; falsify anything provided or produced in accordance with a notice or order; or make a false statement in giving oral evidence in accordance with a notice.
Section 16	Failing to comply with an order of the county court requiring a person not to obstruct NIHRC in investigating a place of detention.
Section 21	Failing to stop when required to do so under that section (power of stop and question); refusing to answer a question; failing to answer a question to the best of his knowledge and ability
Paragraph 8 of Schedule 3	Knowingly failing to comply with a requirement imposed under paragraph 3; or wilfully seeking to obstruct or frustrate a search of premises.
Paragraph 9 of Schedule 3	Failing to stop when required to do so under paragraph 4 (stop and search).
Section 26	Failing to stop a vehicle when required to do so.
Section 27	Wilfully obstructing a member of Her Majesty's Forces in the exercise of a power under that section (document examination).
Section 31	Interfering with works executed in connection with the exercise of powers in sections 29 and 30; or interfering with any apparatus, equipment or other thing used in connection with the exercise of those powers.
Section 32(2)	Interfering with road closure works or road closure equipment.
Section 32(3)	Executing bypass works within 200m of road closure works, having within his possession or under his control within 200m of road closure works, materials or equipment suitable for executing bypass works; or knowingly permitting on land occupied by him the doing or occurrence of anything which is an offence under this subsection.
Paragraph 12 of Schedule 4	Offence of obtaining compensation or increased compensation by deception; and offence of knowingly making a false or misleading statement, making a statement which he does not believe to be true, or knowingly failing to disclose a material fact.
Paragraph 4 of Schedule 6	Providing or offering to provide security services for reward without a licence.

Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007

Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007	*Offence*
Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6	Publishing or causing to be published an advertisement for the provision for reward of security services by a person who does not hold a licence.
Paragraph 6 of Schedule 6	Paying money in respect of the provision of security services to a person who does not hold a licence.
Paragraph 8 of Schedule 6	In connection with an application for a security licence: making a statement which he knows to be false or misleading in a material particular; or recklessly making a statement which is false or misleading in a material particular.
Paragraph 19 of Schedule 6	Failing to comply with paragraph 17(provision of information about new employees) or paragraph 18 (provision of information about a change of personnel).
Paragraph 20 of Schedule 6	Failing to comply with a requirement to produce records of an employee for inspection.
Paragraph 21 of Schedule 6	Making or keeping a record of a person employed as a security guard which he knows to be false or misleading in a material particular.

Policing (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 2007

Policing (Miscellaneous Provisions) NI) Order 2007	*Offence*
Article 12(2)	Interfering with works executed or interfering with any apparatus, equipment or other thing used in connection with the exercise of the road closure power provided by Article 12(1).
Schedule 5, Paragraph 2(3)	Failure to give a (community support officer) CSO name and address where the CSO has reason to believe a person has committed a relevant offence
Schedule 5, Paragraph 4(6)	Making off while subject to a requirement to wait with a CSO for a period not exceeding 30 minutes for the arrival of a constable or making off while accompanying a CSO to a police station.
Schedule 5, Paragraph 8(4)	Failure to consent to being searched after refusal to surrender alcohol or tobacco.
Schedule 5, Paragraph 9(4)	Failure to give a CSO his name and address after a CSO finds, or reasonably believes a person to be in possession of a controlled drug

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants within his Department's areas of responsibilities in the last 12 months. [149052]

Paul Goggins: The cost of overnight accommodation and subsistence for civil servants within the Northern Ireland Office's areas of responsibilities for the financial year 2006-07 was £512,000.

The cost of overnight accommodation could be separated from this figure only at disproportionate cost.

Police Service of Northern Ireland

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many temporary advances issued to police officers in Northern Ireland *(a)* attending courses outside Northern Ireland and *(b)* performing operational duty outside Northern Ireland are outstanding; and what the total value is of those advances. [148437]

Paul Goggins: The total amount of outstanding advances to police officers at 30 June 2007 was £39,333.93.

The information needed to provide a breakdown by activity is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* full-time, *(b)* part-time reservist and *(c)* full-time reservist police officers are employed by the Police Service of Northern Ireland; and what the comparable figures have been for the last 10 years for which figures are available. [150986]

Paul Goggins: The police strength figures for the last 10 years are shown in the following table:

As at 31 December each year	*Regular*	*Full-time reserve*	*Part-time reserve*
1997	8,485	2,982	1,324
1998	8,456	2,936	1,238
1999	8,445	2,719	1,174
2000	8,268	2,555	1,097
2001	7,149	2,256	1,032
2002	7,129	1,862	952
2003	7,323	1,645	868
2004	7,484	1,419	909
2005	7,490	1,060	844
2006	7,534	793	781
July 2007	7,413	675	863

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of *(a)* full-time, *(b)* part-time reservist and *(c)* full-time reservist Police Service of Northern Ireland officers are (i) Catholic and (ii) Protestant; what the comparable figures were in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [150987]

Paul Goggins: In 1998 when Patten conducted his investigation, only 8.3 per cent. of regular officers were from the Catholic community. Under the temporary 50:50 provisions Catholic composition among regular officers has risen to 22.45 per cent. (as of 11 June 2007) with 2,699 recruits having been selected for appointment on a 50:50 basis.

I am advised by PSNI that the percentage figures for community background of regular officers, part-time reserve and full-time reserve for the last 10 years is as set out in the following table. The figures have been compiled from the Annual Monitoring Returns to the Equality Commission and relate to 1 January of each year.

	Percentage non-Catholic	*Percentage Catholic*	*Percentage not determined*	*Total number*
(a) Full-time				
1998	88.56	8.23	3.20	8,491
1999	88.32	8.33	3.34	8,462
2000	88.27	8.37	3.36	8,516
2001	88.18	8.45	3.36	8,352
2002	87.64	8.88	3.47	7,227
2003	85.04	11.68	3.28	7,193
2004	83.03	13.88	3.08	7,332
2005	80.38	16.88	2.75	7,496
2006	78.32	19.05	2.63	7,492
2007	76.36	21.06	2.59	7,542
(b) Part-time reservist				
1998	93.88	4.83	1.28	1,324
1999	93.78	4.93	1.29	1,238
2000	93.84	4.88	1.28	1,168
2001	93.80	4.83	1.37	1,097
2002	93.56	5.15	1.29	1,010
2003	93.42	5.20	1.38	942
2004	93.50	5.11	1.39	861
2005	93.21	5.57	1.22	898
2006	92.62	6.05	1.33	826
2007	92.49	6.35	1.17	772
(c) Full-time reservist				
1998	87.72	6.91	5.37	2,981
1999	87.47	6.91	5.62	2,936
2000	87.38	6.95	5.67	2,718
2001	87.24	7.05	5.71	2,555
2002	86.93	6.94	6.13	2,234
2003	86.96	6.63	6.41	1,856
2004	86.90	6.46	6.64	1,641
2005	86.95	6.21	6.84	1,418
2006	88.60	5.65	5.75	1,044
2007	89.96	5.08	4.95	767

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many civilian staff were employed by the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the RUC in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [150989]

Paul Goggins: The police civilian strength figures for the last 10 years are shown in the following table:

As at 31 December each year	*Civilian*
1997	2,930
1998	3,035
1999	2,916
2000	3,125
2001	3,293
2002	3,322

As at 31 December each year	Civilian
2003	3,192
2004	3,104
2005	3,001
2006	2,732
July 2007	2,676

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Injuries

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Police Service of Northern Ireland officers were injured while on duty in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [150988]

Paul Goggins: The following information refers to the numbers of incidents of injury on duty (IOD) reported by police officers in the specified periods. As the table shows, these are split by the organisation between those that resulted in a period of sickness absence and those that did not.

	Number of reported injuries on duty resulting in sickness absence	Number of reported injuries on duty not resulting in sickness absence	Total injuries on duty
1997-98	1,197	1,012	2,209
1998-99	1,354	1,050	2,404
1999-2000	1,625	1,175	2,800
2000-01	1,690	1,108	2,798
2001-02	1,719	1,574	3,293
2002-03	1,395	1,218	2,613
2003-04	1,082	855	1,937
2004-05	805	725	1,530
2005-06	798	1,073	1,871
2006-07	535	872	1,407

Prisons: Standards

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps will be taken to improve prison accommodation in Northern Ireland following the recent report from the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission. [149417]

Paul Goggins: The recent Human Rights Commission report "The Prison Within—The imprisonment of women at Hydebank Wood 2004-06" was released on 5 July 2007. The research for this report was carried out some eighteen months ago since which time there has been significant progress in taking forward facilities and services for female prisoners.

Female prisoners were relocated during 2006 while their original accommodation was refurbished and in-cell sanitation provided. They have since re-occupied the fully refurbished modern accommodation in Ash House which is now among the best in the prison estate. This unit includes a wing for long-term and enhanced prisoners and a dedicated exercise yard. Plans are underway to extend the health care centre to provide a dedicated facility for females and to build a new female reception area including a dedicated video link and drug testing unit which should be available by the end of this year.

The current facility has an increased capacity of 69 cells complete with in-cell sanitation and includes specialist safer cells, listener cells, mother and baby units and an enhanced regime unit. There are no immediate plans to provide additional capacity within the current unit as this meets the Service's on-going needs, with 48 cells occupied as of 16 July 2007. In the longer term, NIPS is working towards the provision of more appropriate accommodation for female prisoners including a more discrete, self contained women's facility on the Hydebank Wood site, as recommended within the Human Rights Commission report. This provision, of course, is subject to the availability of funding.

Rape: Sentencing

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 26 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 662W, on rape: sentencing, what his assessment is of the level of sentences handed down by courts in Northern Ireland; and if he will take steps to ensure longer sentences are handed down. [148489]

Paul Goggins: Sentencing in individual cases is entirely a matter for the independent judiciary. We have however announced plans for changes to the statutory sentencing framework to introduce new public protection sentences for dangerous sexual and violent offenders. Under the proposals, dangerous sexual and violent offenders could receive extended public protection sentences whereby they could be detained in custody for the full term of their prison sentence. Those committing the most serious sexual and violent offences could receive indeterminate public protection sentences and could remain in prison for an indefinite period. I will be publishing draft legislative proposals shortly.

Young Offenders: Reoffenders

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the rate of re-offending is of people who have been held in young offender institutions in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [149415]

Paul Goggins: Information on rates of re-offending is not currently available. However, the latest published reconviction figures for those discharged from the Juvenile Justice Centre into the community show that of those discharged in 2001[1], 36 per cent. were reconvicted within one year and of those discharged in 2002[1], 42 per cent. were reconvicted within one year.

[1] While juvenile reconviction rates are based on reconviction within one year, the datasets on which reconviction are calculated cover a two-year period after the end of the relevant year (e.g. for those discharged in 2002 the dataset covers the period up to the end of 2004). This is necessary to include those who are juveniles at time of discharge but who are subsequently covered by the post-juvenile dataset. Results for juvenile reconviction from the 2003 dataset will be available shortly.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Attendance Allowance: Scotland

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has received recent representations from the Scottish Executive on the withdrawal of funding for the attendance allowance following the introduction of free personal care for the elderly. [150493]

Mrs. McGuire: A meeting between senior officials from this Department and the Scottish Executive was held on 22 June 2007 to discuss this issue at the Executive's request. There will be further contact over the summer.

Child Support Agency: Telephone Services

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will undertake an assessment of the recent effectiveness of the Child Support Agency's MPs' Hotline; and if he will make a statement. [149339]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 19 July 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will undertake an assessment of the recent effectiveness of the Child Support Agency's MPS' Hotline; and if he will make a statement. [149339]

The MP Hotline was developed in response to requests from MP's who required faster responses on certain issues where a formal letter was not required. The system works well and feedback from MPs has been generally positive. However some issues have recently come to light as the Agency has rolled out its new complaints resolution process. Specifically, some MP Hotline telephone numbers have changed without the Agency alerting either MPs or its people to the new numbers. Also as the Agency has changed the complaints resolution process, in some cases those teams newly responsible for dealing with MP queries, have been unaware of the shorter timescales covering queries to the Hotline.

The Agency has now issued reminders to all involved on how queries to the Hotline should be dealt with and we have amended our internal directories to reflect the new numbers. In addition Lord McKenzie has recently written to all MP's informing them of the changes to the complaints resolution process, as well as the new MP Hotline numbers.

The Agency remains committed to providing a local and high quality service to all MP's as you work on your constituents' behalf to resolve issues that unfortunately arise on child support cases.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what legislative provisions introduced by his Department since 1997 have been repealed. [149707]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is as follows.

Acts introduced by DWP since 1997	*Repealed*
Social Security Administration (Fraud) Act 1997	Section 6
	Section 12
	Section 14
Social Security Act 1998	Section 35
	Sections 51 and 52
	Section 58
Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999	Sections 4 and 5
	Section 17
Social Security Contributions (Transfer of Functions, etc.) Act 1999	Section 7
	Schedule 1 paras. 3, 4, 13, 19(2), 19(3), 19(4), 60, 66(3), 67 and 68
Disability Rights Commission Act 1999	Section 11
Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act 2000	Sections 43, 44, 45 and 46
	Section 54
	Schedule 3 para. 8(2)
Social Security Contributions (Share Options) Act 2001	Section 4

Departments: Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at his Department and its agencies each year between 1997 and 2006; and what the total cost of those bonuses was. [146428]

Mrs. McGuire: The answer is in the following table.

The table contains the total cost and number of bonus payments awarded to senior civil servants since 2001-02. There is no statutory requirement to keep accounting records longer than six years. I am therefore unable to supply information prior to 2001-02 (financial year).

Bonuses are a key element in our reward strategy for driving up high performance and are used to reward the delivery of in-year agreed personal business objectives or targets in an individual's performance agreement. Bonuses are used to reward excellent performance and are based on a judgment of how well an individual has performed relative to their peers. In making this judgment managers' take into account performance against agreed priority business objectives or targets; total delivery record over the year; relative stretch; and response to unforeseen events which may have affected the performance.

Amount paid in bonuses to SCS since 2001-02 and the numbers of SCS receiving bonuses

	Total paid (£ million)	*Total number of non consolidated bonuses*
2001-02	0.27	81
2002-03	0.59	110
2003-04	0.71	126
2004-05	0.97	207
2005-06	1.39	205

Notes:

1. The amounts shown in col. two (total paid) are rounded to the nearest £10,000.
2. The total cost and number of bonuses for 2004-05 and 2005-06 include special non consolidated bonuses paid to SCS. Retrieval of information relating to awards paid in earlier years would be disproportionate.

Departments: Publicity

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the cost effectiveness of advertising commissioned by his Department in the last 12 months. [148501]

Mrs. McGuire: Government policies and programmes affect the lives of millions of people and in order for them to work they must be communicated effectively. The Department runs promotional campaigns aimed at increasing awareness of rights and responsibilities where necessary and advertising is used where appropriate.

Advertising is rigorously assessed according to the individual criteria and objectives set out for each initiative, and results are used to measure effectiveness and to inform future strategy. Methods include quantitative surveys carried out before, during and after advertising campaigns, qualitative assessment of creative work, and in-depth work with samples of those targeted by advertising.

Incapacity Benefit: Mentally Ill

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research his Department has undertaken into the reasons for recent trends in the number of incapacity claimants claiming benefit due to mental and behavioural disorders. [150047]

Mrs. McGuire: 'Routes onto incapacity benefits' study (DWP, Research Report 350 (Roy Sainsbury and Jacqueline Davidson) was published in 2006 and is available in the Library. A further quantitative survey is currently being finalised and will be published in the autumn.

A review of the policies needed to improve mental health and employment outcomes was also announced in Budget 2006. The Review will report as part of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review.

Pensions: Warrington

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Warrington received pension credit in the last year for which figures are available. [150984]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As at February 2007 there were 7,940 households receiving pension credit, comprising 9,700 individual beneficiaries, in Warrington.

Notes:

1. The figures provided are early estimates. The preferred data source for figures supplied by DWP is the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS). However, the figure provided is the latest available figure, which is taken from the GMS scan at 2 March 2007. These are adjusted using the historical relationship between WPLS and GMS data to give an estimate of the final WPLS figure.
2. Case loads are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures provided are for Warrington local authority. Local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.
4. Households are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
5. The number of individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners.

Source:

DWP 100 per cent. data from the Generalised Matching Service (GMS) pension credit scan taken as at 2 March 2007.

Poverty

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will introduce a measure of severe poverty; and if he will make a statement. [148734]

Mrs. McGuire: Poverty is a complex and multidimensional issue and there are many measures of poverty. Experts agree that it is very difficult to measure "severe" poverty. The measurement of low income we have adopted looks at a household living on less than 60 per cent. of median income, which is an internationally recognised method and the most commonly used globally. The Department also publishes the "Households Below Average Income" report, which presents information on potential living standards as determined by disposable income, measured at 50, 60 and 70 per cent. of median income.

However poverty is about more than just low income which is why we publish "Opportunity for All" which sets out a number of indicators to demonstrate our progress in tackling poverty and social exclusion.

Social Security Benefits: Repayments

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged 16 to 21 were asked to repay benefits paid while they were staying in hospital in each year since 1997. [150308]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 17 July 2007]:* The information in relation to how many people aged 16 to 21 were asked to repay benefits paid while in hospital is not available.

Winter Fuel Payments

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received the winter fuel payment in each year since its introduction; and how much they received in each year. [150053]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information on winter fuel payments for the winters of 1997-98 and 1998-99 is not available. The information from winter 1999-2000 is in the following table.

	Payments made
1999-2000	10,084,130
2000-01	11,105,750
2001-02	11,201,900
2002-03	11,348,040
2003-04	11,468,240
2004-05	11,401,170
2005-06	11,514,760
2006-07	11,659,490

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures for 2006-07 refer only to the main payment run so they do not include the late payment run figures. We estimate that there are approximately 100,000 people in Great Britain paid in late payment runs (0.8 per cent. of all payments). Since most of the payment runs are to people who are not receiving another benefit from DWP and whose claims had not been received by the qualifying week, most are men aged 60 to 64.
3. Where couples are in receipt of pension credit or income-based jobseeker's allowance they receive one full rate winter fuel payment which is paid to the person claiming the benefit.

Source:
Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

The amount of winter fuel payment a person receives depends on their household circumstances. People who live with other eligible people receive a shared rate which is half of the full payment. People who live alone, live with someone who does not qualify for a payment or who receive pension credit or income-based jobseeker's allowance receive the full rate.

The current rate of the winter fuel payment is £200 for people aged 60 to 79 and £300 for people aged 80 or over. When the winter fuel payment was introduced in the winter of 1997-98 it was paid at the rate of £20 or £50 for people receiving income support or income-based jobseeker's allowance. The payment was increased in winter 1999-2000 to £100 and further increased in winter 2000-01 to £200. In winter 2003-04 the payment was increased to £300 for people aged 80 or over.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have retained direct ownership and management responsibilities for their housing stock; and what proportion of the overall national stock of social housing their stock represents. [150271]

Mr. Iain Wright: During the Stock Options Appraisal exercise conducted between 2003 and 2005, 103 local authorities in England chose retained ownership and direct management for their housing stock, a further five are retaining part ownership and direct management for part of their stock, and have used ALMO transfer or PFI for parts of their housing stock.

Between them these local authorities own and directly manage 891,000 units, which accounts for 22 per cent. of all social housing in England.

Floods: Compensation

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what measures she is proposing to help those whose flood damaged houses are uninsured. [150595]

John Healey: The £14 million package of immediate support for flood hit areas announced by the Prime Minister on 7 July included a fund of £10 million to local authorities to support the work being done to help recovery. On 13 July I announced a series of initial Flood Recovery Grant payments totalling £8 million to support work in 34 flood-hit local authorities to help those in greatest and most immediate need get back on their feet. We have retained around £2 million for further distribution and we intend to make additional grants to local authorities based upon the best available data as soon as possible.

The Department for Work and Pensions is helping people on income related benefits or the lowest of incomes affected by the flooding with essential costs through Community Care Grants and repayable interest-free crisis loans, administered by Jobcentre Plus. A contingency reserve of £1 million can be drawn on by Jobcentre Plus as needed to meet the extra call on Community Care Grants.

Housing: Flood Control

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on Government policy on the building of houses on flood plains. [150590]

Mr. Iain Wright: In December 2006 we published Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 25 "Development and flood risk", which aims to avoid inappropriate development in flood risk areas and direct development away from high risk areas by ensuring that sites at little or no risk of flooding are developed in preference to areas at higher risk. In the 10 per cent. of England at high risk of flooding, PPS25 ensures that essential homes and services can be provided where it can be demonstrated that the need for the development outweighs the flood risk and the development will be safe and not increase risk.

PPS25 strengthens and clarifies the policy established by Planning Policy Guidance Note (PPG) 25, which was published in 2001. PPS25 is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1504639

Local Government: Equal Pay

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much central funding has been given to local authorities in the last 10 years to assist them to meet the cost of equal pay. [150006]

John Healey: Local authorities are responsible for decisions on local pay issues, including equal pay, and they are expected to manage them in an affordable manner. Most central funding is provided through general grant and there has been no specific grant

earmarked for equal pay. Central Government funding for local government has increased by 39 per cent. in real terms since 1997.

Approvals for capitalisation directions for equal pay, which permit authorities to borrow or use capital receipts to fund back-pay, are set out as follows:

	Funds (£)
2003-04	4,500,000
2004-05	41,048,635
2005-06	50,089,433
2006-07	160,501,817

Following representations made by the Local Government Association and others, we have introduced a quicker process for equal pay capitalisation this year, and are considering requests in the current financial year.

Regional Government: Finance

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much Government funding was allocated to each of the regional assemblies in each year since their creation. [149403]

John Healey: Total Government grant to regional assemblies between 2001 and 2008 is tabled as follows. The figures for 2007-08 indicate the maximum grant available subject to satisfactory performance.

£

Regional assembly	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
North East	500,000	600,000	1,408,000	1,708,000	1,708,000	1,899,000	2,072,653
North West	500,000	600,000	1,837,000	2,536,000	2,536,000	2,637,000	3,045,456
Yorkshire and the Humber	500,000	600,000	1,655,000	1,923,000	1,923,000	2,064,000	2,338,968
West Midlands	500,000	600,000	1,671,000	2,071,000	2,071,000	2,218,210	2,517,502
East Midlands	500,000	600,000	1,631,000	2,056,000	2,056,000	2,197,000	2,506,998
East	500,000	600,000	1,874,000	2,112,000	2,112,000	2,353,000	2,469,407
South East	500,000	600,000	2,186,000	3,280,000	3,280,000	3,381,000	3,771,142
South West	500,000	600,000	1,613,000	2,101,000	2,101,000	2,289,500	2,470,164
English regions network	1,000,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	240,000	244,000
Total	5,000,000	5,000,000	14,075,000	17,987,000	17,987,000	19,278,710	21,436,290

TRANSPORT

Exhaust Emissions: EU Action

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to ensure that technologies aimed at enabling vehicles to meet European standards for nitrogen oxides and particulate matter emissions are installed and maintained in optimum ways, with particular reference to selective catalytic reduction. [151144]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As I mentioned in my answer of 9 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1193-94W, from November 2007 new HGV and bus engines will be required to monitor their emission control systems and to limit engine power in the event of those emission control systems failing to operate. These provisions are essential to encourage operators to keep the emission control systems properly maintained and working, and so ensure that the intended reductions in emissions of Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_X) from current and future standards are actually delivered in operation.

The provisions apply equally to all HGV and bus engines, whether they are using exhaust gas recirculation or selective catalytic reduction, but may be of particular relevance where selective catalytic reduction is being used and the effectiveness of the system could be compromised by a simple omission, on the part of the vehicle operator or driver, to top up the AdBlue reagent.

In the case of engines using selective catalytic reduction (SCR), a level indicator for the AdBlue reagent, incorporating a low level warning, will be required to be displayed on the dashboard near the fuel gauge, and the On Board Diagnostic system will be required to monitor the quality, as well as the presence, of the reagent. On Board Diagnostic systems are also required to monitor for failures which could lead to increased particulate emissions.

Using an SCR equipped vehicle with an empty AdBlue tank would be an offence under regulation 61 a of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, as amended, in that it will lead to excess emissions which could have been avoided by routine maintenance.

Public Transport: Finance

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate she has made of the abstraction of rail revenue to the intercity coach network when the National Concessionary Fare Scheme is implemented in April 2008; [149651]

(2) whether free concessionary travel will be available to older and disabled passengers on intercity express coach services registered as local bus services under the proposed national scheme due to come into force in April 2008. [149652]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* An eligible pass holder will be able to travel for free at off-peak times on any registered local bus service anywhere in England from April next year. Eligible services are defined in the Travel Concessions (Eligible Services) Order 2002—a number of criteria have to be

met in order for a service to be obliged to offer the statutory concession. An intercity coach service will be obliged to provide the national bus concession on any parts of their route that provides a local service and fulfils the criteria set out in the legislation.

It is likely that many long intercity coach services will not be covered by the national bus concession in their entirety as they will not be eligible services under the 2002 Order.

No assessment has been made of the abstraction of rail revenue to the intercity coach network following the introduction of national bus concession.

It will be for operators and local authorities to assess which services are covered in accordance with the criteria set out.

The Department is keeping the issue of eligible services under review. The definition can be changed by secondary legislation.

Railways

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* Voyager, *(b)* Super Voyager and *(c)* InterCity 125 high speed trains are in use on the national rail network; and if she will make a statement on the fuel efficiency of each of these models. [150708]

Mr. Tom Harris: We do not hold the information regarding fuel efficiency in the Department.

Railways: EU Action

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the financial implications for the UK rail industry of the implementation of the EU proposal 2004/0048 (COD) for a European Parliament and Council directive on the certification of train drivers operating locomotives and trains on the Community's rail network. [151033]

Mr. Tom Harris: Following publication of the proposals for the Third Rail Package, the Government undertook a statutory public consultation to take into account the views of stakeholders which were integral to formulating the UK negotiating line. In accordance with Cabinet Office guidelines the Government produced an initial Regulatory Impact Assessment at the time of consultation in 2004 to assess the likely effects of the directive on the UK industry and users. This was continually updated to account for changes made to the proposal by the Council and European Parliament. A partial Regulatory Impact Assessment was submitted to the Scrutiny Committee of both Houses on 14 January 2005.

The Regulatory Impact Assessment identified considerable cost to the UK industry of implementation of the licensing requirements to domestic train drivers in the UK. Negotiation of a derogation into the final text of the directive for domestic drivers means that those costs originally identified are now likely to be substantially reduced.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the likelihood of the EU proposal 2004/0048 (COD) for a European Parliament and Council directive on the certification of train drivers operating locomotives and trains on the Community's rail network being extended to include all train crews. [151034]

Mr. Tom Harris: The final text of the proposed directive on the certification of train drivers operating locomotives and trains on the railway system in the Community, agreed during the conciliation process, contains provisions to limit application to a limited number of non-driving staff, which member states will be able to define. Although this has to be formally adopted by both the European Parliament and the Council, there is a strong expectation both will vote to accept. During negotiations between the Parliament and Council, the UK along with the majority of other member states was not in favour of the directive being extended to encompass all on-board safety related crew.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will publish the UK's proposed derogation from the EU proposal 2004/0048 (COD) for a European Parliament and Council directive on the certification of train drivers operating locomotives and trains on the Community's rail network. [151080]

Mr. Tom Harris: The final text of the proposed directive on the certification of train drivers operating locomotives and trains on the railway system in the Community, agreed during the conciliation process, has not yet been formally adopted by either the European Parliament or the Council. The derogation will require member states wishing to use it to provide the Commission with a cost/benefit analysis to show why the costs of application to domestic drivers is disproportionate.

Once the final text of the directive has been adopted by the Parliament and Council, the Government in transposing the directive for the UK, will consult stakeholders, and produce and publish guidance, which will include details on how the UK intends to apply and use the derogation for domestic drivers.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had in the Council of Ministers about the UK's proposed derogation from the EU proposal 2004/0048 (COD) for a European Parliament and Council directive on the certification of train drivers operating locomotives and trains on the Community's rail network. [151081]

Mr. Tom Harris: The derogation allowing member states to disapply on a time-limited basis provisions in the proposed Directive on the certification of train drivers operating locomotives and trains on the railway system in the Community was discussed and agreed by the Council and by the European Parliament during negotiations that began in 2005 and are now almost complete following the successful outcome of the conciliation process. UK Ministers and officials were among a majority of member states supporting this proposed derogation, which gives greater flexibility to member states in implementing the directive and ensures that the full costs and benefits can be taken into account.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions her officials have had with the UK Permanent Representation to the EU on the UK's proposed derogation from EU proposal 2004/0048 (COD) for a European Parliament and Council directive on the certification of train drivers operating locomotives and trains on the Community's rail network. [R] [151082]

Mr. Tom Harris: Throughout negotiations of the proposed directive on the certification of train drivers operating locomotives and trains on the railway system in the Community officials from the Department of Transport have had and continue to have regular discussions and meetings with members of the UK Permanent Representation primarily to agree negotiating lines and the strategic handling of negotiations.

Railways: Offensive Weapons

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passengers were found carrying offensive weapons on trains between Poole and London in each of the last five years. [151574]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is not held by the Department for Transport but by the British Transport Police who can be contacted at:

British Transport Police,
25 Camden Road,
London
NW1 9LN,
e-mail: general.enquiries@btp.pnn.police.uk.

Rapid Transit Systems: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to review the proposals for the South Hampshire Rapid Transit System; and if she will make a statement. [150534]

Mr. Tom Harris: The South Hampshire Rapid Transit scheme (SHRT) had its funding approval revoked in July 2004 due to excessive cost increases. In November 2005, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, announced that he could not support revised proposals to reinstate the scheme as the costs were still substantially higher than originally approved. Hampshire county council subsequently took the decision formally to abandon the project and the statutory powers needed to construct the scheme expired in July 2006.

Therefore the SHRT scheme does not exist in the form last submitted to the Department. It is for Hampshire county council to consider how best to meet the future transport needs for their area and bring forward proposals accordingly.

Rolling Stock

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 28 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 522W, to the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland (Mr. Carmichael) on rolling stock, what the age range is of the rolling stock of the franchises run by *(a)* Arriva Trains (Wales), *(b)* Virgin Cross Country, *(c)* First Great Western and *(d)* GNER; and how much of each company's stock is (i) older than the average supplied and (ii) over 20 years old. [150622]

Mr. Tom Harris: This is a matter for the train operators. We do not hold this information.

Transport: Air Pollution

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on measures to reduce the environmental impact of transport. [150815]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Department for Transport Ministers regularly meet with ministerial colleagues in the course of performing their ministerial duties. There is regular discussion at official level between this Department and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs regarding environment issues of mutual interest.

Transport: Tickets

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment her Department has made of the likely effect of a multi-modal integrated ticketing system on demand management through differential pricing on congested parts of the transport infrastructure; [148995]

(2) what assessment her Department has made of the likely effect of a multi-modal integrated ticketing system on provision of information for transport operators on journeys and timings nationally; [148996]

(3) what steps the Government are taking to ensure that the national multi-modal integrated ticketing system operates consistently across different rail franchises. [148997]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We have not made a detailed assessment of the likely effect of a multi-modal integrated ticketing system on demand management or on the provision of information for transport operators.

However simple fares structures and easy access to tickets help to attract passengers to the public transport network. The Government believe that the introduction of ITSO smartcards on the railway will make it easier for passengers to buy their tickets at a time and place to suit them. It also opens up the opportunities to better integrate ticketing between transport modes.

Data from an ITSO ticketing system are expected to provide additional information on the number of passenger journeys and time of travel. This will enable operators to plan services better and allow them to introduce new deals that are better tailored to passengers' needs.

Train operators are required to comply with their passenger licences and franchise agreements which ensure that the railway set, retails and distributes fares as a single national network. These requirements are consistent across train operators.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons the Government only mandate smartcards at franchise renewal with the Integrated Transport Smartcard Organisation specification. [149001]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The introduction of ITSO smart media has been made compulsory by Government at rail franchise renewal as a first step in achieving a network wide application. This will encourage other operators to introduce ITSO.

The Government specify ITSO as it has been specifically designed to cope with complex ticketing structures, beyond those suitable for metropolitan areas. Secondly it is an open specification and will prevent the monopoly supply of proprietary systems. The Government believe that this will deliver the best value and service for passengers and tax payers alike.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects smartcard ticketing to be available throughout the transport network. [149002]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In developing the ITSO specification, the Department has sought to introduce a framework that will enable interoperability between schemes. The technology is now being implemented but there are currently no plans for metering throughout the transport network.

TREASURY

Average Earnings

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the answer of 10 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1413W, on average earnings, whether the data refer to gross hourly earnings of full-time employees. [150762]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 July 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question, pursuant to the answer of 10 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1413W, on average earnings, whether the data refer to gross hourly earnings of full-time employees. (150762)

I confirm that the figures provided in the answer relate to full-time employees.

Bingo

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* consultations he has undertaken and *(b)* (i) financial reports and (ii) economic forecasts he has commissioned on the state of the bingo industry. [149994]

Angela Eagle: The state of the bingo industry was incorporated into the forecast of total gambling receipts, which includes bingo duty receipts, and was published in the "Financial Statement and Budget Report".

Casinos

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many visits by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have been made to casinos in (i) the UK and (ii) the rest of the world since 1997; [149990]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with representatives from the casino industry; and what plans he has for further such discussions. [149991]

Angela Eagle: The Chancellor of the Exchequer has not had any recent discussions with the casino industry. However, as part of the normal Budget process Ministers and officials have been in periodic contact with representatives of the casino industry since 1997.

Debts: Developing Countries

Ann McKechin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what processes and consultations his Department *(a)* has undertaken and *(b)* plans to undertake to promote the proposed G8 Charter on Responsible Lending; and what timetable is planned. [149857]

Kitty Ussher: The UK has been a leading actor in the substantial progress made by the international community to deliver debt relief. The multilateral debt relief initiative (MDRI) and the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative have already delivered irrevocable debt relief to 22 countries, releasing resources to fund country-owned strategies for poverty reduction. Key to sustaining these benefits is to ensure that developing countries' debt management is strengthened and that all creditors' lending is responsible.

This is why the UK has been leading efforts with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to get export credit agencies (ECAs) to agree firm guidelines on responsible lending to poor countries. In April this year we were successful in persuading OECD countries to extend the scope of the OECD statement of principles on unproductive expenditure beyond just heavily indebted poor countries (HIPCs) to also cover all IDA-only countries. As a result, at least 26 extra developing countries will now be covered by this agreement on responsible lending.

We are now taking this work forward with G8 partners, who share our commitment to ensuring responsible lending and borrowing. It is of course critical that all large official creditors, including those outside the G8, engage in this process. We will continue dialogue on this issue in the international fora in which we participate, including the OECD, the Paris Club and the G20.

Departments: Standards

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department were formally reprimanded for failing to follow departmental procedures in relation to calculating the *(a)* income tax and *(b)* national insurance liabilities of individuals in each of the last five years for which data are available; and if he will make a statement. [150890]

Angela Eagle: HM Revenue and Customs has procedures in place for tackling poor performance wherever it occurs. Information on disciplinary proceedings related to tax and national insurance calculations is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Financial Services: Disadvantaged

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the membership is of the ministerial working group to determine detailed priorities for financial inclusion policy, announced on page 10 of the Financial inclusion: the way forward; and if he will place in the Library copies of the agendas of the group's meetings; [150168]

(2) what the membership is of the Financial Inclusion Taskforce. [150169]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 17 July 2007]:* The ministerial working group for financial inclusion is chaired by the Economic Secretary to the Treasury and includes ministers from the following Departments:

Department for Work and Pensions;

Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform;

Ministry of Justice;

Cabinet Office; and

Department for Communities and Local Government.

The first meeting of the group took place on 12 June 2007. The agenda for the meeting focused on building the evidence base for policy options to achieve the Government's objectives for financial inclusion—to ensure that everyone has access to appropriate financial services, enabling them to:

manage their money on a day-to-day basis, effectively, securely and confidently;

plan for the future and cope with financial pressure; and

deal effectively with financial distress.

The membership of the Financial Inclusion Taskforce is as follows:

Benny Higgins, Chief Executive Officer, Retail, HBOS Group plc;

Elaine Kempson, Professor of Personal Finance and Social Policy Research and Director of the Personal Finance Research Centre at Bristol University;

Chris Lendrum, former Vice Chairman of Barclays plc;

Mark Lyonette, Chief Executive of the Association of British Credit Unions Ltd.;

Bridget McIntyre, UK Chief Executive Officer of Royal and Sun Alliance Insurance Group plc;

Bernie Morgan, Chief Executive of the Community Development Finance Association;

Nick Pearson, National Debt Advice Coordinator, Advice UK;

Teresa Perchard, Director of Policy, Citizens Advice;

Brian Pomeroy (chair), former Senior Partner of Deloitte Consulting;

Faith Reynolds, Co-ordinator, Transact, the national forum for financial inclusion;

Susan Rice, Chief Executive Officer, Lloyds TSB Scotland plc;

Danielle Walker Palmour, Director, Friends Provident Foundation;

Claire Whyley; Deputy Director of Policy, National Consumer Council.

Further information on the Financial Inclusion Taskforce can be found at:

http://www.financialinclusion-taskforce.org.uk/

Insurance: Freight

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer further to the publication of 'Deregulating freight forwarding resource: Summary of responses, June 2007', when he plans to bring forward the final text of the statutory instrument; and when he expects its provisions to come into force. [149557]

Kitty Ussher: This measure will remove the insurance activities of freight forwarders and storage firms from the scope of Financial Services Authority regulation. The measure will be implemented by Statutory Instrument (SI) 2007/1821, which will come into force on 20 July 2007, subject to parliamentary approval. The SI is available from the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) website.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter of 6 June 2007 (PO Reference: 5/02209/2007) from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire. [150765]

Kitty Ussher: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter of 5 June 2007 (PO Reference: 5/02199/2007) from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire. [150766]

Kitty Ussher: I have replied to the hon. Member

Tax Allowances: Married People

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of whether a transferable tax allowance for married people would be compliant with the gender equality duty for public bodies. [150151]

Jane Kennedy: The gender equality duty is a legal obligation on public authorities which came into force in April 2007. It is not applicable to tax policy.

Taxation: Care Homes

Natascha Engel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to enable the cost of residency in a care home to be set against the tax liability of the payer; and if he will make a statement. [149847]

Jane Kennedy: Since the introduction of the National Assistance Act 1948 people have had to contribute towards the cost of their residential care. The Department of Health is committed to providing affordable care for all who need it, but those who can afford to are asked to pay.

Taxation: Invalid Vehicles

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether mobility scooters are to be classified as leisure vehicles and will be liable to extra import duty and VAT if manufactured outside the EU; and if he will make a statement. [149877]

Jane Kennedy: Electric mobility scooters have been classified in the same tariff heading for customs purposes as some leisure vehicles, since at least 2002 when the World Customs Organisation published its 'Classification Opinion' on the subject. The World Customs Organisation is the international authority responsible for tariff classification. The European Union has set an import duty of 10 per cent. for these vehicles.

VAT and Customs are separate regimes. Classification for import duty purposes under the Customs regime has no direct bearing on VAT liability, which is determined by VAT law.

For VAT purposes, mobility scooters for disabled people may qualify for the zero-rating that can apply to equipment specifically designed to meet their needs. The Government have no plans to change the scope of this VAT relief.

Following industry representations officials from HM Revenue and Customs are advising the industry on the options available to pursue a change to this classification.

Departments: Taxation

Tim Loughton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his policy is on treating employee assistance programmes as taxable benefits; [151073]

(2) what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues in the Department of Work and Pensions on taxation of employee assistance programmes operated for that Department's staff. [151074]

Jane Kennedy: All benefits in kind provided by employers to their employees are chargeable to tax unless covered by a specific exemption. Employee assistance programmes are not normally tax exempt as they often include taxable benefits in kind.

Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

VAT

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the extended verification by HM Revenue and Customs on Pars Technology Ltd, Unit 4, Newmarket Court, Chippenham Drive, Kingston, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK10 0AQ (vat number 608 7403 41) to be completed; what assessment he has made of the financial impact on the company of the time taken to complete this verification; and if he will make arrangements for interest to be paid on the amount owed to the company. [150775]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC has a statutory duty of confidentiality which restricts the use and disclosure of the information it holds relating to the tax affairs of individuals, companies and other bodies.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Human Trafficking

15. **Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Solicitor-General what progress has been made by the Crown Prosecution Service on improving prosecution rates in cases of alleged human trafficking. [150579]

The Solicitor-General: The CPS is working to improve the number of prosecutions, and the number of offences prosecuted under human trafficking legislation is increasing year-on-year. Together with other Departments, the CPS is implementing the UK Action Plan on trafficking which should improve prevention, investigation, enforcement and prosecution.

BAE Systems Inquiry

18. **John Barrett:** To ask the Solicitor-General what discussions she has had with the Attorney-General, the Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on the request for co-operation with the US Department of Justice's BAE Systems corruption inquiry; and if she will make a statement. [150582]

The Solicitor-General: The Home Office, which has central authority for these purposes, has received a request for mutual legal assistance from the United States in connection with its investigation. That request will be considered in the usual way.

Transnational Bribery

19. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many cases of alleged transnational bribery are being investigated by the Serious Fraud Office. [150583]

The Solicitor-General: The Serious Fraud Office is currently investigating 11 cases where there are allegations of transnational bribery, as well as fraud. It is not possible for operational reasons to give details of all these cases, but they include an investigation into Energy Financing Team Ltd. in Bosnia, an investigation into Kellogg Brown and Root in connection with Nigeria and a number of other countries, an investigation into the construction of the Unesco-financed Biblioteca Alexandria in Egypt and an investigation into reinsurance involving the National Insurance Institute in Costa Rica. A number of other cases are currently being considered for investigation in the vetting process.

Prosecutions

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Solicitor-General if she will make a statement on the role of the Law Officers in relation to the conduct of prosecutions. [150578]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers have a statutory duty to superintend the main prosecution authorities. That duty incorporates the expectation that we will be briefed on all serious or sensitive cases. During the period of consultation on the role of the Attorney-General we will not make any key decisions in individual criminal cases unless national security or the law requires it.

Prosecutions: Smoking

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions have been brought for breach of the smoking ban; and if she will make a statement. [150814]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

Although data are not yet available from enforcement authorities, the Department understands that due to high compliance there have not been any prosecutions brought in England for any of the offences set out in Part 1, Chapter 1 of the Health Act 2006.

The Department will routinely publish data on levels of compliance with smokefree legislation. The first report will be published in August 2007 on the Smokefree England website at:

www.smokefreeengland.co.uk.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Packaging Waste

9. **John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what action the Government are taking to reduce packaging waste; and if he will make a statement. [150597]

Joan Ruddock: Encouraged by this Government, all the major retailers have agreed to reduce the amount of packaging they use.

Marine Bill

10. **Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to publish a draft marine Bill. [150598]

Hilary Benn: It is the Government's intention to publish a draft marine bill in the next parliamentary Session, probably in early 2008. The Government remain committed to meeting their manifesto commitment of delivering a marine Act in this Parliament.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Badgers

11. **Dr. Palmer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the Independent Scientific Group's report on badgers. [150600]

12. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the final report of the Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB and the efficacy of a badger cull in tackling this disease. [150601]

Jonathan Shaw: We have already made clear that we are grateful to the ISG for their work on the randomised badger culling trial. We welcome their final report which further improves the evidence base. We are carefully considering the issues that the report raises, and will continue to work with industry, Government advisers and scientific experts in reaching policy decisions on these issues.

Bovine Tuberculosis

13. **Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to reduce cattle-to-cattle transmission of bovine tuberculosis. [150602]

Jonathan Shaw: Reducing cattle to cattle transmission of bovine TB is crucial to achieving our aim of reducing TB in cattle overall and preventing its spread into new areas. We have introduced zero tolerance of overdue tests, pre-movement testing of cattle from high risk herds, extended the use of the gamma interferon test alongside the TB skin test and produced updated advice on husbandry best practice. We will continue to consider how these measures might be strengthened, taking account of the recommendations in the final report from the Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB.

Agriculture: Education

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to assist the education of school children in the West Midlands in nature and farming. [150081]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 18 July 2007]:* My Department is committed to helping all school children in England learn more about food and farming in a sustainable countryside. DEFRA provides approximately £1 million a year in payments to farmers who provide schools with free educational visits to their farms as part of their agri-environment scheme agreements. In addition, in the current financial year, DEFRA will provide £146,000 to support the Countryside Educational Visits Accreditation Scheme (CEVAS), which provides training to farmers who provide educational access visits. This amounts to 50 per cent. of the scheme's funding.

DEFRA has worked closely with the Department for Education and Skills (now the Department for Children, Schools, and Families), the Department of Health, and other stakeholders to support the Year of Food and Farming in education. This is a campaign to promote healthy living by giving children direct experience of food, farming and the countryside. It is an industry-led initiative, fully endorsed by Government, which will run throughout the academic year, September 2007 to July 2008. DEFRA has contributed financial support amounting to £130,000 to develop the programme. In addition, DEFRA has lent a member of staff to the Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE) to work on the initiative.

Agriculture: Land Use

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has conducted into the relative efficiency, in terms of land use, of producing organic and non-organic crops. [150114]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 18 July 2007]:* DEFRA has not funded research specifically to look in overall terms at the relative efficiency, in terms of land use, of producing organic and non-organic crops. However, the following DEFRA-funded projects involve some element of comparison between organic and conventional farming:

OFO 145/301—Testing the sustainability of stockless arable organic farming on a fertile soil

OF0165—Factors influencing biodiversity within organic and conventional systems of arable farming

OFO 319/OFO 326—Sustainable organic hill and upland farming—A collaborative case study approach

OFO 370—Farm practice and soil health

OFO 189/OFO 190/OFO 373—Economics of organic farming

Further information on these projects can be found on the research pages of the DEFRA website.

Agriculture: Single Payment Scheme

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many claimants he estimates will receive interest on their 2006 Single Farm Payments for sums paid after 30 June 2007; what he estimates the total amount of interest paid will be; and if he will make a statement. [148725]

Jonathan Shaw: The Secretary of State reported to the House on 2 July that about 2,900 claimants under the 2006 Single Payment Scheme had received a partial payment and were due a payment of the outstanding balance. In addition, the RPA had yet to complete work on about 2,000 claims to determine whether a payment is due in each case and the amounts of such payments. As the Secretary of State announced, the RPA will pay interest on payments made after 30 June. However, the Agency is not able to provide a robust estimate of the amount of interest due until the work on the outstanding cases has progressed.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made by the Rural Payments Agency in the implementation of the Single Payment Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [150592]

Hilary Benn: I reported progress on the Single Payment Scheme to the House on 2 July. The Rural Payments Agency continues to work on the remaining SPS 2006 claims. However, most of the Agency's resources have been switched to reviewing SPS cases where entitlements may need to be adjusted.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take to tackle the silo mentality identified in the Eves Review on animal health and welfare within his Department. [149664]

Jonathan Shaw: In his review of the Animal Health and Welfare delivery landscape, David Eves made wide-ranging recommendations. The need for greater co-ordination is a significant issue, leading to the recommendation for a pivotal role for Animal Health (formerly the State Veterinary Service). DEFRA accepts his recommendations and has considered how to act on them with Animal Health and Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services in particular. Animal Health is developing a lead role in co-ordinating Animal Health and Welfare delivery. At the same time, Animal Health is conducting, with local authority representatives, a review of the efficacy of the current delivery arrangements.

We have now begun consultation on our proposed approach to take these issues forward. The consultation is available on the DEFRA website and will run until 14 September 2007.

Animals: Transport

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to establish a uniform checking procedure for animals entering the UK by air, sea and rail; and what the reason is for the different procedure for those arriving by air. [150171]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 July 2007]:* European legislation requires that commercially imported animals from third countries are checked at Border Inspection Posts. In the UK, all live animal Border Inspection Posts are at airports. Commercial imports from other EU member states may be checked at the point of destination but this is not required.

All non-commercial imports of pet dogs, cats and ferrets into the UK are subject to the same identity and paperwork checks required under pet travel rules. Pets arriving by sea and rail are usually checked at the point of embarkation. Pets entering by air are checked when they enter the country for logistical reasons.

Biofuels

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with local community councils and Action for Communities in Rural England on the potential impact of a substantial take-up by farmers of energy bio-crops on rural communities. [149414]

Jonathan Shaw: I have held no specific discussions with Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) on this subject.

Energy crops can make a valuable contribution to Government's climate change and overall sustainability objectives, by cutting greenhouse gas emissions, reducing dependence on fossil fuels and stimulating economic activity in rural areas.

The recently published UK Biomass Strategy provides a framework for a major expansion in the sustainable use of biomass as a source of electricity, heat and power, and to make transport biofuels and

renewable materials for industry. It estimates that there is potential to use up to 350,000 hectares of land across the UK by 2020 to grow perennial energy crops, without any detrimental effect on food supplies. This would provide important opportunities for agriculture and land based sectors and those involved throughout the bioenergy supply chains.

Government will establish appropriate environmental safeguards to deliver an expansion of biomass production in a sustainable way. Crops planted under DEFRA's Energy Crops Scheme are already subject to an environmental assessment before planting to include landscape, archaeology and wildlife considerations.

We will continue to work with stakeholders, including farming, industry and environmental interests as well as regional bodies and local community groups to deliver the policies set out in the Biomass Strategy.

Biofuels: South West Region

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the changes to the use of land in South West England in the last five years; and what estimate he has made of the change in the amount of land used for energy bio-crops. [149663]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows agricultural land use in South West England in the last five years.

	Arable	*Other arable*	*Set aside*	*Grass*	*Woodland*	*Horticulture*	*Rough grazing*
2006	29,3987	9,354	57,764	1,148,977	69,882	11,809	90,826
2005	29,7628	7,234	62,324	1,104,922	66,965	12,549	90,117
2004	32,0963	5,084	65,110	1,077,265	62,684	11,781	94,706
2003	31,2656	4,168	75,537	1,072,491	59,886	12,907	91,538
2002	33,6270	3,343	66,997	1,027,766	59,922	12,669	98,505

The next table shows the amount of land used to produce bio-energy crops in the South West of England in the last five years. The land represented in this table has been used to grow short rotation coppice and miscanthus under the energy crops scheme and oil seed rape under the EU energy aid payment scheme.

	Land (hectares)
2006	2,396.82
2005	1,631.44
2004	84.41
2003	0
2002	0

In addition to these figures there has been 158 hectares of miscanthus planted in the region under the European Objective One programme which ran from 2000 to 2006. Unfortunately a yearly breakdown of this figure is not available.

Carbon Emissions: Publicity

Mr. Bailey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to increase awareness and understanding of the impact everyday actions have on carbon dioxide emissions and to help people to identify what they can do about it. [150589]

Hilary Benn: We support a considerable amount of work to help individuals think about the impacts of their behaviours. As part of our Act on CO_2 campaign, we recently launched a web-based CO_2 calculator which allows people and households to find out their CO_2 footprint and receive a tailored action plan.

Coastal Areas: Access

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take to make access to coastal lands available to walkers. [150604]

Jonathan Shaw: On 19 June we issued 'Consultation on proposals to improve access to the English coast'. It seeks views on a number of different options to improve access including the proposal to allow Natural England to designate a 'coastal access corridor' allowing people to enjoy unbroken access to the coast. A decision on which approach to take will be made following the consultation.

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people in his Department have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for (i) inappropriate use of the internet while at work and (ii) using work telephones to access premium rate telephone numbers in the last 12 months. [149193]

Jonathan Shaw: No officers have been disciplined or dismissed in the last 12 months for either inappropriate use of the internet while at work or for using work telephones to access premium rate telephone numbers.

The policy on IT misuse is included in the Department's 'Golden Rules of Office Working' which are detailed on the staff intranet. The Department has blocks placed on the telecoms system preventing access to premium rate telephone numbers.

EAGA: Contracts

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will urgently investigate the reasons why Eaga have suspended their contract with J and L National Energy Saver Ltd. [149809]

Mr. Woolas: My officials have commissioned White Young Green, the independent quality assessors for the Warm Front scheme, to undertake a review of the circumstances surrounding the suspension of work allocation to J and L National Energy Saver Ltd.

This will ensure that it has been carried out in accordance with Eaga's contractual obligations. The review is due for completion in mid-August.

Environment Agency: Equal Opportunities

David Lepper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what proportion of people with disabilities employed by the Southern Regional Office of the Environment Agency have left employment within one year of joining. [149544]

Mr. Woolas: As required by the Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005, Environment Agency applicants are invited to declare if they have a disability, however this is entirely voluntary.

170 staff are employed by the Environment Agency in its Southern Regional Office. In the last 12 months 27 staff have left the Environment Agency. They did not declare themselves as being disabled.

David Lepper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms are in place in the Southern Regional Office of the Environment Agency to recruit and retain *(a)* people with disabilities and *(b)* people from a black or minority ethnic background; and if he will make a statement. [149545]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency's Southern Regional Office complies with the national diversity policy and actively seeks to improve its recruitment and selection process to fully represent the population it serves.

Farms

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's most recent estimate is of the number of farms in the UK, broken down by region. [150082]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 18 July 2007]:* Numbers of registered holdings by region in England at June 2006 are shown in the following table. Figures for the other UK countries fall under the jurisdiction of the devolved authorities.

Region	*Number of holdings*
North East	6,922
North West	23,437
Yorkshire and the Humber	21,599
East Midlands	21,573
West Midland	26,211
East of England	22,679
London	531
South East	26,335
South West	51,094
England	200,381

Source:
June Agricultural Survey

Fisheries: EU Law

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to the UK of implementing the European rules on the electronic recording and reporting of fishing activities; and if he will make a statement. [150460]

Jonathan Shaw: Fisheries Departments estimate that the capital costs to central Government will be approximately £90,000 for the purchase of equipment needed to receive the data messages sent by fishermen. In addition about £280,000 will be needed for the costs of developing the software needed to process the data.

Costs to industry cannot yet be quantified but are expected to be low. Discussions with information technology (IT) developers tell us that those with existing on-board systems should only need to make minor changes. For those without suitable equipment the estimated costs are in the region of £1,000-£1,500 per vessel to install the required equipment. Transmission costs are estimated at £0.60-£2.00 per message depending on the communication means used, with annual transmission costs per vessel estimated at around £147-£525.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the European rules on the electronic recording and reporting of fishing activities to be fully implemented; and if he will make a statement. [150464]

Jonathan Shaw: We expect this to be 1 January 2009 for the submission of electronic sales notes by buyers and sellers and 1 July 2009 for the submission of electronic logbooks and landing declarations by vessels over 24 metres in overall length and 1 January 2011 for the submission of electronic logbooks and landing declarations by vessels over 15 metres in overall length. These dates are included in the current proposed Commission Regulation on the implementing rules for electronic recording and reporting of fishing activities.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* his European counterparts and *(b)* the fishing industry on the implementation of the European rules on electronic recording and reporting of fishing activities; and if he will make a statement. [150465]

Jonathan Shaw: Initial discussions were held at ministerial level during November council last year when the council regulation was agreed. Since then discussions on the detailed implementing rules have been held between member states.

My officials have circulated copies of the proposed implementing rules to licence holders of vessels over 10 metres in overall length and registered buyers and sellers of first sale fish. There have also been meetings held with individuals and companies responsible for auction sales in Plymouth and Newlyn and representatives of the NFFO to discuss the possible implications of the proposal. Further discussions will take place once the detailed rules have been agreed.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has estimated the *(a)* cost and *(b)* benefits of introducing EU rules for the remote sensing of fishing vessels in UK fisheries. [150471]

Jonathan Shaw: There will be an initial cost to Government of about £40,000 to allow the integration of remote sensing images with other monitoring data. The cost for an individual Satellite Image Radar picture is between £450-£1,100.

Remote sensing of fishing vessels is not a stand alone enforcement tool and must be used along side other resources like satellite monitoring records, aerial and surface surveillance means. It can nevertheless lead to increased effectiveness in the deployment of those resources and could be particularly useful in monitoring remote closed areas. This will however need to be considered on a case-by-case basis and only used, as the Council Regulation states, where there is clear evidence of a cost benefit in relation to the traditional control means in the detection of fishing vessels operating illegally.

Fisheries: Subsidies

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps *(a)* have been taken and *(b)* are planned to ensure that fishing industry stakeholders are (i) informed about and (ii) included in the management of the European Fisheries Fund. [150090]

Jonathan Shaw: The four Fisheries Administrations in the UK have consulted with fishing industry stakeholders on the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) National Strategic Plan, and have also held a number of coastal meetings to inform them of proposals. Fisheries Administrations aim to consult on the EFF Operational Programme later this year. The extent to which industry and other stakeholders are involved in the management of the fund will be decided following that consultation.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what timetable has been set for the *(a)* programming and *(b)* commencement of the European Fisheries Fund in the UK. [150091]

Jonathan Shaw: We aim to consult on the European Fisheries Fund Operational programme later this year. The date that the first applications for grant will be accepted will be announced following the consultation.

Floods

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will assess the effectiveness of pumps in pumping stations during the recent flooding of Hull, Doncaster, Sheffield and other areas. [148952]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by the Secretary of State to the House on 2 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 689, when he said that if there are lessons to be learnt, we will need to learn and apply them. We are finalising the terms of a full lessons learned exercise across all those with responsibility for managing and responding to flooding. This will consider all the relevant issues raised in the course of recent events.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on measures to assist those affected by recent flooding. [150603]

Mr. Woolas: I have received many representations from individuals and organisations on this important issue. My hon. Friend the Minister for Local Government is leading Government efforts to assist those in the flooded areas in their efforts to return to normality as soon as possible.

Oil: Storage

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he intends to review the effectiveness of the Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001. [150401]

Jonathan Shaw: The Environment Agency is currently reviewing the number of reported oil pollution incidents since the regulations were introduced across England, looking at the incidents from exempt and non-exempt oil stores.

Their analysis will inform consideration of whether the regulations need to be strengthened to further reduce the numbers of oil pollution incidents where no downward trend is in evidence. The Agency intends to publish its findings in the autumn.

The Environment Agency is also working with industry and trade associations to address the most common causes of oil pollution highlighted by the 2005 Oil Care Campaign report on Analysis of Inland Oil and Fuel Incidents in England and Wales.

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure egg production complies with animal welfare requirements. [150072]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 July 2007]:* There is specific legislation in place to fulfil EU obligations to ensure the welfare of laying hens kept for egg production. In addition there is a DEFRA welfare code providing detailed guidance specifically on laying hens.

Animal Health (formerly the State Veterinary Service), enforces this animal welfare legislation and conducts a regular programme of inspections on farms to check the welfare of poultry. The Egg Marketing Inspectorate (now part of Animal Health) also takes note of any welfare concerns during its inspection of premises in respect of Egg Marketing Regulations.

Animal Health investigates all complaints and allegations about poor welfare on-farm and takes appropriate action, which may include a recommendation to prosecute. The Government give priority to such

complaints and allegations from, for example, private veterinary surgeons, welfare organisations and members of the public. We do not hesitate to take action against anyone failing to comply with the law.

Rural Areas

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of procedures in place in his Department for the rural proofing of new policies. [150831]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government as a whole 'rural proof' their policies and programmes. This involves considering their potential impact on rural areas and, where appropriate, adjusting them to meet the needs of rural people better.

We have established the Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) to be an adviser to Government on rural affairs and to independently monitor how policies are meeting rural needs. The CRC's latest monitoring report, published in October 2006, includes encouraging evidence of rural proofing but also concludes that there is room for improvement. My Department is working with CRC and with other Government Departments to review the rural proofing process and will contribute to the next progress report later this year.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to disrupt the supply of illegal drugs originating from *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* South America to the United Kingdom. [147302]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) contributes directly to the delivery of the UK's National Drugs Strategy by supporting efforts to disrupt the supply of illicit drugs to the UK. Preventing the importation of heroin from Afghanistan and cocaine from Latin America into the UK is a top priority for our international efforts. We engage with countries along the main trafficking routes from Afghanistan, especially Pakistan, Iran, Turkey and the Balkans, and Latin America, especially the Caribbean and West Africa, as well as with the producer countries. Our overseas posts provide the operational base for the Serious Organised Crime Agency's overseas work, which acts to support the law enforcement activity of partner agencies.

The UK works closely with host Governments to support action to disrupt trafficking, seize consignments of illicit drugs, and their financial proceeds, and ensure effective prosecution of offenders. We help to build capacity amongst the region's law enforcement agencies and judiciary with the provision of legal drafting, law enforcement and prosecution training and equipment. We work closely with other partners including the EU and US to maximise effect.

The UK is working with the Afghan Government and the international community to bring about a sustainable reduction in the cultivation, production and trafficking of opium in Afghanistan. We are spending £270 million over three years in support of the Afghan Government's National Drug Control Strategy and its four priorities—targeting the trafficker, strengthening and diversifying legal rural livelihoods, reducing demand and developing state institutions. Some £2.7 million of FCO funds has been allocated to Afghan regional capacity building since 2005, as well as bilateral funding for Pakistan and Iran of nearly £1 million.

In addition £6 million of Home Office funds is being spent on procurement of two helicopters for use by the Pakistan anti-narcotics force, as announced by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer on 8 March 2006.

The UK also devotes considerable resources within the Latin American region to combat the trafficking of cocaine to the UK. Through its Global Opportunities Fund, the FCO has allocated £1.7 million since 2005 to specific projects to support counter-narcotics efforts in the Latin American region. For the current financial year, a sum of £647,000 has been allocated.

Conflict Prevention: Finance

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which projects and programmes are being funded by the Conflict Prevention Pools; and if he will make a statement. [149999]

Dr. Howells: The Conflict Prevention Pools were established in 2001-02 to bring together defence, diplomatic and development activity aimed at long-term conflict prevention. Jointly owned and managed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Defence and Department for International Development, they aim to improve the Government's conflict prevention work through joint analysis, strategy planning and project programming, and better co-ordination with international partners.

The Global Conflict Prevention Pool currently funds programmes in Afghanistan (including a separate Afghanistan counter-narcotics programme), the Balkans, Caribbean, Latin America, Indonesia/East Timor, India/Pakistan, Iraq, Middle East/North Africa, Nepal, Russia/Commonwealth of Independent States and Sri Lanka. It also funds three thematic strategies aimed at building international conflict prevention capacity: security sector reform, small arms/light weapons and UN.

The Africa Conflict Prevention Pool funds bilateral assistance to a range of countries throughout sub-Saharan Africa, working with African and other international bodies to reduce the incidence and effects of conflict at continental, regional and country levels in Africa. Significant achievements include strong and influential relationships being built with key continental and national actors in the emerging African peace and security architecture. High quality training and other support is being provided to strengthen African capacity for peace support operations and to encourage the professionalism of African armed forces. Country programmes are making innovative contributions to peace-building and post conflict stabilisation work.

I will arrange for a full list of the programmes and projects funded by the Conflict Prevention Pools to be placed in the Library of the House.

Departments: Arabic

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what proportion of his Department's staff held an Arabic language qualification in each year since 2000. [150554]

Dr. Howells: There are 230 Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff with an Arabic language qualification at various levels recorded on the FCO management information system. This is around 6 per cent. of the total number of diplomatic service staff. The figure does not include staff employed locally. Using success in the internal FCO Arabic exam at Operational or Extensive level as a measure of fluency, 70 staff acquired fluency in Arabic between 2000 and 2006. Other staff serving in Arabic-speaking posts will have retained fluency from previous use of the language. Five staff will complete Arabic Operational training in 2007 and a further 14 in 2008. We would expect the overall number of Arabic speakers in the diplomatic service to increase as we continue to train staff and target hard language skills, including Arabic, at recruitment and inward transfer. We will also be encouraging staff to return to the region to reuse existing language skills.

In order to provide a year on year breakdown of language qualifications we would need to extract both the start and end dates of the qualification. This information was not mandatory on the previous management information system and any breakdown would not provide a true reflection of the total number of staff that held the qualification.

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people in his Department have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for (i) inappropriate use of the internet while at work and (ii) using work telephones to access premium rate telephone numbers in the last 12 months. [149192]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Since April 2006 one member of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff has received an official warning for accessing the Internet for private use and for making personal overseas calls from an office extension. No FCO staff have been dismissed for either inappropriate use of the internet while at work or for using work telephones to access premium rate telephone numbers in the last year.

Departments: Early Retirement

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his staff took early retirement in the last five years; at what cost; what grades of staff took early retirement; and what percentage of each grade took early retirement. [148815]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The following table sets out the number of officers in each grade who have taken early retirement from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) since 2002 and the total cost per annum of their compensation.

			Grades					
	Total cost to FCO (£)	*SMS*[1]	*D7*	*D6*	*C5*	*C4*	*B3*	*A2/1*
2002-03	2,518,387	11	2	3	7	1	1	—
2003-04	3,666,088	21	1	3	5	1	2	—
2004-05	7,692,646	22	5	6	7	9	13	6
2005-06	18,158,682	37	8	19	27	34	21	26
2006-07	11,269,250	33	1	8	15	13	9	5

[1] SMS is the Senior Management Structure.

We are unable to supply the information requested about early retirements as a percentage of staff in each grade as we do not hold this data in our records for years up to 2005.

It is our policy to do all we can to avoid compulsory redundancies. But, following the 2004 Spending Review, we have carried out a restructuring exercise to realise efficiency savings. This early retirement programme will enable us to reduce the size of the SMS in the FCO by 18 per cent. by 31 March 2008.

All payments to early retirees have been calculated and paid in strict accordance with the terms of the standard Civil Service Compensation Schemes. The aforementioned total costs listed include both compensation and early payment of pension sums, some of which would have been payable to these staff whenever they retired.

Departments: Middle East

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many London-based departmental staff were assigned to working primarily on *(a)* the Middle East excluding Iraq and *(b)* Iraq in each year since 2000. [150553]

Dr. Howells: The following table shows the total number of London-based departmental staff working primarily on the Middle East from the financial years 2000-01 to 2007-08. We keep staffing levels under constant review against operational requirements and available resources.

Financial year	Middle East	Iraq
2000-01	45	[1]—
2001-02	46	[1]—
2002-03	49	[1]—
2003-04	51	26
2004-05	52	33
2005-06	51	35
2006-07	44	35
2007-08	39	29

[1] From financial year 2000-01 to 2002-03 Iraq fell under the wider Middle East and North Africa Directorate. Due to changes in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's management information systems over this period, it is not possible, without incurring disproportionate cost, to distinguish staff who worked on Iraq from those working in the wider directorate

Departments: Ministerial Red Boxes

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Ministerial red boxes his Department bought in each of the last five years; what the cost of each was; who the suppliers were: and what tendering process was used in selecting them. [150479]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information requested by the hon. Member is only available for years 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

	Number of boxes	Total value (£)
2004	0	0
2005	[1]8	3,600
2006	[2]6	2,900
2007	1	490

[1] Two separate orders
[2] Three separate orders

The requirements for these boxes are infrequent and are satisfied through single source procurement strategy with Barrow and Gale. There is no current long-term contract in place. During 2004 the opportunity was taken to market test the prices and those provided by Barrow and Gale were found to provide the best value on price and quality.

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants within his Department's areas of responsibilities in the last 12 months. [149045]

Meg Munn: Both in the UK and overseas, staff are paid subsistence to compensate for the additional costs of being away from home on official duty. Subsistence covers the cost of a room in a typical hotel, and the costs of meals and other incidentals. Each post has a different daily subsistence rate depending on local economic conditions There is no automatic entitlement to subsistence in the UK.

Current electronic data in the UK show that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office spent the following on hotel accommodation between April 2006 and June 2007:

		£
Dates from and to	UK	Overseas
April 2006-March 2007	60,429.15	686,213.40
April 2007-June 2007	8,469.75	86,522.68

However, this information is subject to the following caveats:

the figures use the date the expense was incurred, rather than the submission date;

the figures shown are only those where total expenditure has been paid; and

the figures provided are only those held in the UK. Posts overseas may also have paid individually for accommodation during this period, but our systems are not able to separate out the sums spent by overseas posts on overnight accommodation from other travel expenses.

Departments: Postal Services

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what volume of correspondence his Department sent *(a)* by Royal Mail and *(b)* by other commercial delivery services in each of the last five years; and what the reasons were for the use of other commercial delivery services. [150447]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) correspondence sent by Royal Mail is not tracked by volume.

FCO correspondence sent to diplomatic missions overseas is dispatched in the diplomatic bag by commercial delivery services. Volumes for each of the last five financial years are as follows:

April to March each year	Kilos
2002-03	407,576
2003-04	384,214
2004-05	362,109
2005-06	341,537
2006-07	332,622

The FCO's current principal overseas mail service provider won an open Government tender in 2005 on the basis of geographical reach and value for money. Royal Mail did not tender.

Diplomatic Service

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK-based departmental staff there were at the British Embassy in *(a)* Egypt, *(b)* Jordan and *(c)* Israel in each year since 2000, broken down by grade; and how many such staff there were at the British Consulate General in Jerusalem in each such year, broken down by grade. [150550]

Dr. Howells: The following table shows the total number of UK based staff at the British embassies in Egypt, Israel and Jordan from the financial years 2000-01 to 2006-07. We are not able to disclose a breakdown of the grades of the staff working in these posts for security reasons. We keep staffing levels under constant review against operational requirements and available resources.

Financial year	Egypt	British Consulate-General Jerusalem	Israel	Jordan
2000-01	30	11	18	20
2001-02	35	11	18	20
2002-03	28	11	17	19
2003-04	27	12	16	15
2004-05	30	13	12	19
2005-06	26	11	12	20
2006-07	28	13	12	20

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK-based departmental staff there were at the British Embassy in *(a)* Syria, *(b)* Lebanon and *(c)* Iraq in each year since 2000, broken down by grade. [150551]

Dr. Howells: The following table shows the total number of UK based staff at the British embassies in Iraq, Lebanon and Syria from the financial years 2000-01 to 2006-07. We are not able to disclose a breakdown of the grades of the staff working in these posts for security reasons. We keep staffing levels under constant review against operational requirements and available resources.

Financial year	Iraq	Lebanon	Syria
2000-01	0	7	12
2001-02	0	7	12
2002-03	0	7	13
2003-04	7	9	13
2004-05	35	9	11
2005-06	42	12	14
2006-07	40	12	12

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK-based departmental staff there were at the British Embassy in *(a)* Saudi Arabia, *(b)* United Arab Emirates and *(c)* Iran in each year since 2000, broken down by grade. [150552]

Dr. Howells: The following table shows the total number of UK based staff at the British embassies in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Iran from the financial years 2000-01 to 2006-07. We are not able to disclose a breakdown of the grades of the staff working in these posts for security reasons. We keep staffing levels under constant review against operational requirements and available resources.

Financial year	Iran	Saudi Arabia	UAE
2000-01	21	34	27
2001-02	22	33	27
2002-03	24	29	29
2003-04	22	28	30
2004-05	22	25	27
2005-06	23	28	29
2006-07	27	28	31

EU External Relations: Entry Clearances

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the merits of joining the Russia-EU visa facilitation agreement. [150784]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The EU strategy on visa facilitation does not apply to the UK and Ireland, given our non-participation in Schengen and the common visa policy. We are under no obligation to conclude a similar agreement. The UK considers approaches for visa facilitation independently from EU proposals.

EU Reform: Treaties

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the criteria are for triggering the holding of a referendum on proposals for change to the treaty base of the EU; and if he will make a statement. [149756]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The treaty establishing a constitution for Europe, on which the Government proposed a referendum, is now defunct. The mandate for a Reform treaty agreed by the European Council states clearly:

"The constitutional concept, which consisted in repealing all existing Treaties and replacing them by a single text called "Constitution", is abandoned".

The UK's only ever national referendum was on European Economic Community membership in 1975. The Reform treaty will be an amending treaty in the tradition of Maastricht, Amsterdam and Nice— none of which were subject to a referendum in this country.

European Union: Conferences

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to attend the EU-Africa Summit in Portugal in December 2007. [149104]

Meg Munn: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave her today (UIN 149746).

European Union: Treaties

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on proposals for a treaty reforming the legal basis of the European Union. [149528]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has held discussions with the Portuguese presidency and other EU partners on many issues, including EU institutional issues.

Hamas

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what account he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take of the Hamas charter in assessing Hamas's suitability as a partner for peace in the middle east; what recent representations he has received on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [150948]

Dr. Howells: There are parts of the Hamas charter which are clearly unacceptable to the UK. I have made clear we will engage with those who are committed to a two-state solution through peaceful negotiations.

We have received no recent representations on the charter.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent instructions he has given to *(a)* officials and *(b)* his diplomatic representatives on contacts with Hamas in (i) the west bank and (ii) Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [150949]

Dr. Howells: Our Consul-General in Jerusalem met Ismail Haniya (former Hamas Prime Minister) and Ghazi Hamad (Hamas spokesperson) to discuss the Alan Johnston kidnapping. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have also held meetings with Ghazi Hamad in London to discuss the same consular case. No other issues were discussed.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent proposals have been put to Iranian representatives by the EU High Representative on modalities for the opening of negotiations on Iran's nuclear programme. [148962]

David Miliband: The EU High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, has had a number of meetings in recent months with his Iranian interlocutor, Supreme National Security Council Secretary Dr. Ali Larijani, most recently in Lisbon on 23 June. In those meetings, he has consistently reiterated to the Iranians that the E3+3 (UK, France, Germany, Russia, China and US) are prepared to enter into negotiations with them on the basis of the "elements of a long term agreement", annexed to UN Security Council Resolution 1747 (March 2007). We regret that Iran continues to refuse to suspend its proliferation-sensitive nuclear activities, as requested by the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors as a confidence-building measure and made mandatory by the UN Security Council, which would open the way for those negotiations to begin.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the *(a)* construction and *(b)* purpose of a tunnel facility near the Natanz uranium enrichment complex in Iran; and if he will make a statement. [149628]

David Miliband: We are aware of media reports about new tunnel construction at a mountain adjacent to the Natanz facility. The International Atomic Energy Agency are aware of the tunnel and we understand the Iranians have told the Agency that they will provide information on its purpose, although we have not received confirmation from the Agency that they have done so yet.

Iraq: Drugs

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the level of opium production in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [149364]

David Miliband: While the current security environment makes it difficult to make an accurate or comprehensive assessment, we are not aware of any significant opium production in Iraq. According to the UN Office for Drugs and Crime World Drugs reports for 2006 and 2007, Iraq does not feature as a producer of opium.

Lesotho: Elections

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the outcome of the elections in Lesotho in 2007; and if he will make a statement on the political situation in Lesotho. [149419]

Meg Munn: The ruling Lesotho Congress for Democracy party won by a sizeable majority in an election process that we and independent observers deemed largely free and fair. But legal challenges by opposition parties are still ongoing and we do have concerns about sporadic incidents of violence which followed, directed at both Government and Opposition figures. Both Government and Opposition parties alike, now need to engage in dialogue to bring about a peaceful solution.

Our non-resident high commissioner, who resides in Pretoria, visited most recently on 3 July when he encouraged all sides to enter fully into the Southern African Development Community-backed mediation process headed by former President Masire of Botswana. We continue to monitor the situation closely, through our high commission in Pretoria and in London with the Lesotho high commissioner, who officials met most recently on 27 June.

Moldova: Foreign Relations

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take to improve bilateral relations with the Republic of Moldova; and if he will make a statement. [150532]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We continue to encourage Moldova to implement the reforms set out in the jointly agreed European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan, which was launched in February 2005. In this context, the Government strongly support efforts to promote economic and political reforms, aimed at bringing Moldova closer to EU standards. During my right hon. Friend the then Minister for Europe's (Mr. Hoon) recent trip to Moldova, he made clear that the UK will continue to work closely with Moldova and help to focus their efforts on implementing the action plan and its successor.

The Government have contributed £5.5 million as part of a multi-donor fund towards the Early Transition Countries initiative managed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in support of the bank's investment and business advisory operations in the seven low-income countries of Central Asia, South Caucasus and Moldova.

The Department for International Development's overall aid framework for Moldova is £2.7 million for 2006-07. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office funds small grassroots level projects under the Global

Opportunities Fund (£124,000 for 2007-08). The EU has provided assistance to Moldova totalling over €253 million (since 1991), including technical assistance under the Technical Aid to the Commonwealth of Independent States programme.

All of these activities are reinforced by the high level meetings referred to in the reply I gave to the hon. Member today (UIN 150533).

Occupied Territories: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what Government policy is on the proposal put forward by 10 EU Foreign Ministers for an international force to patrol the Palestinian territories; and if he will make a statement. [149630]

David Miliband: We are concerned about the security situation in Gaza. However, any international force would need the full support and agreement of all parties concerned.

Official Visits: Moldova

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what preparations he plans to make in response to the visit of the President of Moldova to the United Kingdom later in 2007; what *(a)* events and *(b)* meetings are planned; and if he will make a statement. [150533]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We are looking at future opportunities for inward visits from Moldova from senior figures including the President of Moldova. The timing of the president's visit, however, has not yet been confirmed. It would be inappropriate to comment, therefore, on the tentative arrangements made thus far.

The UK enjoys a constructive relationship with Moldova and welcomes further co-operation between the UK and Moldova both bilaterally and within the EU. Over the last year, we have welcomed many high profile visitors to the UK, particularly Moldovan Ministers and parliamentarians. The Speaker of the Moldovan Parliament, Dr. Marian Lupu, visited the UK in February last year for meetings with Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials. Valeriu Ostalep, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integration visited the UK in July 2006, while the Minister of Defence, Valeriu Plesca, visited the UK in September 2006, meeting with, among others, my noble Friend the Minister of State for Defence, Lord Drayson. My right hon. Friend the then Minister for Europe (Mr. Hoon), met President Voronin and other senior figures during his visit to Moldova in February this year, and met the First Deputy Prime Minister, Mrs. Zinaida Grecianîi on her visit here last November.

Pakistan: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of reports that the Government of Pakistan has relaxed the conditions of AQ Khan's house arrest; and whether he has made representations to the Government of Pakistan on this subject. [148959]

David Miliband: We have noted recent press reports that some of AQ Khan's house arrest restrictions have been eased and our high commission in Islamabad has raised this with the Pakistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). The MFA has assured us that there has been no change in AQ Khan's status and their official spokesman has also denied the suggestion.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of Palestinian Authority employees in Gaza who will receive salary remittances via restored EU funding through the Temporary International Mechanism. [148958]

David Miliband: 30,000 Palestinian Authority (PA) employees in Gaza currently receive allowances under the Temporary International Mechanism.

On 18 June, EU Foreign Ministers discussed the resumption of assistance to the PA. They concluded that the EU should develop the conditions for urgent practical and financial assistance. The EU has not yet decided how this will be delivered and is discussing options with the PA. These options include funding for private sector arrears and allowances for other PA workers. We expect the EU to announce its decision in the next few weeks.

Palestinians: Migration

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of Palestinians who have left Gaza since 12 June as a result of the violence and change in administration there; and if he will make a statement. [148961]

David Miliband: We have made no estimate of the number of Palestinians who have left Gaza since 12 June. However, the Palestinian Centre of Human Rights estimates that 600 Palestinians have tried to leave Gaza for the west bank since 12 June. On 16 and 17 June, Israeli authorities allowed approximately 150 Palestinians to travel to the west bank. The Israeli authorities also allowed a few Palestinian patients to travel to Israel to receive medical treatment through the offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Portugal: EU-Africa Summit

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy not to attend the EU-Africa Summit in Portugal in December if Robert Mugabe is present at the summit. [149746]

Meg Munn: No decision on this has been taken since invitations have not yet been issued for the summit. It is not clear whether the Portuguese intend to invite Foreign Ministers as well as Heads of State and Government. We have made clear to EU and African partners that we believe that the presence of Robert Mugabe would undermine the summit's important agenda.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on whether the EU Common Position banning travel in the EU by members of the Government of Zimbabwe permits the attendance of Robert Mugabe or other members of the Government of Zimbabwe at the EU-Africa Summit in Portugal in December. [149747]

Meg Munn: Article 4(5) of the EU Common Position of Zimbabwe 2004/161/Common Foreign and Security Policy lists the circumstances under which an individual listed in the annex as subject to a visa ban may be granted an exemption from the ban. This includes attendance at intergovernmental meetings, included those promoted by the EU, where a political dialogue is conducted that directly promotes democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Zimbabwe. If a member state proposes to grant an exemption, this will be decided according to the procedure in article 4(6). At present, no proposal has been made in connection with the EU-Africa summit.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the *(a)* African Union and *(b)* the Southern African Development Community on the attendance of Robert Mugabe and other representatives of the Government of Zimbabwe at the EU-Africa Summit in Portugal in December 2007. [149103]

Meg Munn: We continue to make clear in our contacts with African leaders, including the African Union and the Southern African Development Community, that Robert Mugabe's attendance at the EU-Africa summit is undesirable and would undermine the summit's important work on issues of mutual concern such as peacekeeping and security, climate change, good governance and poverty reduction in Africa.

Rainforests: Conservation

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to international institutions on the protection of the Congo rainforest. [150175]

Meg Munn: The Government maintain a regular dialogue with the World Bank, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Government to help develop innovative forest management and financing systems that provide alternatives to industrial logging. The Department for International Development-funded Roundtable Review is bringing together the World Bank, international NGOs and other key actors in a constructive dialogue to shape the future of the DRC's forests in a way that benefits the people of the DRC. The Government have pledged a US$500,000 contribution to the Multi-Donor Trust Fund to improve forest governance which will enable us to work with the World Bank, the EU, France and Belgium who are all key international players with important roles to play in support of the DRC's forests. And the UK's contribution of £50 million for the Congo Basin Initiative will support the important work to protect the Congo basin forests and the livelihoods of those who depend on them.

Saudi Arabia: BAE Systems

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received from the US Administration requesting details of the inquiry into the Al Yamamah contract. [148693]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has received no such representations.

Sudan: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 217W, on Sudan: peacekeeping operations, whether it is UK policy that the forthcoming UN Security Council resolution mandating the deployment of the AU-UN hybrid force should include provision for a no-fly zone and enhanced air monitoring in Darfur. [148976]

David Miliband: We are considering a number of measures to improve air monitoring in Darfur. Such measures will not be included in the UN Security Council Resolution that we are currently preparing with other Security Council members. This resolution will mandate the UN elements of the joint African Union (AU)/UN peacekeeping force for Darfur, as set out in the report produced by the AU and UN and presented to the Government of Sudan in Addis Ababa on 12 June. Copies of this report are available in the Library of the House.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 218W, on Sudan: peacekeeping operations, how many African troops the UN is seeking to source for the AU-UN hybrid force; how many African countries have indicated their willingness to supply troops; and when a decision on whether to begin sourcing non-African troops would be made. [148977]

David Miliband: The African Union and UN have agreed that the hybrid force should include up to 19,555 troops. The UN will source troops from non-African countries if there are not sufficient African troops available. The formal process of force generation will be carried out by the UN's Department of Peacekeeping Operations, once a UN Security Council Resolution has been passed mandating the force.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what preparations the Government are involved in to ensure that forthcoming elections in Sudan are adequately monitored by international representatives. [149984]

Meg Munn: While preparations for the 2008-09 elections are under way, we and other donors are concerned that the elections process is behind schedule.

We are pushing all sides, including our international partners, to ensure that they implement their commitments, including on elections, under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement as quickly as possible. We have taken the initiative to develop a joint donor strategy to co-ordinate support for the elections, including the need for effective election monitoring. We are pressing the UN to lead on election monitoring work. The EU has not yet indicated what its role will be in respect of election monitoring.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funding he has made available to the different political parties operating in Sudan to assist their preparations for elections in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [149985]

Meg Munn: The UK is providing technical assistance and capacity building activities to support the major political parties in the Sudan in preparing for the 2008-09 elections. We are currently funding a 30-month project implemented by a consortium led by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance of Sweden. The project budget of £550,000 covers workshops to train party representatives in democratic principles, the elections process, the representation of women and minorities and how to run election campaigns.

We are considering options to expand the political parties training project to a larger number of parties in both the north and south and to fund media training on election reporting.

Uganda: Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his answer of 9 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1300W, on Uganda: Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference, whether British police officers will be present during the Commonwealth meeting; and if he will make a statement. [149947]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I refer the hon. Member to my written reply to him on 9 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1300W. British police officers will be present in Uganda during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

Uganda: Elections

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1300W, on Uganda: politics and government, what reports he has received on the likelihood of President Museveni contesting elections in 2011; and if he will make a statement. [149518]

Meg Munn: The Ugandan Parliament voted in 2005 to lift the constitutional two-term limit, to allow incumbents to serve an unlimited number of terms. We have not received any confirmed reports about whether President Museveni intends to stand in the 2011 elections.

Uganda: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Uganda on the recent treatment of Dr. Kizza Besigye, leader of the Opposition. [150453]

Meg Munn: We have not made any recent representations to the Government of Uganda specifically about Dr. Besigye. We do, however, closely monitor the People's Redemption Army trial in which Besigye is a defendant and are pushing for a swift and fair conclusion of the legal process. In the course of our regular dialogue with the Government of Uganda, we continue to press them, including at senior political level, on all aspects of engaging with the Opposition and further developing multi-party democracy.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Adoptions: Appeals

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many adoptions were challenged by the birth parent in each of the last three years. [151069]

Kevin Brennan: Statistical information for the years 2003-05 on the number of contested and uncontested adoption orders which were granted in England and Wales is included in Table 6.3 in the Statistics Series 'Marriage, divorce and adoptions', Volume FM2, published by the Office for National Statistics. A copy of this publication is available in the House Library and on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/FM2no32/FM2 32.pdf

Statistics for 2006 have not yet been published.

Children's Centres

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Sure Start children's centres there were in England in each year from 1996-97 to 2006-07; and what estimate he has made of the likely number of such centres in each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11. [149114]

Beverley Hughes: Sure Start Local Programmes (SSLPs) were established before children's centres, with 524 set up between 1999 and 2003. The first table gives cumulative figures for SSLPs open in each financial year across this period:

	Number of Sure Start Local Programmes
1999-2000	51
2000-01	142
2001-02	259
2002-03	445
2003-04	524

The first Sure Start children's centres were opened in June 2003, and the following table shows cumulative figures across each financial year up to 2007-08. The figures include former SSLPs as the vast majority of these have taken on children's centre status over this period.

	Number of Sure Start Children's Centres (including those that were initially SSLPs)
2004	65
2005	226
2006	836
2007	1,262
2008	[1]2,500

[1] Forecast based on progress towards Government target.

There are currently 1,337 children centres, and the Department is on course to achieve its target of 2,500 by 2008. The Government have set a national target of 3,500 centres by 2010, but projected figures for the final phase (2008 to 2010) cannot be given for individual years as local authority planning for these centres is at a very early stage.

Departments: Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what target his Department has been set by HM Treasury as part of the comprehensive spending review settlement announced in the 2007 Budget for efficiency savings over the period covered by the review. [148918]

Ed Balls: How the current target for efficiency savings will be divided between the newly created Departments for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) we will set out our efficiency target in due course.

Departments: Targets

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which departmental targets will transfer to his Department from the former Department for Education and Skills. [149139]

Ed Balls: My Department is responsible for the following PSA targets, each of which were agreed between the former Department for Education and Skills and HM Treasury as part of the 2004 spending review:

1. Improve children's communication and social and emotional development so that by 2008, 53 per cent. of children reach a good level of development at the end of the foundation stage and reduce inequalities between the level of development achieved by children in the 30 per cent. most disadvantaged super output areas and the rest of England by four percentage points from 16 per cent. to 12 percent (joint with the Department for Work and Pensions);

2. As a contribution to reducing the proportion of children living in households where no one is working, by 2008: increase the stock of Ofsted-registered childcare by 10 per cent.; increase the number of children in lower-income working families using formal child care by 120,000; and introduce by April 2005, a successful light-touch child care approval scheme (joint with the Department for Work and Pensions);

3. Reduce the under-18 conception rate by 50 per cent. by 2010 as part of a broader strategy to improve sexual health (joint with the Department of Health);

4. Halt the year-on-year rise in obesity among children under 11 by 2010 in the context of a broader strategy to tackle obesity in the population as a whole (joint with the Department of Health and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport);

5. Narrow the gap in educational achievement between looked-after children and that of their peers; and improve their educational support and the stability of their lives so that by 2008 80 per cent. of children under 16 who have been looked after for two and a half or more years will have been living in the same placement for at least two years, or are placed for adoption;

6. Raise standards in English and mathematics so that: by 2006, 85 per cent. of 11-year-olds achieve level 4 or above, with this level of performance sustained to 2008; and by 2008, the proportion of schools in which fewer than 65 per cent. of pupils achieve level 4 or above is reduced by 40 per cent.

7. Raise standards in English, mathematics, ICT and science in secondary education so that: by 2007, 85 per cent. of 14-year-olds achieve level 5 or above in English, mathematics and ICT (80 per cent. in science) nationally, with this level of performance sustained to 2008; and by 2008, in all schools at least 50 per cent. of pupils achieve level 5 or above in English, mathematics and science;

8. Improve levels of school attendance so that by 2008, school absence is reduced by 8 per cent. compared to 2003;

9. Enhance the take-up of sporting opportunities by five to 16-year-olds so that the percentage of school children in England who spend a minimum of two hours each week on high quality PE and sport within and beyond the curriculum increases from 25 per cent. in 2002 to 75 per cent. by 2006 and to 85 per cent. by 2008, and to at least 75 per cent. in each School Sport Partnership by 2008 (joint with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport);

10. By 2008, 60 per cent. of those aged 16 to achieve the equivalent of five GCSEs at grades A*-C; and in all schools at least 20 per cent. of pupils to achieve this standard by 2004, rising to 25 per cent. by 2006 and 30 per cent. by 2008;

11. Increase the proportion of 19-year-olds who achieve at least level 2 by three percentage points between 2004 and 2006; and a further two percentage points between 2006 and 2008, and increase the proportion of young people who achieve level 3;

12. Reduce the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) by two percentage points by 2010.

Education: Local Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the likely impact of structural changes to local government on education. [146458]

Beverley Hughes: The decision as to which proposals for unitary local authorities should proceed to stakeholder consultation reflected the collective decision of Government. All the 26 unitary proposals that were received in response to the invitation issued on 26 October 2006 were assessed against the five criteria set out in that invitation. The 16 unitary proposals that have been subject to the stakeholder consultation will now be reassessed against the same five criteria, having regard to all the information available, including that received in response to the consultation.

Family Courts: Counselling

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of family disputes were *(a)* successfully mediated, *(b)* unsuccessfully mediated and *(c)* not mediated for (i) publicly funded cases, (ii) privately funded cases and (iii) cases in which only one party was publicly funded in each of the last five years; [150033]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of effects on costs of increasing the number of mediated cases in family disputes for both publicly and privately funded cases; and if he will make a statement. [150034]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The Ministry of Justice only have figures for publicly funded mediations. The National Audit Office (NAO) report "Legal aid and mediation for people involved in family breakdown" published in April 2007 found that only 20 per cent. of people who are funded by legal aid for family breakdown currently opt for mediation. The figures for the last five years are as follows:

	Total number of mediations	*Successful mediations reaching agreement (percentage)*	*Number of mediations that broke down (percentage)*
2002/03	13,841	56	44
2003/04	14,290	60	40
2004/05	14,355	57	43
2005/06	14,128	60	40
2006/07	13,889	66	34

In relation to cases where only one party is legally aided, this data could be obtained only at disproportional cost to the LSC. However, in compiling their report, the NAO did analyse LSC data for the period between October 2004 and March 2006 and found that where one party was publicly funded no agreement was reached in 43 per cent. of cases, compared to 40 per cent. of cases where both parties were publicly funded.

With regard to the assessment of savings, the Legal Services Commission has done some initial work on this, but is currently considering the NAO recommendations and finalising the action plan which may include some assessment of projected savings to the legal aid budget.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effects on children in family disputes that have been resolved through *(a)* mediation and *(b)* the courts; and if he will make a statement. [150160]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is as follows.

Mediation

The Government believe that mediation can offer considerable advantages over going to court in the settling of family disputes, especially where children are involved.

A survey was carried out by the Office for National Statistics in 2002. The survey indicated parents who made their own arrangements for children following relationship breakdown were far more satisfied than when the courts ordered arrangements. The policy aim is to increase the proportion of parents making arrangement for themselves. Mediation is one way of helping these parents.

The provisions of the Children and Adoption Act 2006 will enable the court to direct parties in child contact disputes to attend a meeting about mediation. Referrals will also be encouraged through changes to court rules and forms, particularly in relation to disputes over children.

The National Audit Office Report on legal aid and family mediation published in March 2007 was supportive of family mediation and concluded mediation could resolve cases significantly more quickly and could also reduce legal aid costs. However, it did not include a specific evaluation of effects on children.

Courts

The Ministry of Justice (then DCA) has commissioned various pieces of research, which considered the effect on children in family disputes that have been resolved through the courts.

A report by Liz Trinder published in March 2006, evaluated the process and effectiveness of in-court conciliation in contact cases as well as the relative effectiveness of three different models of in-court conciliation. In-court conciliation is another way to help parents reach agreement themselves.

In September 2006, the consultation paper on the Separate Representation of Children was published. The consultation considered how to provide better outcomes for children whose parents are separating and to safeguard their interests in section 8 Children Act 1989 proceedings when their parents have turned to the courts to decide where the child shall live, and who the child should see. It also considered the question of judges and magistrates speaking directly to children to help them obtain an informed picture of the case. The consultation ended on 8 December and a response is due to be published shortly.

Nursery Schools: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of children of nursery school age were in nursery education in *(a)* Castle Point and *(b)* Essex in each of the last five years. [150068]

Ed Balls: The available information is shown in the tables.

Table 1: Number of three and four-year-olds benefiting from free early education places and the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds, Castle Point parliamentary constituency area, position in January each year

	Number of children benefiting from some free early education	*Part-time equivalent funded places filled*	*Part-time equivalent funded places filled per 100 children in the population*
2004	1,900	1,600	91
2005	1,800	1,600	90
2006	1,800	1,500	n/a
2007	n/a	n/a	n/a

n/a = Not available.
Notes:
1. ONS population estimates are aggregated to age groupings of at least five years. Figures based on a single year of age at the sub-national level are therefore of limited reliability.
2. A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
3. Prior to 2004, information on early education places was derived from returns made by local authorities as part of the Nursery Education Grant (NEG) data collection exercise. These data were collected at local authority level, therefore, data at parliamentary constituency area are not available.

Table 2: Number of three and four-year-olds benefiting from early education places and the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds, Essex local authority area, position in January each year

	Number of children benefiting from some free early education	*Part-time equivalent funded places filled*	*Part-time equivalent funded places filled per 100 children in the population*
2003	n/a	26,600	85
2004	31,300	26,700	87
2005	30,800	26,300	88
2006	30,200	26,000	88
2007	30,600	26,400	88

n/a = Not available.
Notes:
1. ONS population estimates are aggregated to age groupings of at least five years. Figures based on a single year of age at the sub-national level are therefore of limited reliability.
2. A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 19/2007 "Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2007", available on my Department's website

www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/.

The population estimates for the number of times three and four-year-olds in both Castle Point parliamentary constituency and Essex local authority indicate reduction over the periods shown in the tables.

Parents as Partners in Early Learning Project: Finance

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what total budget has been allocated to the Parents as Partners in Early Learning project; [150745]

(2) if he will list the schemes which have received funding under the Parents as Partners in Early Learning project. [150744]

Beverley Hughes: A total of £9 million has been allocated in 2007-08 to support local authorities in developing and disseminating approaches to working effectively with hard-to-reach parents to support their children's early learning and development. We do not hold a list of individual schemes. The 41 authorities which have received funding to support a range of projects in their area is set out as follows:

Birmingham
Nottingham
Kingston-upon-Hull, City of
Lancashire
Bristol, City of
Wakefield
Bradford
Haringey
Greenwich
Manchester
Hackney
Lewisham
Liverpool
Kirklees
Newcastle upon Tyne
Newham
Nottinghamshire
Dudley
Leeds
Waltham Forest
Islington
Kent
Doncaster
Cumbria
Tower Hamlets
Leicester
Blackburn with Darwen
Sandwell
Barking and Dagenham
Barnsley
Durham
Middlesbrough
Plymouth
Sheffield
Lambeth
Thurrock
Derbyshire
Coventry
Torbay
Southwark
Stoke-on-Trent

Pupils: Mental Health

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest estimate is of the number of school age pupils who have been prescribed drugs for *(a)* depression, *(b)* behaviour control and *(c)* mental health problems in each year from 1996-97 to 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [149151]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

Information is not available on the number of school-aged children who have been prescribed medication for depression, behaviour control or other mental health problems. However, data are available on the number of prescriptions dispensed to children under 16 years and those aged 16 to 18 years in full time education.

Antidepressant drugs are classified under British National Formulary (BNF) section 4.3.

BNF 4.3: Antidepressant drugs

Financial year	Items under 16	Items 16 to 18 in full time education
1996-97	78,353	92,569
1997-98	86,796	109,862
1998-99	83,070	108,846
1999-2000	86,152	104,256
2000-01	99,299	119,645
2001-02	112,914	130,887
2002-03	119,566	144,331
2003-04	104,733	144,607
2004-05	94,905	122,246
2005-06	107,965	107,268
2006-07	109,535	103,023

Drugs for behaviour control are classified under BNF section 4.4: Central Nervous System (CNS) stimulants and drugs used for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. This section also contains Modafil which is used for daytime sleepiness associated with chronic pathological conditions including narcolepsy, obstructive sleep apnoea syndrome, and chronic shift work.

BNF 4.4: CNS stimulants and drugs used for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

Financial year	Items under 16	Items 16 to 18 in full time education
1996-97	48,264	2,058
1997-98	86,247	3,388
1998-99	112,294	4,596
1999-2000	144,894	7,698
2000-01	171,244	7,873
2001-02	200,202	9,225
2002-03	247,115	11,935
2003-04	289,009	17,218
2004-05	338,909	24,906
2005-06	379,334	31,694
2006-07	454,797	40,339

Drugs for mental health problems are classified in BNF section 4.2: Drugs used in psychoses and related disorders.

BNF 4.2: Drugs used in psychoses and related disorders

Financial year	Items under 16	Items 16 to 18 in full time education
1996-97	19,466	25,038
1997-98	21,368	27,807
1998-99	22,666	22,484
1999-2000	22,494	18,242
2000-01	26,187	19,338
2001-02	27,299	18,332
2002-03	35,089	19,666
2003-04	38,687	23,695
2004-05	47,340	27,502
2005-06	59,834	26,002
2006-07	66,961	29,954

Notes:

1. PCA data: Prescription information is taken from the Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system, supplied by the Prescription Pricing Division (PPD) of the Business Services Authority (BSA), and is based on a full analysis of all prescriptions dispensed in the community, i.e. by community pharmacists and appliance contractors, dispensing doctors, and prescriptions submitted by prescribing doctors for items personally administered in England. Also included are prescriptions written in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man but dispensed in England. The data do not cover drugs dispensed in hospitals, including mental health trusts, or private prescriptions.
2. Prescription items: Prescriptions are written on a prescription form. Each single item written on the form is counted as a prescription item.
3. Exemption category estimates: The exemption data are identified from the box ticked on the back of the prescription form and rely on the form being completed correctly which may not always be the case. Information for categories that are not required to pay a charge (e.g. children) is based on a one in 20 sample of all exempt prescriptions dispensed by community pharmacists, appliance contractors and dispensing doctors. The information we have is therefore an estimate and subject to sampling errors. Children are defined as 0 to 15-year-olds, and as 16 to 18-year-olds in full-time education.
4. Dispensing doctors: Data up to 2000 are not strictly comparable with data from later years. Up until September 2000 only patients having their prescriptions dispensed by the community pharmacists and appliance contractors were required to complete the back of the prescription form, but from October 2000 this requirement was extended to patients of dispensing doctors. Therefore data prior to October 2000 do not include prescriptions dispensed by dispensing doctors.
5. BNF classifications: The Prescription Cost Analysis system uses the therapeutic classifications defined in the British National Formulary (BNF). No information on why a drug is prescribed is available and since drugs can be prescribed to treat more than one condition it is impossible to separate the different conditions that a drug was prescribed for.

Schools: Compensation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what total amount of compensation claims was made against schools in the last 12 months; and if he will list the 10 highest such claims, identifying the nature of each case. [148184]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect this information.

Teenage Pregnancy

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the rate of conception in young people under the age of 18 years was in each of the last 10 years. [150776]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 19 July 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the rate of conception in young people under the age of 18 years was in each of the last 10 years. I am replying in her absence. (150776)

Available figures are estimates of the number of conceptions that resulted in a live birth, stillbirth or legal, termination.

The number and rate of conceptions to girls aged under 18 for England and Wales, 1996 to 2005 (the most recent year for which figures are available), are shown in the attached table. Figures for 2005 are provisional.

Conceptions by age: number and rate for England and Wales, 1996-2005[1]

	Under 18	
	Number	*Rate*[2]
1996	43,489	46
1997	43,358	46
1998	44,119	47
1999	42,028	45
2000	41,348	44
2001	40,990	43
2002	41,951	43
2003	42,162	42
2004	42,198	42
2005[1]	42,187	41

[1] Figures for 2005 are provisional.
[2] Rate per 1,000 females aged 15 to 17.

Teenage Pregnancy Unit

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what budget was allocated to the Teenage Pregnancy Unit in each year since 2000; and what budget has been allocated to the unit for the next three years; [150777]

(2) what projects are being undertaken by the Teenage Pregnancy Unit; [150778]

(3) how many civil servants are working for the Teenage Pregnancy Unit; and what their job descriptions are; [150779]

(4) what percentage of teenage *(a)* mothers and *(b)* fathers were in education, training or employment in each of the last 10 years. [150780]

Beverley Hughes: The budget allocated to support delivery of the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy since its launch in 1999 is provided in the following table. The table identifies separately the amounts spent on: local implementation (paid through a local implementation grant to each top-tier local authority in England); and the amount retained by the Teenage Pregnancy Unit (TPU) to pay for aspects of the strategy that are best managed centrally, such as funding for the national media campaign. Budgets for the next Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) period have not yet been fixed.

£ million

Financial year	*Local implementation*	*Central costs*	*Total*
1999-2000	4.5	0.5	5
2000-01	11.5	4.5	16
2001-02	16	5	21
2002-03	16	5	21
2003-04	[1]33	7	40
2004-05	[1]33	7	40
2005-06	[1]33	5	38
2006-07	29.5	5.5	35
2007-08 (provisional)	29.5	5.5	35

[1] Budgets in years 2003-04 to2005-06 included funding for the Sure Start Plus pilots

The main priorities for the TPU over the last 12 months have been: to deliver the 'national level' commitments set out in 'Teenage Pregnancy Next Steps: Guidance for Local Authorities and Primary Care Trusts on Effective Delivery of Local Strategies'—designed to accelerate progress towards our target to halve the under-18 conception rate by 2010; and to develop a strategy to improve outcomes for teenage parents and their children, which will be published shortly.

There are currently five civil servants who work in the TPU. Their job titles are:

1. National Programme Manager
2. National Policy Manager
3. National Support Manager
4. Support for Local Implementation
5. Admin Officer

No data are available on the proportion of teenage fathers in education, employment or training (EET). The proportion of teenage mothers aged 16-19 in EET has increased from an average of 23.1 per cent. for the period 1997-99, to an average of 29.2 per cent. for the period 2004-06.

Young People: Unemployment

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many 16 to 24 year olds in Gravesham are not in employment, education or training. [149995]

Beverley Hughes: We estimate from data provided by the Connexions Service that 2,970 16-18 year olds were not in education, employment or training (NEET) in the Kent local authority area at the end of 2006. This information cannot be broken down for the Gravesham area. Equivalent information is not available for 19-24 year olds.

Data provided by Connexions services are used to set and monitor local authority NEET targets. However, it should be noted that figures are necessarily calculated on a different basis from that used in the Department's estimate for the national target; the national figure is a proportion of all young people whereas the local figures cover only those known to the Connexions Service.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Companies: Renewable Energy

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what incentives his Department has put in place to encourage local businesses to support the use of renewable energy in their offices and factories. [150610]

Malcolm Wicks: The Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 1 with a budget of £36 million over three years provides capital grants for the installation of microgeneration to households, schools, social and local authority housing, businesses, charities and the public sector. Further information on the programme can be found at www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk

The Renewables Obligation (RO) is the Government's key mechanism for supporting new renewable generation and by 2010 it will be worth around £1 billion per year in terms of support to the renewables industry. It requires licensed electricity

suppliers to source a specific and increasing percentage of their sales from renewable sources. Eligible renewable generators receive one Renewable Obligation Certificate (ROC) for each 1 MWh of electricity generated. However, to encourage more renewable generation from a wider range of sources, the Government are proposing to change the RO so that renewable technologies are awarded differentiated levels of support, for example, offshore wind could receive 1.5 ROCs/1 MWh and wave 2 ROCs/1 MWh. The Government are currently consulting on these proposals.

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what criminal offences have been created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department's predecessor since October 2006. [149597]

Mr. Thomas: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much *(a)* biogas derived from waste digestion processes, *(b)* methane recovered from mine workings and *(c)* methane recovered from landfill was produced in the last 12 months. [149942]

Malcolm Wicks: In 2005, the latest year for which statistics are currently available, the following quantities were used:

	Thousand tonnes of oil equivalent
Biogas from waste digestion processes	4.6
Colliery methane	65.1
Landfill gas	1,420.8

Source:
Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics, 2006

Internet: Terrorism

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to regulate the hosting of websites which contain information on bomb-making. [149239]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* This is a matter of concern across Europe. The European Commission has indicated that it will propose amending the Framework Decision on combating Terrorism to criminalise the incitement to terrorism and the intentional transmission of information useful to terrorism, such as bomb-making instructions. A conference was held by the European Commission in March to discuss these proposals, at which officials from the Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office participated. Government officials continue to be engaged in discussions.

There are provisions in the Terrorism Act 2006 to cover the hosting of websites which contain information on bomb-making. Under section 1, it is an offence to publish a statement that is likely to be understood as encouraging terrorism. Under section 2, it is an offence to disseminate a terrorist publication. These offences could cover the act of making available information on bomb-making on a website if the elements of the offences are satisfied.

In addition, sections 3 and 4 of the Act establish an internet 'Notice and Takedown' procedure under which those such as content providers, editors and hosts of websites can be served with a notice requiring them to remove from public view or amend material which is considered to be unlawfully terrorism-related.

Where the position of those who host websites is concerned, the Electronic Commerce Directive (Terrorism Act 2006) Regulation 2007, which implements the Electronic Commerce Directive in relation to the Terrorism Act, provides that where a host has actual knowledge that it is hosting unlawful terrorism-related material and it has failed to take down the material expeditiously on acquiring such knowledge, it may be liable under the Terrorism Act.

Postal Services: Scotland

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with Scottish Ministers on the determination of access criteria for postal services in deprived and vulnerable communities in Scotland. [149987]

Mr. McFadden: The Secretary of State for Scotland was a member of MISC33, the Ministerial Committee that agreed Government's response to consultation, announced on 17 May 2007.

Retail Trade: Small Businesses

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the merits of providing incentives and funding to support the economic viability of independent town centre retailers. [151078]

Mr. Timms: No such assessment has been made. The Government are working in partnership with the retail industry to address issues of concern to all parts of the sector and create the conditions for its success. Independent retailers also have access to a full range of business support available to companies through the Business Link service.

Shops: Community Development

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if his Department will take steps to safeguard the role played in local communities by independent locally-run shops. [148965]

Mr. Timms: The Government recognise the importance of small and independent shops to vibrant and sustainable communities. We are also aware that there are concerns over the future of small and independent shops, particularly in the face of competition from large retailers. The Competition

Commission currently has an inquiry underway into the grocery market, and is expected to publish its report in February 2008, well within the statutory deadline.

Small retailers can access the same support and advice as any small business. Driven forward by my Department's Enterprise Directorate, we are continuing to improve and build on the delivery of services through the Business Link brand. Business Link provides the information, advice and support needed to start, maintain and grow a small business.

In addition, the Government's Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI), which is sponsored by this Department, the Department for Communities and Local Government, and HM Treasury, is seeking to boost the local economies of England's most disadvantaged communities through enterprise development and investment. LEGI provides local institutions and communities with the authority and freedom to best determine local needs, options and solutions for enterprise development, which can include any that may be identified around local retail development.

Solar Power: Heating

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, what proportion of residents use solar water heating systems in England. [150619]

Malcolm Wicks: The former DTI commissioned the Energy Saving Trust to carry out a study into the potential for microgeneration that was completed in November 2005. As part of the study, industry estimated that there had been 78,270 solar water heating system installations in the UK as at March 2005. Further information can be found at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file27558.pdf

Tidal Power: Severn Estuary

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to commission an independent strategic evaluation of the options for exploration of tidal power in the Severn; and if he will make a statement. [150985]

Malcolm Wicks: A study of 'Tidal Power in the UK' currently under way and led by the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) working together with my Department, Welsh Assembly Government, the devolved Administrations and the South West Regional Development Agency is looking in some detail at the issues arising on tidal power.

The study will provide a strategic, independent and evidence-based consideration of all the environmental, social and economic aspects of and options for tidal power both in the Severn estuary and the wider UK from a sustainable development perspective.

The final report is expected to be published in September and will help inform any future consideration of these issues. Further details of the study can be seen at

www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/tidal.html.

Utilities: Fees and Charges

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with Ofcom on the review of utility bill charges for people who do not pay by direct debit. [150759]

Mr. Timms: None, but my ministerial predecessor the right hon. Member for Barking (Margaret Hodge) raised the matter with the chief executive officer of the Office of Communications (Ofcom), the independent regulator. Ofcom announced on 6 June that it will carry out a full review of communications providers' additional charges. Ofcom expects to announce the conclusions of its review in the autumn and progress may be monitored on its website www.ofcom.org.uk

The review will cover charges for non-direct debit payments, as well as other additional charges including late payment, restoration of service and early termination fees. It will cover fixed and mobile operators, and pay TV services. Ofcom will look at the nature and level of charges levied by communications providers and how well signposted and transparent such charges are. It will investigate how far consumers are aware of additional charges, whether they are able and willing to shop around on the basis of core prices and additional charges rather than just core prices, and whether there are certain groups of consumers who are unable to do this and therefore may be disadvantaged.

On investigating this issue, it has become clear that it would be wrong to look at BT in isolation. More than 40 per cent. of homes are provided with telephony services by operators other than BT, and the differentials for payment by non-direct debit range from no extra charge to £15 a quarter. Some providers provide no payment option other than direct debit.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will discuss with the Secretary of State for Transport extending the network of automatic number plate recognition cameras. [149607]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* Automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) is an established technology that the police use to identify vehicles of interest through pattern recognition software. It is used to target terrorism, serious and organised crime, volume crime (such as burglary) and some vehicle documentation offences (for example, uninsured driving and road tax evasion). Police officers using the technology are achieving a significantly higher arrest rate and offences brought to justice rate when compared to conventional policing methods. The recent terrorist incidents in London and Glasgow demonstrated the usefulness of ANPR as an intelligence and analysis tool.

The Government have invested over £32 million to support the deployment of ANPR for traffic and wider policing purposes. A number of other public

organisations also use the technology, for example to support traffic management and congestion charging. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is in regular contact with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on matters of shared interest, including roads policing and enforcement and the role of technology in this and wider security matters. We will ensure that any benefits to engage criminality that can be derived from the use of the ANPR network will be balanced against the need to safeguard human rights and the privacy of individuals.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of alerts from the automatic number plate recognition system were found to be in error in each year since 2004. [150573]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 18 July 2007]:* Police forces conduct rigorous pre and post-sales inspections of all ANPR equipment technology with the manufacturers to ensure for the long-term accuracy and reliability of the equipment.

The proportion alerts from automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) systems found to be erroneous in each year since 2004 is not held centrally. However, the Home Office Police Standards Unit's evaluation 'Driving Crime Down—Denying Criminals the Use of the Road', published in October 2004, said that

"feedback from the forces was that the ANPR systems were extremely accurate—anecdotal evidence that fewer than one in 25 reads were incorrect—this virtually eradicated stopping vehicles where ANPR reader had misread the vehicle registration mark(VRM)".

Border and Immigration Agency: Finance

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the total cost was of establishing the Immigration and Nationality Directorate as the Border and Immigration Agency; [149764]

(2) what the cost was of redesigning the Immigration and Nationality Directorate website, www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk, for the new Border and Immigration Agency; and whether external consultants were involved in the redesign. [149765]

Jacqui Smith: The transition to Agency status of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate is a continuing project. It is expected that the transition to shadow Agency status will be delivered within the current resources available to the Department.

The redesign of the website www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk did not incur any extra costs as the work was done by an in-house developer.

Crimes of Violence: Alcoholic Drinks

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government are taking to tackle binge drinking-related violent crime. [150484]

Mr. Coaker: 'Safe, Sensible, Social—next Steps for the national Alcohol Strategy' published on 5 June 2007 builds on the progress made and lessons learned in tackling binge drinking and violent crime since the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England was published in 2004. The renewed Strategy includes sharpened criminal justice for drunken behaviour, more help for people who want to drink less, local alcohol strategies and a public information campaign to promote a sensible drinking culture. In addition, we will continue to make full and better use of existing laws and licensing powers to bear down on irresponsibly managed bars, pubs, and off licenses. The Government have also introduced provisions in the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006, which include Alcohol Disorder Zones, and Directions to Leave to help support the police and local authorities in tackling alcohol related crime and disorder.

Cryptography: Orders and Regulations

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to lay the statutory instrument relating to encryption under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. [150110]

Mr. McNulty: The statutory instrument relating to encryption, the draft Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Investigation of Protected Electronic Information: Code of Practice) Order 2007, was laid before Parliament on 14 June and considered in Committee on 17 July. Subject to parliamentary approval of the report from Committee, the relevant Commencement Order will be laid. The effect of both Orders will be to commence the provisions of Part 3 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 on 1 October and to bring into force a statutory code of practice relating to the exercise of those provisions on the same day.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the latest figures are for the number of people with exceptional leave to remain who have applied for indefinite leave to remain and whose cases are awaiting a decision. [149921]

Mr. Byrne: Specialist casework teams in the Border and Immigration Agency are dealing with about 2,000[1] cases which represent the identified applications not yet decided. A stocktaking exercise is in progress to match data records to files and to identify any cases still requiring a decision held in other parts of the Border and Immigration Agency. Statistics for these cases need verification.

[1]Figures rounded to the nearest 25 as of 10 July 2007. The above data is not provided under the National Statistics protocols. It has been derived from local management information and is therefore provisional and subject to change.

Immigration Controls: Uniforms

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which organisation designed the uniform for border security staff for the pilot programme; whether the same uniform will be used for the full roll-out of the programme; and what the cost was of commissioning the uniform design for *(a)* the pilot and *(b)* the full roll-out. [149770]

Jacqui Smith: Alexandra plc. was selected to design the uniform worn by front-line border control staff during the pilot.

The cost of the uniforms pilot was £18,192.55 plus VAT. Following evaluation of the uniforms pilot, minor amendments were made to the design and the fabrics of the uniform to be rolled out.

The cost element of designing the new uniform was incorporated in the total cost of the uniform. The final costs for roll out of uniforms to border control front-line operational staff and the cost element of designing the new uniform cannot be finalised until the supplier has assessed and actioned the total number of orders.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will reply to the letters of *(a)* 2 July, *(b)* 14 June and *(c)* 11 May 2007 from the hon. Member for Woking on Mr. Everet West (HO ref. B17322/7). [150827]

Mr. Byrne: A reply was sent to the hon. Member's office by the Border and Immigration Agency on 17 July.

Minister for the West Midlands

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions the Minister for Borders and Immigration has had with her on the amount of time away from her Department which will be required following his appointment as Minister for the West Midlands. [150726]

Jacqui Smith: I meet regularly with each of my ministerial team to discuss both their portfolios and the policy and operational issues which arise from them.

Police: Databases

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many records were held on the Police National Computer in each of the last 10 years. [147757]

Jacqui Smith: The following table shows the number of records held in the Names database on PNC. This includes Arrests, Convictions, Disqualified Drivers, Wanted and Missing.

There are other databases on the PNC: Property, Vehicles and Drivers. The records for the last two databases originate from the databases at the DVLA.

Persons records

As of 1 January each year	*Number*
1996	5,466,471
1997	5,538,843
1998	5,689,967
1999	5,926,646
2000	6,135,889
2001	6,114,860
2002	6,143,693
2003	6,268,543
2004	6,300,632
2005	6,462,801
2006	6,788,811
2007	7,321,300

Police: Eastern Region

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding has been allocated to the police per head of population in *(a)* Suffolk and *(b)* the East of England for 2007-08. [150542]

Mr. McNulty: The Government do not distribute grant to police authorities purely on the basis of population. The police funding formula uses a range of data relating to demographic and social characteristics to reflect the relative needs of each authority. Grant allocations also take into account the relative tax base of each authority. Grant allocations are stabilised by damping to limit year-on-year variations.

The information requested is set out in the following table.

Police authority	*Total grants 2007-08[1] (£ million)*	*Resident Population mid-2005[2] (million)*	*Funding per head of population 2007-08 (£)*
Bedfordshire	79.04	0.58	136.28
Cambridgeshire	88.86	0.75	118.48
Essex	202.06	1.65	122.46
Hertfordshire	130.57	1.05	124.35
Norfolk	107.12	0.82	130.63
Suffolk	83.20	0.69	120.58
Total East England	690.85	5.54	124.70
Total England	8,884.81	50.42	176.22

[1] Total grants comprise: Home Office Police Grant, DCLG Revenue Support Grant and National Non-Domestic Rates; Special Formula grant, Specific Grants: Crime Fighting Fund, Neighbourhood Policing Fund, Basic Command Unit Fund, Community Support Officer Funding, Pension Deficit Grant and Dedicated Security Post funding and Capital provision (including the increased capital allocations announced on 24 May and 19 June 2007).

[2] Population Data sourced by the Office for National Statistics from the mid-2005 population estimates.

Police: Grants

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what grants were provided to *(a)* the Crime Reduction partnership in Carlisle, *(b)* Carlisle city council and *(c)* Cumbria county council for safety and policing in each year since 2003-04. [149625]

Mr. Coaker: Grant allocations made to Carlisle city council and subsequently to Cumbria county council and available to the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership in each year since 2003-04 are set out in the following table.

£

	Building Safer Communities and ASB Co-ordinators Grant (paid to Carlisle city council)	Safer and Stronger Communities Fund (paid to Cumbria county council)
2003-04	145,401	—
2004-05	158,166	—
2005-06	—	832,100
2006-07	—	832,100
2007-08	—	3,721,584

These figures reflect the fact that the Building Safer Communities Fund and Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinators Grant was pooled within the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund in 2005-06 along with the Drugs Strategy Partnership Support Grant. This pooling was an initial step in the development of Local Area Agreements (LAAs) and saw partnership funding paid to Unitary and Upper Tier Authorities. Cumbria, an Upper Tier Authority, received funding that was originally allocated to Allerdale, Copeland, Barrow, Carlisle, Eden and South Lakeland CDRPs.

The 2007-08 figures are not directly comparable with previous years because the pooled budget now includes a larger number of funding streams. Cumbria county council and its partners are now able to use this grant flexibly to deliver a wide range of outcomes, including reductions in crime, anti social behaviour and the harms caused by drugs.

The figures exclude any funding allocated to the CDRP that has been targeted at specific initiatives, such as the Street Crime Initiative and the Tackling Violent Crime Programme, and any discretionary allocations made by the Regional Director. Data on those funding allocations are not held centrally, or would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Police: Labour Turnover

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers resigned from the police within *(a)* six months, *(b)* one year and *(c)* two years of starting their employment in each of the last five years. [149769]

Jacqui Smith: No breakdown of leaving categories by length of service is collected centrally and so the requested information is not available.

Police: Recruitment

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were recruited in *(a)* Hampshire and *(b)* England in each year since 1997. [151027]

Mr. McNulty: The available data are contained in the following table. Figures prior to 2002-03 were not collected on a comparable basis by the Home Office.

Police officer recruits[1] to police forces from 2002-03 to 2005-06[2].

FTE

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Hampshire	267	282	204	244
England	7,148	10,497	7,732	6,260

[1] Recruits included those officers joining as police standard direct recruits and those who were previously special constables. This excludes police officers on transfers from other forces and those rejoining.

[2] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive. Comparable data are not available prior to 2002-03.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he last reviewed the definition of non-priority adult education; and if he will make a statement. [150771]

Bill Rammell: Government funding priorities in further education (FE) have been clearly set out in the Skills Strategy White Paper in 2003, 21st Century Skills—Realising our Potential, reinforced in the 2005 Skills Strategy White Paper, 'Getting on in business; getting on at work' and in the White Paper on FE reform, 'FE, Raising Skills, Improving Life Chances' (published in March 2006). Most recently, the priorities have been laid out in the Department's response (published 18 July 2007-www.dius.gov.uk/publications) to Lord Leitch's report to Government on UK skills, 'Prosperity for all in the global economy—World class skills.'

These priorities have been implemented through the Secretary of State for Education and Skills' annual grant letters to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). In turn the LSC communicates the priorities to the FE sector through their Annual Statement of Priorities. The most recent 'Annual Statement of Priorities-Raising Our Game' was published in October 2006 and forthcoming priorities for 2008/09 will be published in October 2007 when the CSR settlement is announced.

Government are focusing its resources on these priorities; other provision may be important, but these are where we will focus the majority of public provision.

Charity Research Support Fund

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) if he will consider providing the Charity Research Support Fund as a fixed percentage uplift based on the level of funding received by universities from charities; [151420]

(2) what factors were taken into account in calculating how much Charity Research Support Fund funding to make available to universities in each financial year up to 2012; [151421]

(3) how much Charity Research Support Fund funding he plans to make available to universities in each financial year up to 2012. [151422]

Bill Rammell: The Charity Research Support Fund is worth £180 million in the current year. Funding allocations for future years will be announced at the appropriate time.

Departments: Ministerial Red Boxes

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many ministerial red boxes the Department has bought since establishment; what the cost of each was; who the suppliers were; and what tendering process was used in selecting them. [150297]

Mr. Lammy: None.

Departments: Targets

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills for which public service agreement targets of the former *(a)* Department for Education and Skills and *(b)* Department of Trade and Industry his Department has responsibility. [147746]

Mr. Denham: The public service agreements are listed as follows.

Improve the basic skills levels of 2.25 million adults between the launch of Skills for Life in 2001 and 2010, with a milestone of 1.5 million in 2007.

Reduce by at least 40 per cent. the number of adults in the workforce who lack NVQ2 or equivalent qualifications by 2010. Working towards this, one million adults in the workforce achieve level 2 between 2003 and 2006.

By 2015, increase participation in higher education towards 50 per cent. of those aged 18 to 30 and also make significant progress year on year towards fair access, and bear down on rates of non-completion.

Improve the relative international performance of the UK research base and increase the overall innovation performance of the UK economy, making continued progress to 2008, including through effective knowledge transfer among universities, research institutions and business.

Educational Institutions: Standards

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which educational institutions did not achieve their benchmark for completion rates in each of the last five years. [149781]

Bill Rammell: The relevant information is taken from table T5 of the Performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by HESA since 2002-03 and by HEFCE until 2001-02. This gives the proportion of UK-domiciled entrants to full-time first degree courses who are projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another course. The information is shown in the following tables.

The benchmarks are not targets. They are adjusted sector averages, calculated for each institution for each indicator, to help institutions gauge their own performance.

Institutions in England which underperformed their benchmark for non-completion in 2003-04

Institution	*Proportion projected to neither obtain award nor transfer*	*Benchmark*
The University of Bolton	35.0	23.1
The University of Central Lancashire	21.7	18.4
University of Chester	18.8	17.0
Coventry University	21.7	19.1
University of Derby	24.0	21.7
The University of East London	27.1	25.5
Edge Hill College of Higher Education	21.5	18.8
Goldsmiths College	17.9	15.9
The University of Greenwich	21.8	21.3
Kent Institute of Art and Design	17.5	15.5
Liverpool Hope University	22.5	18.5
London Metropolitan University	27.4	25.5
London South Bank University	27.6	25.4
University of Luton	22.4	20.1
The Manchester Metropolitan University	23.4	20.1
The University of Northampton	21.5	18.4
The University of Northumbria at Newcastle	16.7	16.2
Roehampton University	21.7	17.0
College of St. Mark and St. John	35.8	32.3
St. Mary's College	18.5	16.2
The University of Salford	20.4	18.9
The School of Oriental and African Studies	18.6	14.1
Staffordshire University	20.4	18.6
The University of Sunderland	20.1	17.6
Trinity Laban	17.0	13.9
University of the West of England, Bristol	20.6	16.9
The University of Westminster	21.4	20.8
The University of Wolverhampton	23.9	20.4
University of Worcester	19.5	16.4

Source:
"Performance Indicators in Higher Education", published by HESA

Institutions in England which underperformed their benchmark for non- completion in 2002-03

Institution	*Proportion projected to neither obtain award nor transfer*	*Benchmark*
Bolton Institute of Higher Education	31.9	23.0
The University of Bradford	18.6	18.2
City University	15.4	14.9
Cranfield University	21.3	18.0
Darlington College of Arts	23.0	15.3
University of Derby	27.0	20.9
The University of East Anglia	12.7	11.7
The University of East London	26.0	24.3
Edge Hill College of Higher Education	19.1	18.9
Falmouth College of Arts	17.0	15.1
Goldsmiths College	17.5	15.6
The University of Greenwich	25.0	20.6
The University of Huddersfield	20.0	19.1

Institutions in England which underperformed their benchmark for non- completion in 2002-03

Institution	Proportion projected to neither obtain award nor transfer	Benchmark
Kent Institute of Art and Design	19.5	15.1
Liverpool Hope University College	23.6	17.6
Liverpool John Moores University	22.9	18.0
London South Bank University	25.6	24.3
University of Luton	23.4	18.3
Middlesex University	25.1	21.7
Newman College of HE	18.6	18.4
University College Northampton	18.8	17.9
The Nottingham Trent University	15.4	14.5
The University of Portsmouth	18.9	17.7
Roehampton University	17.4	16.7
St. George's Hospital Medical School	9.5	5.8
St. Mary's College	16.8	15.5
The University of Sheffield	7.8	7.3
Staffordshire University	21.1	18.0
The University of Sunderland	26.8	17.9
Thames Valley University	25.0	21.4
Trinity College of Music	19.7	13.5
The University of Westminster	22.9	20.6
University College Worcester	17.9	15.4
Writtle College	18.9	18.1

Source:
"Performance Indicators in Higher Education", published by HESA

Institutions in England which underperformed their benchmark for non- completion in 2001-02

Institution	Proportion projected to neither obtain award nor transfer	Benchmark
Aston University	10.3	10.2
Bolton Institute of Higher Education	35.8	23.1
University of Central England in Birmingham	19.8	17.6
The University of Central Lancashire	26.0	19.5
De Montfort University	17.5	16.0
University of Derby	20.6	19.5
The University of East London	28.0	24.1
The University of Essex	14.7	14.1
University of Gloucestershire	21.5	16.7
The University of Greenwich	22.9	21.2
The University of Huddersfield	21.3	18.5
The University of Lincoln	22.2	19.3
Liverpool Hope University College	23.7	19.2
Liverpool John Moores University	22.0	17.1
London Metropolitan University	28.1	24.2
University of Luton	24.8	18.8
The University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology	11.8	9.9
Middlesex University	26.8	21.0

Institutions in England which underperformed their benchmark for non- completion in 2001-02

Institution	Proportion projected to neither obtain award nor transfer	Benchmark
University College Northampton	25.4	17.9
The University of Reading	10.7	10.4
University of Surrey, Roehampton	20.5	17.9
Royal Academy of Music	15.1	8.7
Royal Northern College of Music	19.1	9.2
The University of Salford	20.0	17.4
The School of Oriental and African Studies	16.5	13.6
Staffordshire University	18.5	18.2
The University of Sunderland	26.9	18.5
The University of Sussex	14.4	12.6
Thames Valley University	25.4	21.0
Trinity College of Music	21.6	10.3
University of the West of England, Bristol	21.1	17.3
Wimbledon School of Art	15.9	13.2
The University of Wolverhampton	23.9	19.2
University College Worcester	18.3	15.8

Source:
"Performance Indicators in Higher Education", published by HESA

Institutions in England which underperformed their benchmark for non- completion in 2000-01

Institution	Proportion projected to neither obtain award nor transfer	Benchmark
Bolton Institute of Higher Education	32.4	24.5
Canterbury Christ Church University College	20.2	18.3
University College Chester	18.4	17.1
Cranfield University	18.2	17.0
Darlington College of Arts	20.9	16.6
De Montfort University	21.3	18.4
University of Derby	23.3	20.4
University of East London	28.7	25.1
University of Exeter	9.4	9.2
University of Gloucestershire	26.6	18.2
University of Huddersfield	21.6	19.7
Kent Institute of Art and Design	15.4	15.2
King's College London	8.3	7.7
University of Leicester	11.2	8.9
Liverpool Hope University College	26.0	22.2
Liverpool John Moores University	20.9	18.4
University of London	10.3	9.2
London Guildhall University	35.0	24.9
London South Bank University	33.7	25.2
University of Luton	25.7	20.7
University of Manchester	8.3	8.1
Middlesex University	24.7	22.3
University of North London	39.5	25.6
School of Oriental and African Studies	17.4	14.7
School of Pharmacy	7.8	7.6

Institutions in England which underperformed their benchmark for non- completion in 2000-01

Institution	Proportion projected to neither obtain award nor transfer	Benchmark
Queen Mary, University of London	12.9	12.8
Ravensbourne College	18.1	16.5
Royal Academy of Music	11.4	10.6
Royal Veterinary College	3.5	2.1
St. George's Hospital Medical School	5.7	4.6
University of Salford	20.1	18.9
Southampton Institute	20.9	20.0
Staffordshire University	19.7	19.4
University of Sunderland	26.5	19.7
Surrey Institute of Art and Design University College	15.4	15.2
Thames Valley University	28.2	22.5
Trinity College of Music	22.6	16.1
University of West of England, Bristol	19.1	17.2
Wimbledon School of Art	16.5	13.6
University of Wolverhampton	24.2	20.5

Source:
"Performance Indicators in Higher Education", published by HESA

Institutions in England which underperformed their benchmark for non-completion in 1999-2000

Institution	Proportion projected to neither obtain award nor transfer	Benchmark
Anglia Polytechnic University	26.6	21.0
Aston University, Birmingham	12.3	11.3
Bolton Institute of Higher Education	30.4	24.9
University of Bradford	17.0	15.6
University of Central Lancashire	33.5	26.1
Central School of Speech and Drama	17.3	15.1
Coventry University	22.1	21.1
Darlington College of Arts	24.4	17.1
University of Derby	24.0	22.1
University of East London	33.0	26.0
University of Gloucestershire	19.6	18.4
University of Greenwich	26.0	23.2
University of Huddersfield	25.3	20.4
Imperial College	7.9	5.5
King's College London	9.5	8.0
Kingston University	21.0	20.9
Liverpool Hope University College	22.6	22.5

Institutions in England which underperformed their benchmark for non-completion in 1999-2000

Institution	Proportion projected to neither obtain award nor transfer	Benchmark
Liverpool John Moores University	21.8	18.6
London Guildhall University	29.7	24.6
University of Luton	25.9	21.3
University of Manchester	9.1	8.3
University College Northampton	28.9	19.8
University of North London	44.8	26.7
School of Oriental and African Studies	29.1	17.1
RCN Institute	18.0	17.6
University of Reading	11.9	11.6
St. George's Hospital Medical School	3.4	2.8
St. Mary's College	17.3	17.0
South Bank University	28.3	26.0
Staffordshire University	22.7	20.1
University of Sunderland	27.8	20.9
Thames Valley University	28.6	21.6
Trinity College of Music	39.3	17.4
University of West of England, Bristol	21.2	18.7

Source:
"Performance Indicators in Higher Education", published by HESA

The 2004-05 figures will become available on 19 July 2007.

Foundation Degrees: Finance

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will estimate the full cost of foundation degrees since their inception, including all advertising and development; and how much of that sum is recurrent funding. [149098]

Bill Rammell: We have estimated the total cost for foundation degrees over the five years since the first courses started in 2001. Table 1, line 1 shows for each of the last five academic years (2001/02 to 2005/06) the recurrent funding which the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) allocated to foundation degrees, amounting to £332 million. Line 2 shows development funding from HEFCE over the same period, amounting to £20 million. Table 2 shows the funding allocated by the then Department for Education and Skills for the advertising of foundation degrees over the financial years 2001-02 to 2005-06, amounting to £7 million.

£ million

Foundation degrees	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	Total
HEFCE Notional Recurrent Grant	9	30	54	98	140	332
HEFCE Development	2	1	1	6	6	20

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	£ million Total
Advertising	2	0.5	3	0.5	1	7

Higher Education: Admissions

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of students applied for a university place on completion of their A-levels in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [148611]

Bill Rammell: The latest available figures on participation in higher education by local authority and region based on students entering courses were published by the Higher Education Funding Council for England in January 2005 in 'Young Participation in England', which is available from their website at:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2005/05_03/

This report shows participation rates for young people who enter higher education aged 18 or 19, disaggregated by local authority and region, for the years 1997 to 2000. The figures for Cornwall local authority, the South West region and the comparable figure for England, are shown in the table. HEFCE have not produced participation rates beyond 2000.

Young Participation Rate (YPR (A)) in Higher Education [1] for year cohort aged 18

	Cohort for Cornwall[2] (number)	Young Participation Rate (A) for Cornwall[3] (percentage)	Cohort for South West[2] (number)	Young Participation Rate (A) for South West (percentage)	Young Participation Rate (A) for England (percentage)
1997	5,750	31	55,000	30.7	29.2
1998	6,070	29	57,900	29.1	28.8
1999	5,940	29	56,500	29.1	29.2
2000	5,720	30	55,200	30.0	29.9

[1] Covers all students studying Higher Education Courses at UK Higher Education Institutions and other UK institutions, for example Further Education Colleges.
[2] Cohorts are reported to the nearest 10.
[3] Young Participation Rates for local authorities are reported to the nearest per cent.
Source:
Higher Education Funding Council for England.

The main measure for tracking progress on increasing participation is currently the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR). This is the sum of the HE initial participation rates for individual ages between 17 and 30 inclusive. It covers English-domiciled first time entrants to HE courses, which are expected to last for at least six months, at UK Higher Education Institutions and English, Scottish and Welsh Further Education Colleges, and who remain on their course for at least six months. The latest provisional figure for 2005-06 is 43 per cent. The HEIPR is not calculated at local authority or regional level.

The HEIPR is available from the academic year 1999-00. It is the sum of the age specific initial participation rates for ages 17-30. The age specific initial participation rate for eighteen year olds is shown in the following table.

	Number of initial entrants	HEIPR for 18 year olds (percentage)
1999/2000	115,100	19.3
2000/01	114,000	19.5
2001/02	118,20d	19.6
2002/03	122,40q	19.7
2003/04	124,700	19.2
2004/05	127,200	19.6
2005/06	141,700	21.3

Note:
Numbers are rounded to the nearest 100.

The figures in the tables cover the whole population not just those completing their A-Levels.

Higher Education: European Union

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many EU domiciled undergraduate students are expected to begin courses at higher education institutions in 2006. [148186]

Bill Rammell: Figures from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) show that 18,280 EU domiciled applicants were accepted for entry to full-time undergraduate courses at UK higher education institutions at the start of the 2006-07 academic year.

Higher Education: Finances

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has to sustain the dual support system for universities. [151424]

Bill Rammell: As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister informed the House on 28 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 36WS, the Government have no plans to change the current dual support arrangements for the public funding of research.

Higher Education: Mathematics

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on mathematics support in universities; and if he will make a statement. [150529]

Bill Rammell: The Department has not recently commissioned or evaluated any research on mathematics support in universities, meeting the perceived shortcomings of students with 'A' level mathematics.

Higher Education: Ministerial Responsibility

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which Minister in his Department has responsibility for *(a)* further and *(b)* higher education. [147744]

Mr. Denham: The ministerial responsibilities within my Department are set out as follows:

Minister of State, Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education, Bill Rammell, MP will be responsible for:

Further Education strategy and implementation

Skills strategy and implementation, including Leitch delivery

The Learning and Skills Council

Standards and performance in further education and skills, including the Quality Improvement Agency

Higher Education strategy and implementation, including widening participation and part-time learners

Employer Engagement in Higher Education

The Higher Education Funding Council for England

Student finance policy

Liaison between further and higher education

International relations and the Joint International Unit, including the Prime Minister's initiative on overseas HE students

Liaison with the Department for Children, Schools and Families

Liaison with the Department for Work and Pensions

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Skills, David Lammy, MP will be responsible for:

The Commission for Employment and Skills

Sector Skills Councils and employer relations

The Train to Gain programme

National Skills Academies

Apprenticeships

Offender learning and skills

Skills competitions, World Skills, and links to the Olympics

Investors in People UK

Ufi learndirect

Industry Training Boards

Union learning, including union learning representatives and unionlearn

Leitch implementation plan

Diversity aspects of skills

Minister of State for Science and Innovation, Ian Pearson, MP will be responsible for:

Business and Science

The Research Base

The Research Councils

Innovation

The Technology Strategy Board

British National Space Centre

National Weights and Measures Laboratory

The Design Council

The National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts, liaising with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport

Liaison with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform

Energy Technologies Institute

Commission for Environmental Markets and Economic Performance

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Intellectual Property and Quality, Lord Triesman will be Lords Minister for the whole Department and responsible for:

The Student Loans Company (and Customer First programme)

The student loan debt sale

Endowments and voluntary giving for higher education

Quality assurance of Higher Education

UK-Intellectual Property Office

Students as 'customers'

Scenario building across DIUS

Departmental efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability.

Science: Wales

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what discussions he has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on science policy in Wales; and if he will make a statement; [150403]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on research funding in Welsh universities; and if he will make a statement. [150404]

Ian Pearson: The Department has maintained regular contact with the devolved Administrations, including the Welsh Assembly, on research capital funding to maintain the research infrastructure of UK universities.

Skilled Workers: Construction

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what action his Department is taking in conjunction with public agencies and other interested parties to stimulate traditional skills development in the heritage construction industry. [150092]

Mr. Lammy: ConstructionSkills is the lead Sector Skills Council for the heritage construction industry. ConstructionSkills is working with a range of public agencies to stimulate traditional skills development. The National Heritage Training Group, which is supported by ConstructionSkills, has a UK wide remit to provide assistance with all aspects of recruiting, training, and qualifying the built heritage sector workforce. A number of measures are being taken by ConstructionSkills, the National Heritage Training group and others to improve the qualifications and delivery of heritage skills. These include the training of FE trainers, the development of a Heritage Skills NVQ at level 3, development of occupational standards in Architectural Conservation, mentoring programmes, Regional Heritage Action Groups, and the establishment of Heritage Skills Academies. In addition there is a programme of marketing and promotional work, including the ConstructionSkills 'Make Your Mark' pack that that promotes construction skills careers to secondary school students.

Student Numbers: Part Time Education

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many part-time undergraduates there were at each relevant institution in the last five years for which figures are available. [149087]

Bill Rammell: This information is published annually by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) in their "Students in Higher Education Institutions" reference volumes, copies of which are available from the House of Commons Library.

Student Wastage

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the non-completion rates were for students studying *(a)* foundation degrees, *(b)* honours degrees and *(c)* Higher National Diplomas in each of the last 10 years, broken down by subject of degree. [149783]

Bill Rammell: Non-continuation rates by subject of study are available in supplementary tables as part of the "Performance Indicators in Higher Education" publication, published by HESA. Figures are available for the following UK-domiciled entrants to UK higher education institutions:

Young entrants to full-time first degree courses;

Mature entrants to full-time first degree courses;

Entrants to full-time other undergraduate courses (only available from 2002/03).

Figures are available up to and including 2003/04. The 2004/05 figures will become available on 19 July when HESA releases the next set of Performance Indicators in Higher Education. The information is shown in the tables.

Table 1: Proportion of UK-domiciled young entrants to full-time first degree courses who are no longer in higher education after one year of study

Percentage

	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science	2.0	2	2.4	1.8	2.0
Subjects Allied to Medicine	6.3	6	5.9	6.4	7.7
Biological Sciences[1]	[1]6.9	[1]6	[1]6.1	[1]7.1	7.3
Physical Sciences[1]	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	6.1
Agriculture And Related Subjects	6.8	7	11.4	7.5	8.3
Mathematical Sciences[2]	[2]9.8	[2]8	[2]8.4	[2]9.4	5.5
Computer Sciences[2]	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	10.3
Engineering & Technology	10.1	9	8.9	10.0	10.1
Architecture, Building, Planning	9.6	8	10.2	11.1	10.0
Social Studies[3]	[3]6.9	[3]6	[3]6.4	[3]7.0	7.2
Law[3]	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	6.2
Librarianship, Information Sciences[4]	[4]6.9	[4]8	[4]8.2	n/a	n/a
Business & Administrative Studies[4, 5]	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[5]8.8	8.8
Mass Communications & Documentation[5]	n/a	n/a	n/a	[5]—	8.5
Humanities[6]	[6]5.9	[6]5	[6]5.7	n/a	n/a
Languages[6, 7]	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[7]6.3	6.3
Historical & Philosophical Studies[7]	n/a	n/a	n/a	[7]—	5.9
Creative Arts & Design	8.7	8	8.3	8.2	8.4
Education	8.6	8	8.1	8.0	7.5
Combined Subjects	8.8	8	8.2	14.3	13.5
All Subjects	7.8	7	7.3	7.8	7.7

Note:
Figures for 2000/01 are only available to the nearest integer.
Source:
Performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Table 2: Proportion of UK-domiciled mature entrants to full-time first degree courses who are no longer in higher education after one year of study

	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science	2	3	3.1	2.9	2.8
Subjects Allied to Medicine	12	10	11.2	11.8	12.5
Biological Sciences[1]	[1]17	[1]15	[1]18.0	[1]17.7	17.5
Physical Sciences[1]	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	16.8
Agriculture & Related Subjects	16	13	18.0	14.5	12.3
Mathematical Sciences[2]	[2]20	[2]18	[2]18.4	[2]20.3	18.7
Computer Sciences[2]	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	19.0
Engineering & Technology	20	19	16.9	19.7	21.3
Architecture, Building, Planning	17	17	16.9	15.9	17.2
Social Studies[3]	[3]15	[3]15	[3]14.8	[3]15.4	14.3
Law[3]	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	17.7
Librarianship, Information Sciences[4]	[4]17	[4]16	[4]16.8	n/a	n/a
Business & Administrative Studies[4, 5]	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[5]18.0	19.2
Mass Communications & Documentation[5]	n/a	n/a	n/a	[5]—	16.7
Humanities[6]	[6]16	[6]14	[6]14.8	n/a	n/a
Languages[6, 7]	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[7]15.6	15.7
Historical & Philosophical Studies7	n/a	n/a	n/a	[7]—	15.8
Creative Arts & Design	13	12	13.0	12.1	14.4
Education	12	11	10.2	10.1	11.8
Combined Subjects	19	18	18.2	23.2	19.9
All Subjects	16	14	14.9	15.4	15.6

Note:
Figures for 1999/2000 and 2000/01 are only available to the nearest integer.
Source:
Performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Table 3: Proportion of UK-domiciled entrants to full-time other undergraduate courses who are no longer in higher education after one year of study

	2002/03	2003/04
Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science	17.9	8.0
Subjects Allied to Medicine	11.2	10.6
Biological Sciences[1]	[1]23.5	24.0
Physical Sciences[1]	[1]—	21.8
Agriculture & Related Subjects	19.8	24.3
Mathematical Sciences[2]	[2]24.1	18.4
Computer Sciences[2]	[2]—	23.5
Engineering & Technology	21.0	25.2
Architecture, Building, Planning	30.1	22.1
Social Studies[3]	[3]16.1	23.4
Law[3]	[3]—	17.5
Business & Administrative Studies[4, 5]	[5]23.4	27.3
Mass Communications & Documentation[5]	[5]—	21.1
Languages[6, 7]	[7]37.9	39.9
Historical & Philosophical Studies[7]	[7]—	49.9
Creative Arts & Design	17.7	18.3
Education	24.3	19.6
Combined Subjects	17.2	27.4
All Subjects	16.8	17.5

[1] One figure was provided for Biological and Physical Sciences until 2003/04.
[2] One figure was provided for Mathematical and Computer Sciences until 2003/04.
[3] One figure was provided for Social Studies and Law until 2003/04.
[4] One figure was provided for Librarianship, information Sciences and Business & administrative studies until 2002/03.
[5] One figure was provided for Business & administrative studies and Mass communications & documentation in 2002/03.
[6] One figure was provided for Languages and Humanities until 2002/03.
[7] One figure was provided for Languages and Historical & Philosophical Studies in 2002/03.
Notes:
1. n/a = Not applicable.
2. There is a break in the time series between academic years 2001/02 and 2002/03 because the subjects' JACS codings were changed in 2002/03.
Source:
Performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the non-completion rate was of students on *(a)* prescribed and *(b)* non-prescribed higher education courses in further education colleges in each of the last five years. [149788]

Bill Rammell: The Learning and Skills Council provides success rates of students studying at English further education colleges. These are the number of qualifications achieved expressed as a percentage of the number started. Success rates for learners studying for level 4, 5 or higher level courses are provided here as a proxy for higher education, and many of these courses are likely to be non-prescribed higher education. The success rates are shown in the table:

Success rates for higher education level courses in English further education colleges

Year completed	Success rate (percentage)
2001/02	38
2002/03	43
2003/04	59
2004/05	59
2005/06	62

Source:
Further Education and Work Based Learning—Learner Outcomes in England: 2005/06
(ILR/SFR13)

These success rates are not available broken down by prescribed/non-prescribed course types.

Students: Age

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the age profile of *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time students was in each of the last 10 years. [149032]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is shown in the following table.

Age profile of students[1] on Higher Education courses at UK Higher Education Institutions

		Age group					
Academic year	Mode of study	Under 18 years	18-20 years	21-24 years	25-29 years	30 years and over	Age unknown
1996/97	Full-time	11,585	533,025	346,965	113,875	131,680	1,465
	Part-time	600	12,680	51,265	98,435	400,485	16,845
1997/98	Full-time	12,110	559,460	345,835	113,805	131,570	3,345
	Part-time	410	12,950	49,405	97,645	418,480	14,535
1998/99	Full-time	11,710	583,505	342,955	110,370	129,370	1,355
	Part-time	735	15,020	51,785	100,890	446,910	11,465
1999/2000	Full-time	11,495	597,075	340,435	105,490	123,155	1,080
	Part-time	755	16,620	53,190	99,350	458,085	9,635
2000/01	Full-time	11,210	602,390	352,455	104,370	124,340	790
	Part-time	675	18,620	58,555	101,515	477,495	11,170
2001/02	Full-time	11,920	614,305	371,790	107,155	132,335	720
	Part-time	1,310	19,240	63,560	100,670	493,930	10,220

Age profile of students[1] on Higher Education courses at UK Higher Education Institutions

Academic year	Mode of study	Age group: Under 18 years	18-20 years	21-24 years	25-29 years	30 years and over	Age unknown
2002/03	Full-time	12,085	631,465	397,555	114,455	140,265	780
	Part-time	2,220	19,425	71,085	106,225	512,985	11,635
2003/04	Full-time	11,550	645,985	413,445	121,190	145,860	775
	Part-time	2,460	20,605	78,155	112,225	546,935	9,275
2004/05	Full-time	11,440	657,640	421,165	127,595	148,140	545
	Part-time	3,320	21,775	81,405	118,970	558,870	8,280
2005/06	Full-time	11,515	684,065	424,045	134,240	150,085	555
	Part-time	2,375	23,480	80,425	120,710	538,205	6,630

[1] Includes both undergraduates and postgraduates.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record data.

Figures include students from the UK and overseas, and have been rounded to the nearest 5.

The figures are based on students enrolled at 1 December in each year because these are the only figures available on a comparable basis in each year since 1996.

Students: Fees and Charges

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the total cost is of student grants to students who previously qualified for education maintenance grants; and what the estimated total cost is for the same cohort under his new student support proposals. [149088]

Bill Rammell: The information on students who receive a grant that previously qualified for an educational maintenance grant is currently not available.

From the 2008/09 academic year, a 16-year-old who qualifies for an educational maintenance allowance will be guaranteed a minimum level of support if they go on to higher education. The guarantee will support aspiration and provide certainty about the financial support available to students to fulfil their potential. The estimated cost will be around £15 million in 2010-11 in steady state.

Unemployment: Young People

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people over the age of 16 years and under the state retirement age are not in employment, education or training, or providing full-time child care for their children. [150084]

Mr. Lammy: According to estimates from the Labour Force Survey in quarter 4, 2006 there was a total of 30,710,000 people of working age in England. Of these 5,644,000 (18.4 per cent.) were not in employment, education or training (NEET). Of those who were NEET 913,000 had said that they were either not seeking or not available or not wanting work because they were looking after their family/home and had at least one child aged under five. This leaves a total of 4,731,000 (15.4 per cent. of the working age population) who were NEET and did not say they were unavailable to work because they were looking after a child under five.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of people aged 18 to 24 years had been classed as not in employment, education or training for *(a)* up to three months, *(b)* between three and six months, *(c)* between six and nine months, *(d)* between nine and 12 months and *(e)* over 12 months in each quarter since 1992. [148360]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* The information requested is not available. However, snapshot estimates are available from the Labour Force Survey. The following table gives for England the number and proportion of 18-24 year olds classed as not in employment, education or training for years and quarters available.

People aged 18 to 24[1] years who are NEET

Quarter[2]	Number	Proportion (Percentage)
Spring 1993	1,008,000	21.4
Spring 1994	901,000	19.9
Spring 1995	812,000	18.6
Spring 1996	750,000	17.9
Spring 1997	651,000	16.1
Autumn 1997	570,000	14.5
Spring 1998	588,000	15.0
Autumn 1998	582,000	15.0
Spring 1999	543,000	13.8
Autumn 1999	537,000	13.8
Spring 2000	544,000	13.9
Autumn 2000	545,000	13.9
Q2 2001	542,000	13.7
Q4 2001	558,000	14.0
Q2 2002	577,000	14.5
Q4 2002	544,000	13.3
Q2 2003	579,000	14.3

People aged 18 to 24[1] years who are NEET

Quarter[2]	*Number*	*Proportion (Percentage)*
Q4 2003	553,000	13.3
Q2 2004	576,000	14.0
Q4 2004	612,000	14.6
Q1 2005	594,000	14.2
Q2 2005	617,000	14.7
Q3 2005	683,000	16.1
Q4 2005	678,000	16.0
Q1 2006	643,000	15.3
Q2 2006	685,000	16.2
Q3 2006	756,000	17.7
Q4 2006	661,000	15.4

[1] Academic age has been used here. This means for each quarter's data those aged 18 to 24 as at the preceding 31 August are counted.
[2] The data shown are for those quarters where it is possible to derive the measure on a consistent basis. NEET measures are however, seasonal and therefore care is needed in the interpretation of changes between different quarters. Prior to 2001 spring (March to May) and autumn (September to November) seasonal quarters are shown and calendar quarters thereafter(Q1 is January to March etc) as the LFS has now changed to a calendar basis, although prior to 2005 only Q2 and Q4 data is available.
Source:
Labour Force Survey

Vocational Training: Foreigners

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many non-UK nationals are undertaking vocational training at UK Government expense. [148215]

Bill Rammell: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) collects data on country of domicile of learners through the Individualised Learner Record (ILR). It is not possible to provide data on learners undertaking vocational training, particularly as a number of young people follow a mixed programme involving both vocational and general subjects. For funding purposes, the LSC regards as 'ordinarily resident' any person who habitually, normally and lawfully resides in the UK or European Union or the European economic area for the three years prior to the start of their course as 'home' learners. The LSC only funds provision for home learners if they satisfy the three years residency criteria. In 2005-06 there were 44,630 non-UK nationals who were learners on publicly funded further education (FE) provision and 2,230 on work based learning (WBL) programmes. Non-UK nationals accounted for 1.3 per cent. of all LSC funded FE provision and 0.4 per cent. of all WBL learners. The data for 2006-07 are not yet available.

JUSTICE

Appeals: Social Security Benefits

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many single *(a)* women and *(b)* men with children had their benefits restored at appeal in each of the last five years. [148305]

Bridget Prentice: The information is not available in the format requested. Data are not collated by gender, nor whether the appeal relates to a benefit previously awarded.

The following tables show the total number of appeals cleared at a hearing for the last five years, and broken down by the type of hearing. The number of outcomes where it was favourable to the appellant is also given.

Social security and child support appeals—outcomes by hearing type

	Oral hearings			*Paper hearings*		
Tax year	*Total cleared*	*Decided in favour*	*Percentage*	*Total cleared*	*Decided in favour*	*Percentage*
2005-06	126,840	65,770	52	46,180	10,260	22
2004-05	124,400	65,290	52	43,750	9,790	22
2003-04	129,830	68,670	53	48,110	10,680	22
2002-03	131,700	69,610	53	46,000	10,780	23
2001-02	136,680	70,620	52	47,100	10,850	23

	Domiciliary			*All hearings*		
Tax year	*Total cleared*	*Decided in favour*	*Percentage*	*Total cleared*	*Decided in favour*	*Percentage*
2005-06	490	330	66	173,510	76,350	44
2004-05	510	340	67	168,650	75,420	45
2003-04	540	390	72	178,490	79,740	45
2002-03	620	420	68	178,320	80,810	45
2001-02	660	460	70	184,440	81,930	44

Notes:
1. All figures are subject to change as more up to date data become available
2. Cases transferred onto the new appeals system G2 may not have been updated on GAPS
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10
4. Totals may not sum due to rounding
Definitions:
Total cleared—All appeals that went to a hearing and were cleared
Decided in favour—All hearing decisions in favour of the appellant
Source:
100 per cent. download of the Generic Appeals Processing System (GAPS)

Coroners: Armed Forces

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the adequacy of funding for the coroner to conduct inquiries into British military and auxiliary medical personnel killed in Iraq and Afghanistan respectively. [150378]

Bridget Prentice: Coroners are funded by the relevant local authority and police authority. Until 31 March 2007 bodies from Iraq and Afghanistan were repatriated via RAF Brize Norton in the Oxfordshire coroner's jurisdiction and the Government exceptionally provided additional resources to the Oxfordshire coroner to deal with a backlog which had built up in his jurisdiction. Since 1 April 2007 bodies from Iraq and Afghanistan have been repatriated via RAF Lyneham to the jurisdiction of the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner. The coroner has transferred the majority of the inquests to coroners located more closely to the deceased's next of kin. We are keeping the handling of these inquests under review and reporting to the House quarterly on progress. The Secretary of State and I plan to meet the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner before the recess and MOJ and MOD officials will also be meeting the coroner, Wiltshire county council and Wiltshire constabulary shortly.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to meet Mr. David Masters, the Wiltshire coroner, to discuss military inquests. [150518]

Bridget Prentice: The Secretary of State and I plan to meet Mr. Masters before the summer recess.

Coroners: Wiltshire

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration he has given to increasing funding for Wiltshire coroners court to assist with military inquests. [150164]

Bridget Prentice: Since 1 April 2007 the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner has transferred the majority of the inquests which have been repatriated via RAF Lyneham in his jurisdiction to coroners closer to the deceased's next of kin. I am keeping the handling of these inquests under review and reporting to the House quarterly on progress. The Secretary of State and I plan to meet the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner before the recess. MOJ and MOD officials will also be meeting the coroner, Wiltshire county council and Wiltshire constabulary shortly.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many military inquests were carried out by the *(a)* Oxfordshire coroner and *(b)* Wiltshire coroner in each year since 2003. [150165]

Bridget Prentice: The following table gives information on completed military inquests as provided by the Oxfordshire and Swindon and Wiltshire coroners' offices.

	Oxfordshire	*Swindon and Wiltshire*
2003	1	8
2004	2	0
2005	17	6
2006	36	2
2007	43	0

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many military inquests are pending in *(a)* Oxfordshire and *(b)* Wiltshire. [150166]

Bridget Prentice: As of today there are 54 military inquests pending in the Oxfordshire coroner's jurisdiction and 24 inquests pending in the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner's jurisdiction. There is no backlog in Wiltshire. The vast majority of these inquests relate to deaths in the last 12 months, with many inquests relating to deaths in the last six months.

Departments: Ministerial Red Boxes

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many ministerial red boxes the Department bought in each of the last five years; what the cost of each was; who the suppliers were; and what tendering process was used in selecting them. [150295]

Maria Eagle: Red boxes are used by successive Ministers over a number of years. The specific information requested for the last five years could be provided only at disproportionate cost as the information is not recorded centrally.

Red boxes are ordered via the Department's stationery contract with Banner Business Supplies.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the total cost is of all private finance initiative projects for which his Department has responsibility completed since 1997; and what the projected cost is of such projects commissioned or under way. [148030]

Maria Eagle: The total cost of all private finance initiative projects for which my Department has responsibility that have been completed since 1997 is in excess of £8.0 billion and can be found on the list of signed PFI deals, available on HM Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm.

The list contains by project the annual unitary charge payments, which are projections and are conditional on the performance of the private sector contractor. Unitary charge payments are not simply repayments for the capital value of the project and will frequently include inflation, provision of services and major refurbishment.

All of the projects on the list that are overseen by the Ministry of Justice are fully operational except Avon and Somerset magistrates court, where the final site at Bristol is expected to be completed in 2007-08.

Departments: Wales

Mr. Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what land in Wales is owned by his Department. [150223]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice owns the following land in Wales;

Her Majesty's Prison Cardiff

Her Majesty's Prison Parc

Her Majesty's Prison Swansea

Her Majesty's Prison Prescoed

Cilwrgi Farm

Cwmbran site

Newport site, George street, Newport, NP20

Feltham Young Offender Institution and Remand Centre

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget was for Feltham Young Offenders Institute in each of the last five years. [150358]

Mr. Hanson: The budget for Feltham Young Offenders Institute in each of the last five years is contained in the following table.

HMYOI Feltham Budgets 2003-04 to 2007-08

	Budget (Net Del) As at BV4	*Adjustments*	*Comments*
2003-04	21,996,622	—	—
2004-05	31,268,861	11,314,937	YJB expenditure budget Feltham (added in baseline allocation)
		-4,112,000	Health care transfer to PCT
2005-06	35,665,679	1,034,166	Additional YJB allocation (added in baseline)
2006-07	30,850,215	-1,950,664	Reduction in YJB allocation
		-2,359,577	Education to LSC
2007-08	30,856,217	-729,213	Education to LSC

Note:
1. Budgets are allocated throughout the year.
2. The figures have been compiled at July each year for consistency.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many social workers working at Feltham Young Offenders Institute are jointly funded by the Youth Justice Board and the Department for Children, Schools and Families. [150359]

Mr. Hanson: The Youth Justice Board has been funding two social worker posts at Feltham. Following the promotion of the senior social worker to be head of safeguarding, there is currently one social worker in post and the vacancy is being advertised. The Youth Justice Board and the Department for Children, Schools and Families have agreed that funding for the financial year 2007-08 would be provided jointly.

Juries: Mentally Ill

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on people undergoing treatment for mental illness serving on juries. [150338]

Maria Eagle: The relevant legislation makes it clear that persons undergoing treatment for a mental disorder are not qualified for jury service, and Sir Robin Auld's "Review of the Criminal Courts of England and Wales" recommended no change to the exclusion of mentally disordered persons from jury service. However, we recognise that there are potential benefits in a change to the current arrangements, particularly of a social inclusion nature. The current eligibility criteria are in need of review, and we have indicated that we will consult on modernising them. We will make it clear in due course whether and, if so, how the law is to be changed.

Legal Aid: Mediation

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department and the Legal Services Commission have taken to meet the recommendations of the National Audit Office report Legal aid and mediation for people involved in family breakdown; and if he will make a statement. [150036]

Maria Eagle: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is currently awaiting the Public Accounts Committee's report on the National Audit Office's (NAO's) findings. It has however already begun to implement the NAO's recommendations:

The LSC plans to start piloting family telephone advice through the existing CLS Direct telephone service in the autumn of 2007. This will enable clients seeking family advice to get information about mediation from trained operators.

As a result of decisions taken in the light of the LSC's and the then Department for Constitutional Affairs' consultation "Legal Aid Reform: Family and Family Mediation Fee Schemes", the decision as to whether domestic abuse is a bar to mediation will now sit with the mediator and not the solicitor.

The new Family Fee Structure will also remove the financial disincentives for solicitors to make referrals to mediation, which has historically been an obstacle to increasing mediation referrals, a fact recognised by the mediation profession and in the NAO's report.

The LSC will monitor the number of referrals made by individual firms to mediation. A report, due for implementation in October 2007, will extract information from LSC databases on the exemption from mediation reasons used by individual firms, and sanctions will be available if solicitors firms do not make appropriate and timely referrals.

The LSC is currently developing a new supplier management system to replace existing systems. This will make it easier to track cases across different schemes.

Legal Aid: Reform

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he next expects to meet the Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire Incorporated Law Society to discuss legal aid reforms. [150584]

Maria Eagle: My noble Friend Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, the lead Minister for legal aid reform, has had a number of meetings with legal aid practitioners and other interested parties, including the current Law Society president to discuss various aspect of the legal aid reform programme. He currently has no plans to meet the Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire Incorporated Law Society.

Police Custody

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what provision has been made in his Department's budgets for the cost of *(a)* police cell accommodation and *(b)* court cell accommodation for prisoners in 2007-08. [150145]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service has a budget of £9 million for the use of police cells and courts cells in 2007-08. The budget is not split between police and court cells.

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the total cost was of *(a)* police cell accommodation and *(b)* court cell accommodation in each financial year from 1996-97 to 2006-07. [150144]

Mr. Hanson: I have assumed that this question refers to the use of police and court cells to hold prisoners overnight.

In 2006-07 £1,070,140 was paid for the use of police cells to hold prisoners overnight (known as Operation Safeguard). Police forces invoice in arrears and not all invoices relating to this financial year have yet been received or paid.

Police cells were also used to hold prisoners overnight in the financial year 2002-03. A total of £10.44 million was paid in this period.

In financial year 2006-07 NOMS has paid £235,000 (excluding VAT) to a private contractor to keep court cells available to hold prisoners overnight. Not all invoices have yet been received or paid.

Prison Service: Resignations

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers have resigned from the Prison Service within *(a)* six months, *(b)* one year and *(c)* two years of starting their employment in each of the last five years. [150134]

Maria Eagle: Information on the number of prison officers who resigned from the Prison Service within six months, one year and two years of joining is contained in the table.

Prison officers[1] who resigned within two years by length of service

	Number of officers resigning			
Period[2]	*Within first 6 months*	*Between 6 months and 1 year*	*Between 1 and 2 years*	*Total*
2006-07	60	67	70	197
2005-06	64	73	81	218
2004-05	85	52	100	237
2003-04	80	60	70	210
6 July 2002 to March 2003[3]	41	30	25	96

[1] Information relating to contracted prisons is not held centrally and would require the interrogation of various reporting systems which would incur disproportionate cost. Therefore figures relate to public sector Prison Service only.

[2] Archiving of data has meant that information on the start date of officers who left prior to July 2002 is not available.

[3] The period refers to when staff left the Service rather than joined.

Prisoners on Remand

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have spent *(a)* over six months, *(b)* over 12 months, *(c)* over 18 months and *(d)* over two years in prison on remand in the last five years. [150135]

Mr. Hanson: The requested information is not available in the form requested.

The average time spent on remand by prisoners discharged from different lengths of determinate sentence on completion of sentence or licence may be deduced from table 10.1 (for adults) and 10.2 (for young offenders) of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2005, 2004 and 2003. This calculation includes prisoners who were not remanded in custody.

Data for the earlier years may be found in table 4.11 Prison Statistics in England and Wales for 2002 and 2001.

Data are not held on prisoners who following time spent on remand do not spend time in custody under sentence.

Copies of these publications are placed in the House of Commons Library and can also be found at the Offender Management Caseload Statistics website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/omcs.html under section 10 for the years 2003 to 2005 and at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/omcsa.html for the years 2001 and 2002.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners' Release

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners released for the last 18 days of their sentence since June 2007 have been returned to prison. [150506]

Mr. Hanson: NOMS has been notified that, out of 1,701 prisoners who were released under End of Custody Licence between 29 June and 5 July, there were 12 who, by 5 July, had been subsequently returned to prison. These figures are based on statistics published on 16 July and updates will be published monthly.

The End of Custody Licence was introduced on 29 June 2007. Eligible prisoners serving between four weeks and less than four years may be released under licence from prison up to 18 days before their automatic release date.

The figures are as notified to NOMS and may therefore be subject to inaccuracies. Some offenders may have been returned to custody without NOMS having been notified. In addition, the figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners' Transfers

Sir Robert Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many accidents involving prisoner transport vehicles have resulted in *(a)* injury, *(b)* serious injury and *(c)* fatality to prisoners in transit in the last five years; [150316]

(2) how many accidents involving prisoner transport vehicles in the last five years have involved prisoner transport vehicles operated by private companies; [150317]

(3) how many accidents involving prisoner transit vehicles have occurred each year in the last five years. [150328]

Maria Eagle: There have been no accidents involving prisoner transport vehicles in England and Wales which resulted in a fatality to a prisoner in transit in the last five years. Information about accidents involving escort contractor vehicles that have resulted in injury is available from August 2004 and is set out in the following table. This excludes information for HM Prison Service who do not hold this information centrally and which could be provided only at disproportionate cost. A breakdown of seriousness is not readily available without further investigation.

	Injury
2004	11
2005	18
2006	10
2007	6

Records of accidents involving prisoner escort contractor vehicles are available from August 2004 and are set out in the following table. The majority of accidents involve reversing and manoeuvring.

	All types	*Non-cellular*
2004 (August to December)	268	2
2005	742	15
2006	621	3
2007 (January to June)	288	2

Sir Robert Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of the merits of the introduction of compulsory seat belts for prisoners in prisoner transport vehicles; [150318]

(2) how many prisoner transport vehicles have seat belts for prisoners. [150320]

Maria Eagle: The Government considered the merits of installing seat belts in cellular vehicles in 2003. We concluded that the risk of prisoner self inflicted deaths outweighed the benefits of seat belts being installed compulsorily.

Cellular vehicles operated by private contractors for the National Offender Management Service are not fitted with seat belts within the cells. Seat belts are fitted for prisoners in all 32 non-cellular vehicles operated by private contractors. Seat belts are fitted for prisoners in 31 cellular vehicles operated by HM Prison Service. These vehicles are primarily used to escort category A prisoners who have a higher level of supervision.

Sir Robert Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what average distance prisoners travelled in prisoner transport vehicles *(a)* whilst on remand and *(b)* post-sentence in the last 12 months. [150319]

Maria Eagle: Separate records are not available for remand and post sentenced prisoners. Contractors for the National Offender Management Service report that the average distance prisoners travelled in prisoner transport vehicles in the last 12 months was 18 miles. Information for HM Prison Service vehicles is not held centrally.

Prisoners: Children

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners with dependent children are held outside their home region. [150132]

Mr. Hanson: The Prison Service does not keep information on the number of prisoners that have dependent children. To identify such women, prison staff would need to look at each individual's record, which would in any case not be reliable given that its content depends on (sometimes partial) information provided by the prisoners themselves. However, the 2003-04 resettlement survey commissioned by the Prison Service Custody to Work Unit showed that half of all female prisoners had dependent children (including stepchildren), and that 46 per cent. of those women had lived with at least one dependent child before custody.

Research carried out in January 2007, calculated that the average distance from home for male prisoners is 50 miles and for women prisoners 55 miles (the women's estate is much smaller and more widespread). Considerable emphasis is placed on encouraging prisoners to maintain family ties. Governors are required to consider family contact issues, educational courses and treatment programmes before moving prisoners.

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* female and *(b)* male prisoners have dependent children. [150146]

Mr. Hanson: The Prison Service does not keep information on the number of prisoners that have dependent children.

To identify such women, prison staff would need to look at each individual's record, which would in any case not be reliable given that its content depends on (sometimes partial) information provided by the prisoners themselves. However, the 2003-04 resettlement survey commissioned by the Prison Service Custody to Work Unit showed that half of all female prisoners had dependent children (including stepchildren), and that 46 per cent. of those women had lived with at least one dependent child before custody.

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children are resident in Prison Service mother and baby accommodation, broken down by age. [150147]

Mr. Hanson: There are currently 39 children on the mother and baby units (MBUs). A breakdown in age is contained in the following table:

Age in months	*Number of children in MBUs*
0-9	32
10-18	5
18+	2

The maximum age for a child to remain with their mother in a MBU is 18 months. However, in exceptional circumstances, such as an imminent release, a mother can be granted permission to keep the child with her, if it is in the child's best interests, after he/she reaches 18 months.

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children were born to women in prison in each of the last 10 years. [150148]

Mr. Hanson: The Prison Service has only routinely kept information centrally on births in custody since April 2005. Figures prior to this date are not available.

The number of prisoners giving birth since April 2005 are as follows:

	Number
April 2007-6 July 2007	26
April 2006-March 2007	99
April 2005-March 2006	106

Prisoners: Death

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many deaths occurred in prisons in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* cause of death and *(b)* (i) age group and (ii) sex of deceased. [149856]

Maria Eagle: Information on numbers of deaths in prisons—excluding all current single function young offender institutions is contained in the following table and associated notes. Establishments change and combine functions from time to time. Working out the precise make-up of the male, female and YOI estates over the 10 years and matching that to the timings of deaths could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Cause of death	*Age group*	*Gender*	*Number of deaths*
1997			
Homicide	21-25	Male	2
Natural Causes	21-25	Male	1
Natural Causes	26-29	Male	1
Natural Causes	30-39	Male	5
Natural Causes	40-49	Male	10
Natural Causes	50-59	Female	1
Natural Causes	50-59	Male	11
Natural Causes	60 and over	Male	17
Other non-natural	30-39	Male	1
Self-inflicted[1]	18-20	Female	1
Self-inflicted	18-20	Male	1
Self-inflicted	21-25	Female	1
Self-inflicted	21-25	Male	11
Self-inflicted	26-29	Male	14
Self-inflicted	30-39	Male	19
Self-inflicted	40-49	Female	1
Self-inflicted	40-49	Male	7
Self-inflicted	50-59	Male	2
Self-inflicted	60 and over	Male	2
1998			
Homicide	30-39	Male	2
Homicide	40-49	Male	1
Natural Causes	21-25	Female	1
Natural Causes	21-25	Male	3
Natural Causes	26-29	Male	4
Natural Causes	30-39	Male	3
Natural Causes	40-49	Male	7
Natural Causes	50-59	Male	11
Natural Causes	60 and over	Male	17
Other non-natural	18-20	Male	1
Self-inflicted	18-20	Male	7
Self-inflicted	21-25	Male	9
Self-inflicted	26-29	Female	1
Self-inflicted	26-29	Male	16
Self-inflicted	30-39	Female	2
Self-inflicted	30-39	Male	32
Self-inflicted	40-49	Male	6
Self-inflicted	50-59	Male	2
Self-inflicted	60 and over	Male	1
1999			
Natural Causes	21-25	Female	1
Natural Causes	21-25	Male	1

Cause of death	Age group	Gender	Number of deaths
Natural Causes	26-29	Male	5
Natural Causes	30-39	Female	1
Natural Causes	30-39	Male	9
Natural Causes	40-49	Female	2
Natural Causes	40-49	Male	8
Natural Causes	50-59	Male	13
Natural Causes	60 and over	Male	18
Self-inflicted	18-20	Male	2
Self-inflicted	21-25	Female	2
Self-inflicted	21-25	Male	13
Self-inflicted	26-29	Female	1
Self-inflicted	26-29	Male	18
Self-inflicted	30-39	Female	2
Self-inflicted	30-39	Male	32
Self-inflicted	40-49	Male	9
Self-inflicted	50-59	Male	1
2000			
Homicide	21-25	Male	1
Homicide	30-39	Male	1
Natural Causes	26-29	Male	4
Natural Causes	30-39	Male	6
Natural Causes	40-49	Female	1
Natural Causes	40-49	Male	10
Natural Causes	50-59	Female	1
Natural Causes	50-59	Male	13
Natural Causes	60 and over	Male	27
Other non-natural	30-39	Male	1
Self-inflicted	18-20	Female	3
Self-inflicted	18-20	Male	4
Self-inflicted	21-25	Female	3
Self-inflicted	21-25	Male	12
Self-inflicted	26-29	Female	1
Self-inflicted	26-29	Male	10
Self-inflicted	30-39	Female	1
Self-inflicted	30-39	Male	25
Self-inflicted	40-49	Male	9
Self-inflicted	50-59	Male	3
Self-inflicted	60 and over	Male	1
2001			
Natural Causes	21-25	Male	4
Natural Causes	26-29	Male	1
Natural Causes	30-39	Female	1
Natural Causes	30-39	Male	9
Natural Causes	40-49	Female	1
Natural Causes	40-49	Male	11
Natural Causes	50-59	Male	11
Natural Causes	60 and over	Male	30
Other non-natural	30-39	Male	1
Self-inflicted	18-20	Female	2
Self-inflicted	18-20	Male	3
Self-inflicted	21-25	Female	2
Self-inflicted	21-25	Male	9
Self-inflicted	26-29	Male	10
Self-inflicted	30-39	Female	1
Self-inflicted	30-39	Male	21
Self-inflicted	40-49	Female	1
Self-inflicted	40-49	Male	11
Self-inflicted	50-59	Male	4
Self-inflicted	60 and over	Male	2
2002			
Natural Causes	18-20	Male	1
Natural Causes	21-25	Male	3
Natural Causes	26-29	Female	1
Natural Causes	30-39	Male	6
Natural Causes	40-49	Female	1
Natural Causes	40-49	Male	12
Natural Causes	50-59	Male	18
Natural Causes	60 and over	Female	1
Natural Causes	60 and over	Male	23
Other non-natural	21-25	Male	1
Other non-natural	30-39	Male	1
Other non-natural	40-49	Male	1
Self-inflicted	15-17	Male	1
Self-inflicted	18-20	Female	1
Self-inflicted	18-20	Male	4
Self-inflicted	21-25	Female	2
Self-inflicted	21-25	Male	15
Self-inflicted	26-29	Female	2
Self-inflicted	26-29	Male	10
Self-inflicted	30-39	Female	2
Self-inflicted	30-39	Male	28
Self-inflicted	40-49	Female	1
Self-inflicted	40-49	Male	14
Self-inflicted	50-59	Female	1
Self-inflicted	50-59	Male	7
Self-inflicted	60 and over	Male	1
2003			
Homicide	30-39	Male	1

Cause of death	Age group	Gender	Number of deaths
Natural Causes	21-25	Male	3
Natural Causes	26-29	Male	2
Natural Causes	30-39	Female	1
Natural Causes	30-39	Male	11
Natural Causes	40-49	Male	13
Natural Causes	50-59	Male	19
Natural Causes	60 and over	Male	37
Other non-natural	21-25	Male	1
Other non-natural	40-49	Male	1
Self-inflicted	18-20	Female	4
Self-inflicted	18-20	Male	2
Self-inflicted	21-25	Female	3
Self-inflicted	21-25	Male	14
Self-inflicted	26-29	Female	3
Self-inflicted	26-29	Male	10
Self-inflicted	30-39	Female	2
Self-inflicted	30-39	Male	30
Self-inflicted	40-49	Female	2
Self-inflicted	40-49	Male	15
Self-inflicted	50-59	Male	5
Self-inflicted	60 and over	Male	1
2004			
Homicide	30-39	Male	1
Homicide	60 and over	Male	1
Natural Causes	21-25	Male	2
Natural Causes	26-29	Female	1
Natural causes	26-29	Male	1
Natural Causes	30-39	Female	2
Natural causes	30-39	Male	8
Natural Causes	40-49	Female	2
Natural Causes	40-49	Male	13
Natural Causes	50-59	Male	28
Natural Causes	60 and over	Female	2
Natural Causes	60 and over	Male	43
Other non-natural	21-25	Male	1
Other non-natural	30-39	Male	5
Other non-natural	40-49	Male	2
Other non-natural	50-59	Male	1
Self-inflicted	18-20	Female	1
Self-inflicted	18-20	Male	2
Self-inflicted	21-25	Female	3
Self-inflicted	21-25	Male	11
Self-inflicted	26-29	Female	3
Self-inflicted	26-29	Male	12
Self-inflicted	30-39	Female	4
Self-inflicted	30-39	Male	30
Self-inflicted	40-49	Female	2
Self-inflicted	40-49	Male	17
Self-inflicted	50-59	Male	6
Self-inflicted	60 and over	Male	1
2005			
Homicide	40-49	Male	2
Homicide	60 and over	Male	1
Natural Causes	21-25	Male	2
Natural Causes	26-29	Male	1
Natural Causes	30-39	Female	1
Natural Causes	30-39	Male	13
Natural Causes	40-49	Female	1
Natural Causes	40-49	Male	18
Natural Causes	50-59	Male	18
Natural Causes	60 and over	Male	34
Other non-natural	21-25	Male	1
Other non-natural	30-39	Female	1
Other non-natural	30-39	Male	1
Other non-natural	40-49	Male	1
Self-inflicted	18-20	Female	1
Self-inflicted	18-20	Male	1
Self-inflicted	21-25	Male	11
Self-inflicted	26-29	Female	1
Self-inflicted	26-29	Male	11
Self-inflicted	30-39	Female	2
Self-inflicted	30-39	Male	26
Self-inflicted	40-49	Male	10
Self-inflicted	50-59	Male	4
Self-inflicted	60 and over	Male	2
2006			
Natural Causes	26-29	Male	1
Natural Causes	30-39	Male	13
Natural Causes	40-49	Female	2
Natural Causes	40-49	Male	14
Natural Causes	50-59	Female	1
Natural Causes	50-59	Male	16
Natural Causes	60 and over	Male	35
Other non-natural	26-29	Male	1

Cause of death	Age group	Gender	Number of deaths
Other non-natural	30-39	Male	1
Self-inflicted	18-20	Male	1
Self-inflicted	21-25	Female	1
Self-inflicted	21-25	Male	3
Self-inflicted	26-29	Female	1
Self-inflicted	26-29	Male	6
Self-inflicted	30-39	Male	29
Self-inflicted	40-49	Female	1
Self-inflicted	40-49	Male	14
Self-inflicted	50-59	Male	7
Self-inflicted	60 and over	Male	3

* The Prison Service definition of self-inflicted deaths is broader than the legal definition of suicide and includes all deaths where it appears that a prisoner has acted specifically to take their own life. This inclusive approach is used in part because inquest verdicts are often not available for some years after a death (some 20 per cent. of these deaths will not receive a suicide or open verdict at inquest). Annual numbers may change slightly from time to time as inquest verdicts and other information become available.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which five nationalities are most represented among the foreign prisoners being held in British gaols; and how many are held at each. [150832]

Mr. Hanson: Figures showing (i) the foreign nationalities which were the most represented in prison establishments in England and Wales and (ii) the numbers of foreign national prisoners held in each prison establishment at the end of April 2007 is set out in the following tables:

	Number
Jamaica	1,464
Nigeria	1,061
Irish Republic	653
Pakistan	419
Vietnam	406

Corresponding figures for prison establishments in Scotland and Northern Ireland are the responsibility of the Scottish Executive and the Northern Ireland Prison Service respectively.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Foreign national prisoners held in prison establishments in England and Wales, April 2007

Prison establishment	Foreign national prisoners
Total	11,231
Altcourse	52
Askham Grange	1
Acklington	1
Albany	52
Ashfield	1
Ashwell	81
Aylesbury	83
Belmarsh	246
Buckley Hall	1
Blundeston	89
Bedford	101
Blantyre House	1
Brockhill	1
Bristol	54
Birmingham	195
Bullingdon	128
Brinsford	1
Blakenhurst	136
Bullwood Hall	164
Brixton	242
Bronzfield	160
Chelmsford	123
Cardiff	64
Camp Hill	76
Cookham Wood	1
Coldingly	88
Castington	1
Channings Wood	1
Canterbury	257
Dartmoor	1
Dovegate	106
Drake Hall	59
Durham	57
Doncaster	109
Dorchester	1
Deerbolt	1
Dover	345
Downview	114
Erlestoke	54
Standford Hill	1
East Sutton Park	1
Everthorpe	1
Eastwood Park	1
Exeter	1
Elmley	173
Forest Bank	88
Ford	1
Foston Hall	1
Frankland	1
Feltham	181
Full Sutton	1
Featherstone	1
Garth	1
Gloucester	1
Guys Marsh	69
Grendon (Spring Hill)	1
Glen Parva	54
Gartree	1
Hollesley Bay (Warren Hill)	1
Huntercombe	52
Moorland Open	1
Hewell Grange	1
Holme House	1
Hindley	1
Hull	66
Highdown	176
Highpoint South	187
Haslar	154

Foreign national prisoners held in prison establishments in England and Wales, April 2007

Prison establishment	Foreign national prisoners
Haverigg	[1]—
Holloway	155
Kirkham	[1]—
Kirklevington	[1]—
Lancaster	[1]—
Leicester	76
Leeds	71
Lancaster Farms	[1]—
Lowdham Grange	83
Lindholme	135
Lincoln	[1]—
Long Lartin	79
Latchmere House	[1]—
Low Newton	[1]—
Liverpool	74
Littlehey	120
Lewes	82
Leyhill	[1]—
Moorland	[1]—
Morton Hall	220
Manchester	187
Maidstone	134
Mount	300
Edmunds Hill	63
New Hall	[1]—
Nottingham	57
Northallerton	[1]—
North Sea Camp	[1]—
Norwich	87
Onley	69
Peterborough	124
Portland	73
Parkhurst	77
Preston	[1]—
Parc	52
Kingston (Portsmouth)	[1]—
Pentonville	403
Rochester	[1]—
Reading	[1]—
Rye Hill	120
Ranby	73
Risley	69
Send	[1]—
Stafford	[1]—
Stoke Heath	[1]—
Stocken	57
Swaleside	168
Shepton Mallet	[1]—
Swinfen Hall	[1]—
Styal	[1]—
Sudbury	[1]—
Swansea	[1]—
Shrewsbury	[1]—
Thorn Cross	[1]—
Usk (Prescoed)	[1]—
Verne	386
Wellingborough	128
Winchester	74
Wakefield	53
Wealstun	[1]—
Woodhill	125
Warren Hill	[1]—
Wayland	118
Wymott	[1]—
Werrington	[1]—
Wolds	[1]—
Whitemoor	57
Wormwood Scrubs	561
Whatton	70
Wandsworth	426
Wetherby	[1]—

[1] Less than 50.

Prisons

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many new prison places will be opened *(a)* through refurbishment, *(b)* on existing prison sites and *(c)* on new sites in each of the next five years. [150142]

Mr. Hanson: NOMS undertakes a rolling programme of refurbishment on the prison estate. As schemes come back into use following refurbishment, other schemes are taken forward and the accommodation is taken out of use.

8,000 new prison places were announced by the Home Secretary in July 2006 and a further 1,500 places by the Lord Chancellor on 19 June. The programme is still in the planning stages and the number of places to be provided beyond 2007 has not been finalised.

The majority of these new places will be within existing prisons, but at least two new prisons will be built (Belmarsh West and Maghull) with a combined total of 1,200 places. In addition, a new 350 place prison (HMP Kennet) opened in June 2007.

Prisons: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1843W, to the hon. Member for North Southwark and Bermondsey (Simon Hughes), on prisons: crimes of violence, how many incidents in each category resulted in *(a)* disciplinary action, *(b)* police involvement, *(c)* a sanction detection and *(d)* a conviction. [150152]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is not held centrally. Obtaining the information would involve verifying adjudication data with each establishment, collecting data from each Police Authority and Crown Prosecution Service and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Prisons: Private Sector

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what financial penalties have been imposed on private prison contractors in respect of privately operated establishments in each of the last five financial years; what the reasons were for each penalty; and in how many cases the imposition of a penalty resulted in the withholding of the corresponding amount from the contractor concerned. [150150]

Mr. Hanson: The level of detail that the question asked for is not held in the required format. However, I can respond on the specific point of how monies are recovered when a financial penalty is imposed. The contractor is required to provide a credit note for the relevant amount to be deducted from the monthly payment.

I will write to the hon. Member with a more detailed response to the question before Parliament goes into recess.

Public Defenders: Liverpool

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice where the work that was being dealt with by the Public Defender Office in St. John's street, Liverpool has been transferred to. [150635]

Maria Eagle: Wherever possible the Public Defender Service completed existing clients' cases. In cases where it was not possible to complete work, the client was invited to nominate another Criminal Defence Service Provider and every assistance was given in aiding the smooth transfer of the case.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been made redundant as a result of the closure of the Public Defender Office in St. John's Street, Liverpool; and what their positions were. [150636]

Maria Eagle: In total 12 people were made redundant. This figure is made up of the head of office, the quality manager, a barrister, five solicitors, two accredited representatives and two administrators.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons the Public Defender Office in St. John's street, Liverpool has been closed; and who was consulted on the closure of that Office. [150645]

Maria Eagle: The decisions made about the Liverpool PDS office were made in the light of the independent evaluation of the PDS pilot, the needs of clients and the wider legal aid reform programme. The Legal Services Commission consulted its recognised trade unions and every individual affected by the closure.

Public Defenders: Pilot Schemes

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the assessment process is of the Public Defence Office pilots; and when a report on the pilots is expected to be made public. [150773]

Maria Eagle: The Public Defender Service pilot ended 31 March 2005. An independent evaluation of the pilot was published on 8 January 2007 and can be found on the Legal Services Commission's website and in the Library of the House.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the total annual cost is of the Public Defence Office pilots; and what the average annual cost has been of a Public Defence lawyer. [150774]

Maria Eagle: During 2006-07, the Legal Services Commission (LSC) spent £5 million on the public defender service (PDS).

It is not possible to provide an average cost of a public defender lawyer as it would require a manual search of employees 'actual' salaries and would therefore incur disproportionate cost.

Sexual Offences: Rehabilitation

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to develop residential treatment facilities for sex offenders. [150137]

Mr. Hanson: The Review of the Protection of Children from Sex Offenders, the report of which was published on 13 June, made a number of recommendations designed to make the treatment of sex offenders more effective. One recommendation includes a commitment to explore intensive treatment options for those sex offenders who present the highest risk of serious harm. We will examine whether it would be appropriate to deliver such intensive treatment in a residential setting.

Young Offender Institutions: Death

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many deaths occurred in young offender institutions in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* cause of death and *(b)* (i) age group and (ii) sex of deceased. [149855]

Maria Eagle: Information in respect of deaths in current young offender institutions[1]—which are exclusively male—is contained in the following table and associated notes. Establishments change and combine functions from time to time. Working out the precise make-up of the YOI estate over the 10 years and matching that to the timings of deaths could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Year/Cause of death	*Age group*	*Number of deaths*
1997		
Natural causes	21	1
Self-inflicted[2]	15-17	1
Self-inflicted	18-20	5
Self-inflicted	21	3
1998		
Homicide	15-17	1
Self-inflicted	15-17	2
Self-inflicted	18-20	3
Self-inflicted	21	2
1999		
Self-inflicted	18-20	9
Self-inflicted	21	2
2000		
Homicide	18-20	1
Self-inflicted	15-17	3
Self-inflicted	18-20	3
Self-inflicted	21	3

Year/Cause of death	Age group	Number of deaths
2001		
Self-inflicted	15-17	3
Self-inflicted	18-20	3
Self-inflicted	21	1
2002		
Self-inflicted	15-17	1
Self-inflicted	18-20	4
Self-inflicted	21	1
2003		
Self-inflicted	18-20	1
Self-inflicted	21	2
2004		
Self-inflicted	18-20	3
2005		
Other non-natural	18-20	1
Self-inflicted	15-17	2
Self-inflicted	18-20	7
2006		
Self-inflicted	18-20	1

[1] The single-function young offender institutions referred to are: Aylesbury; Ashfield; Brinsford; Castington; Deerbolt; Feltham; Glen Parva; Hindley; Huntercombe; Lancaster Farms; Moorland Open (Hatfield); Northallerton; Portland; Reading; Rochester; Stoke Heath; Swinfen Hall; Thorn Cross; Warren Hill; Werrington and Wetherby.

[2] The Prison Service definition of self-inflicted deaths is broader than the legal definition of suicide and includes all deaths where it appears that a prisoner has acted specifically to take their own life. This inclusive approach is used in part because inquest verdicts are often not available for some years after a death (some 20 per cent. of these deaths will not receive a suicide or open verdict at inquest). Annual numbers may change slightly from time to time as inquest verdicts and other information become available.

Young Offenders: Custodial Treatment

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of under 18s in custody received their custodial sentence as a result of *(a)* possessing or supplying drugs of class A, B or C and *(b)* offences in which drugs were involved. [150912]

Mr. Hanson: As at the end of May 2007 there were 74 under 18-year-olds serving sentences for drug offences in prison establishments in England and Wales; 4 per cent. of the total 1,895 under 18s serving immediate custodial sentences. It is not possible to show the number serving sentences for specific types of drug offences as the data are not robust at this level.

Information on the total number of prisoners whose offences involved drugs either as a motivating factor, or were committed under the influence of drugs, or where another offence was listed as the primary offence, is not available.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many under 18-year-olds were in custody *(a)* following conviction and *(b)* before conviction on 1 October of each year since 1997. [150913]

Mr. Hanson: Figures for all prisoners aged under 18 in all prison establishments in England and Wales 1997 to 2006 can be found in the following table.

	Following conviction[1]	Before conviction[2]
1997	2,011	468
1998	2,024	442
1999	1,989	433
2000	2,125	338
2001	2,070	302
2002	2,309	324
2003	1,934	335
2004	1,969	322
2005	2,083	408
2006	2,124	387

[1] Includes convicted unsentenced remand and sentenced prisoners.
[2] Untried remand prisoners.
Notes:
1. 1997 to 1999 figures are as at 30 June.
2. 2000 to 2006 are as at 30 September.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many places there are for under 18-year-olds in the prison estate; and how many such places are filled. [150914]

Mr. Hanson: The under-18 secure custodial estate comprises young offender institutions (mostly run by the Prison Service), secure training centres (privately run) and secure children's homes (all but one of which are run by local authorities).

The following table, based on information supplied by the Youth Justice Board, shows the number of places currently commissioned by the Board, and occupancy as at 17 July 2007, in each sector. It also shows how many of the commissioned places are not currently available for use: for example, because they have been damaged or are being refurbished.

Places commissioned, available and occupied in the secure estate for children and young people, 17 July 2007

	Young offender institutions	Secure training centres	Secure children's homes
Places commissioned	2,979	235	277
Places declared unavailable	72	0	0
Places available	2,907	235	277
Occupancy	[1]2,791	228	261

[1] Includes 356 over-18 year olds

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average number of hours spent by young offender is per day in each young offenders institution *(a)* in cells, *(b)* undergoing education and *(c)* playing team sport. [150915]

Mr. Hanson: The average number of hours per weekday prisoners in each young offender institution spent in their cells in 2006-07 is shown in the following table:

Average hours per weekday spent in cells by prisoners in each young offender institution in 2006-07

Young offenders institution	*Average time in cell per weekday in 2006-07*
Aylesbury	15.9
Brinsford	15.7
Castington	15.1
Deerbolt	17.1
Feltham	14.2
Glen Parva	13.8
Hindley	14.0
Lancaster Farms	13.8
Northallerton	14.9
Portland	15.4
Reading	17.1
Rochester	15.7
Stoke Heath	14.5
Swinfen Hall	13.6
Thorn Cross	11.5

The prison service collects information on the time spent by prisoners on Education and this is shown in the following table. Data are not collected specifically for team sport but this activity is covered within physical education and recreational sporting activities. The table shows the average number of weekly hours that young offenders spent on education, physical education and recreational sporting activity per week in 2006-07. These data are not collected on a daily basis and cannot therefore be expressed in the precise format requested.

Average hours spent on education, physical education and recreational sporting activity per week in each young offender institution in 2006-07

Establishment	*Physical education*	*Recreational sporting activity*	*Other educational activity*
Aylesbury	3.4	0.3	5.5
Brinsford	2.9	0.0	8.6
Castington	3.1	0.3	9.1
Deerbolt	3.5	0.0	7.6
Feltham	6.2	0.2	10.5
Glen Parva	2.6	0.0	5.9
Hindley	3.1	0.0	17.3
Lancaster farms	2.9	0.0	9.9
Northallerton	3.3	0.0	6.2
Portland	2.6	0.0	6.5
Reading	0.1	3.1	4.2
Rochester	1.9	0.0	3.0
Stoke Heath	2.9	1.6	5.6
Swinfen Hall	3.3	0.3	8.0
Thorn Cross	7.1	0.3	13.2

Young Offenders: Sentencing

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2007, question number 148495, if he will break down the figures provided by category of crime for which the offenders were given *(a)* custodial and *(b)* non-custodial sentences. [150286]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested, for the years 1995 to 2005, is contained in the tables.

Number of persons[1] under the age of 21 sentenced to custodial and non-custodial[2] sentences at all courts, by offence group: England and Wales

Number of persons

	Type of sentence	*Violence against the person*	*Sexual offences*	*Burglary*	*Robbery*	*Theft and handling stolen goods*	*Fraud and forgery*	*Criminal damage*
1995	Immediate custody	2,002	195	5,082	1,552	4,026	181	285
	Non-custodial sentence[2]	7,413	518	12,446	1,529	35,066	2,387	3,375
	Total	9,415	713	17,528	3,081	39,092	2,568	3,660
1996	Immediate custody	2,410	184	5,153	2,177	4,125	222	332
	Non-custodial sentence[2]	7,909	471	11,010	1,563	34,618	2,424	3,535
	Total	10,319	655	16,163	3,740	38,743	2,646	3,867
1997	Immediate custody	2,725	199	5,282	2,140	4,673	263	314
	Non-custodial sentence[2]	8,950	515	10,440	1,470	34,936	2,701	3,739
	Total	11,675	714	15,722	3,610	39,609	2,964	4,053
1998	Immediate custody	2,948	217	5,301	2,073	5,074	331	324
	Non-custodial sentence[2]	9,431	543	10,027	1,399	38,417	3,101	3,775
	Total	12,379	760	15,328	3,472	43,491	3,432	4,099

Number of persons[1] under the age of 21 sentenced to custodial and non-custodial[2] sentences at all courts, by offence group: England and Wales

Number of persons

	Type of sentence	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Burglary	Robbery	Theft and handling stolen goods	Fraud and forgery	Criminal damage
1999	Immediate custody	3,059	235	5,223	1,970	5,466	389	368
	Non-custodial sentence[2]	9,298	528	9,054	1,305	40,017	3,534	4,087
	Total	12,357	763	14,277	3,275	45,483	3,923	4,455
2000	Immediate custody	3,278	201	4,652	2,121	5,678	341	395
	Non-custodial sentence[2]	9,539	517	7,958	1,383	37,218	3,277	3,883
	Total	12,817	718	12,610	3,504	42,896	3,618	4,278
2001	Immediate custody	3,266	228	3,976	2,393	5,353	416	363
	Non-custodial sentence[2]	9,980	551	7,120	1,836	35,340	3,173	4,244
	Total	13,246	779	11,096	4,229	40,693	3,589	4,607
2002	Immediate custody	3,237	220	3,794	2,721	4,860	337	364
	Non-custodial sentence[2]	10,299	621	7,263	1,562	31,514	2,918	4,220
	Total	13,536	841	11,057	4,283	36,374	3,255	4,584
2003	Immediate custody	2,990	206	2,877	2,139	3,794	343	320
	Non-custodial sentence[2]	10,108	515	6,971	1,816	28,067	2,584	4,363
	Total	13,098	721	9,848	3,955	31,861	2,927	4,683
2004	Immediate custody	3,168	192	2,679	2,324	3,249	304	318
	Non-custodial sentence[2]	10,482	688	7,066	2,099	27,202	2,404	4,687
	Total	13,650	880	9,745	4,423	30,451	2,708	5,005
2005	Immediate custody	3,463	272	2,478	2,170	2,848	343	348
	Non-custodial sentence[2]	10,979	635	7,203	2,306	26,729	2,099	4,780
	Total	14,442	907	9,681	4,476	29,577	2,442	5,128

Number of persons

	Type of sentence	Drug offences	Other indictable offences	Indictable motoring offences	Summary offences (excluding motoring)	Summary motoring offences	Total
1995	Immediate custody	509	1,353	382	1,787	1,849	19,203
	Non-custodial sentence[2]	6,034	9,424	1,453	49,207	67,228	196,080
	Total	6,543	10,777	1,835	50,994	69,077	215,283
1996	Immediate custody	750	1,585	382	2,020	1,907	21,247
	Non-custodial sentence[2]	6,166	9,782	1,306	56,580	70,284	205,648
	Total	6,916	11,367	1,688	58,600	72,191	226,895

Number of persons

	Type of sentence	*Drug offences*	*Other indictable offences*	*Indictable motoring offences*	*Summary offences (excluding motoring)*	*Summary motoring offences*	*Total*
1997	Immediate custody	840	1,671	369	2,309	2,083	22,868
	Non-custodial sentence[2]	7,450	10,716	1,282	59,590	70,894	212,683
	Total	8,290	12,387	1,651	61,899	72,977	235,551
1998	Immediate custody	934	1,827	346	2,564	2,281	24,220
	Non-custodial sentence[2]	9,924	11,025	1,253	67,758	72,543	229,196
	Total	10,858	12,852	1,599	70,322	74,824	253,416
1999	Immediate custody	1,085	1,700	402	2,996	2,771	25,664
	Non-custodial sentence[2]	10,431	11,042	1,244	67,458	71,910	229,908
	Total	11,516	12,742	1,646	70,454	74,681	255,572
2000	Immediate custody	1,085	1,919	503	2,725	2,957	25,855
	Non-custodial sentence[2]	10,746	10,656	1,225	69,402	71,911	227,715
	Total	11,831	12,575	1,728	72,127	74,868	253,570
2001	Immediate custody	1,155	1,861	631	2,557	3,345	25,544
	Non-custodial sentence[2]	11,404	10,355	1,260	70,422	72,163	227,848
	Total	12,559	12,216	1,891	72,979	75,508	253,392
2002	Immediate custody	1,017	1,925	647	2,555	3,102	24,779
	Non-custodial sentence[2]	12,575	10,631	1,448	71,709	74,393	229,153
	Total	13,592	12,556	2,095	74,264	77,495	253,932
2003	Immediate custody	1,043	1,743	701	2,294	3,188	21,638
	Non-custodial sentence[2]	12,802	10,677	1,496	74,065	79,496	232,960
	Total	13,845	12,420	2,197	76,359	82,684	254,598
2004	Immediate custody	1,013	1,984	666	2,626	2,438	20,961
	Non-custodial sentence[2]	9,146	11,188	1,393	76,626	78,645	231,626
	Total	10,159	13,172	2,059	79,252	81,083	252,587
2005	Immediate custody	1,014	1,997	572	2,828	1,913	20,246
	Non-custodial sentence[2]	9,057	10,638	1,154	76,904	69,524	222,008
	Total	10,071	12,635	1,726	79,732	71,437	242,254

[1] Principal offence basis

[2] Absolute and conditional discharge, fine, community sentence, suspended sentence order (from April 2005) and otherwise dealt with.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice

HEALTH

Abortion: Young People

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many children under 18 years have had an abortion in each of the last 10 years; [150367]

(2) how many children under 18 years have had a second abortion in each of the last 10 years. [150368]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is set out in the following table.

	Abortions to women age under 18	*Second abortions to women age under 18*[1]
1997	16,092	939
1998	17,186	1,025
1999	16,561	1,018
2000	17,082	1,119
2001	17,273	1,175
2002	17,449	1,152
2003	18,122	1,243
2004	17,892	1,208
2005	18,023	1,316
2006	18,691	1,341

[1] Number of abortions to women age under 18 who have had an abortion in the year shown and who have also had one previous abortion.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many girls under the age of 18 years had abortions in each of the last three years, broken down by age. [151070]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Total abortions to women age under 18, resident of England and Wales, 2004-06

	Age					
	Under 14[1]	*14*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*Total under 18*
2004	157	877	2,722	5,734	8,402	17,892
2005	137	946	2,703	5,733	8,504	18,023
2006	135	907	2,948	5,859	8,770	18,619

[1] Totals for individual ages within the age group 'under 14' are suppressed for reasons of confidentiality in line with the Office for National Statistics' guidance on the disclosure of abortion statistics (2005).

Note:

Totals refer to the number of abortions in each year not number of women, i.e. women may have more than one abortion within a calendar year.

Alcoholic Drinks: Health Education

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many alcohol awareness programmes have been set up in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* the last five years. [150413]

Dawn Primarolo: In October 2006 the Government launched the Know Your Limits campaign, the first in the past five years, aimed at binge drinkers.

'Safe. Sensible. Social. The next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy' committed the Government to campaign to end the tolerance of drunkenness and raise awareness of the sensible drinking message, specifically how to use units to calculate alcoholic intake. Although neither campaign is due to be launched until 2008, work is currently underway to facilitate this.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government are taking to highlight the dangers of drinking alcohol to adults, particularly amongst the over 60s. [150477]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government's Renewed Alcohol Strategy, 'Safe, Sensible, Social—Next Steps in the National Alcohol Strategy' aims to focus future action on reducing the types of harm that are of most concern to the public, by creating an environment that actively promotes sensible drinking and increasing the public's awareness of the risks associated with excessive consumption and how to get help.

The Government are aware that many adults of all ages do not realise their drinking patterns may be damaging their physical and mental health and may be causing substantial harm to others. A ground-breaking agreement between Government and the alcohol industry to place health information on alcohol product labels will help people to monitor their alcohol intake more easily. This will be supported by a sustained national communications campaign that will raise the public's knowledge of units of alcohol and ensure that everyone has the information they need to estimate how much they really do drink.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what strategy the Government are taking to inform females, especially younger women, about the risks of binge drinking. [150482]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government's renewed alcohol strategy, 'Safe. Sensible. Social'. The next steps in the 'National Alcohol Strategy', emphasises the need to challenge the binge drinking culture. Sustained national campaigning will challenge public tolerance of drunkenness and drinking that causes harm to health.

From 2008, national campaigning will raise the public's knowledge of units of alcohol, to ensure that everyone, women and men, has the information they need to assess how much they drink in relation to advice on sensible drinking.

The Government are concerned that young people aged 16-24 years are significantly more likely than people in other age groups to have consumed more than twice the recommended sensible drinking limit.

The Know Your Limits campaign, launched by the Government in October 2006, provides a range of advice to women on how to remain safe if they find themselves in vulnerable situations as a result of having consumed too much alcohol. In addition, the Government have recently issued revised advice informing women of the risks posed by excessive alcohol consumption during pregnancy and for women hoping to conceive.

Alcoholic Drinks: Health Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to set health-related alcohol targets. [147979]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is developing a new outcomes framework for local accountability and decision-making on health and social care. Key stakeholders' views are currently being sought on the framework. Final decisions on it will be made as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what change there has been in the recorded number of *(a)* incidents of binge drinking leading to accident and emergency admissions and *(b)* alcohol related illnesses since the publication of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy report in 2004. [150481]

Dawn Primarolo: Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data cannot determine when an admitted patient has been involved in an incident of binge drinking, and the vast majority of incidents of binge drinking do not result in an admission to hospital. While HES data can be used to determine the number of episodes where the patient had an alcohol related illness, many patients may not be admitted to hospital and would instead be treated in other settings such as primary care or outpatients. Neither can HES supply data that could be used to accurately assess the change in the number of alcohol related illnesses since 2004. While it is likely that alcohol-related attendances at accident and emergency (A&E) departments will be higher than those for alcohol-related admissions to hospital, these data are not recorded.

The following table provides a count of finished admission episodes (FAE), for which data are available, with an alcohol-related primary diagnosis where the patient was admitted via A&E.

Count of FAE with an alcohol-related primary diagnosis admitted via A&E for 2004-05 and 2005-06: National health service hospitals, England

	Admissions
2004-05	34,360
2005-06	39,641

Notes:

Alcohol-related diagnoses defined by ICD-10 codes: F10 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol; K70 Alcoholic liver disease; and T51 Toxic effect of alcohol.

Admission methods 71: Emergency—via A&E services, including the casualty department of the provider' and '28: Emergency—other means, including patients who arrive via the A&E department of another health care provider'

Finished admission episodes

A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Diagnosis (primary diagnosis)

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.

Data quality

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. Whilst this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Ungrossed data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:

HES, The Information Centre for health and social care

Alcoholic Drinks: Taxation

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will discuss with the Chancellor of the Exchequer reviewing existing alcohol control policies to include the introduction of increased taxation on alcohol products and the implementation of policies limiting the availability of alcohol; and if he will make a statement. [150274]

Dawn Primarolo: Taxation, including alcohol excise duty, is a matter for the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with decisions on the appropriate levels of tax being taken each year at the time of the Budget.

As described in "Safe. Sensible. Social. The next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy", significant progress has been made in delivering actions under the 2004 strategy. The Government's renewed strategy sets out a co-ordinated approach to change our drinking culture, which recognises the responsibilities of industry as well as Government and other partners.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many teenagers *(a)* are undertaking and *(b)* have undertaken regular medical treatment as a result of alcohol abuse in (i) 2007 and (ii) each of the last five years. [150409]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not held centrally.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female teenagers were admitted to accident and emergency departments on grounds related to drunkenness in each month of (i) 2007 and (ii) the last five years, broken down by NHS trust; and what treatments they required, broken down by category. [150469]

Dawn Primarolo: We do not collect data relating to alcohol-related attendances at accident and emergency departments.

Tables have been placed in the Library which supply data for teenagers admitted to hospital via accident and emergency with a primary diagnosis of T51 toxic effect of alcohol (i.e. more severe than general drunkenness and loss of inhibitions) for the last five years, broken down by gender and health care provider. The information provided in the tables does not include instances of the toxic effects of alcohol as secondary diagnosis.

British Fluoridation Society: Finance

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the impact of the withdrawal of funding for the British Fluoridation Society upon his Department's goal to reduce oral health inequalities. [149692]

Ann Keen: The British Fluoridation Society (BFS) advises strategic health authorities (SHAs) and primary care trusts on the potential that the fluoridation of water offers for reducing inequalities in

oral health in accordance with our policy that decisions on fluoridation schemes should be taken by SHAs, following local consultations. I understand that the BFS has identified a source of funding which should enable it to continue its core activities in 2007-08.

Care Homes: Fees and Charges

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the waiting time is for a reassessment of registered nursing care contribution banding awarded to an individual patient in each primary care trust; and if he will make a statement. [150089]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not collected by the Department.

Carers: Protective Clothing

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department funds the provision of aprons and gloves for carers. [150769]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No. It is for care providers, such as domiciliary care agencies and care home operators, to ensure that care staff are equipped with suitable protective clothing and that regulations governing hygiene and health and safety are complied with.

Providers will budget for the cost of protective clothing when negotiating prices for their services with commissioners, such as local authorities.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: West Midlands

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the closure of the Birmingham/West Midlands Clinical Network Co-ordinating Centre for myalgic encephalomyelitis. [150768]

Dawn Primarolo: The local national health service determines the configuration of local services and organisations, including those organisations that provide services to patients with chronic fatigue syndrome/myalagic encephalomyelitis.

Clinical Psychologists: Training

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many trainee clinical psychologists were offered a job in the NHS in 2007. [150365]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally.

Dental Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many units of *(a)* dental and *(b)* orthodontic activity were unused in the last period for which figures were available, broken down by NHS trust. [148131]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the form requested. Information is available on the level of general dental care commissioned by primary care trusts (PCTs) and on the services provided. However, the two data returns cannot be directly compared.

The first data set shows (for a given month) the prospective annual level of services that have been commissioned as at that point. However, the annual services commissioned at a given point in time will not necessarily remain a reliable guide to the services due to be provided over the following 12 months, because levels of commissioning can change from month to month. For instance, the volume of services commissioned as at March 2007 is higher than the volume of services commissioned as at April 2006.

The second data set shows courses of treatment (and the corresponding units of dental activity) reported by dentists and processed by the NHS Business Services Authority up to the end of March 2007. This does not, however, represent the full-year data for 2006-07 because further courses of treatment carried out in 2006-07 were reported and processed during the first quarter of 2007-08. The full-year data are likely to be published in August.

The following tables contain information by PCT on dental services commissioned as at 31 March 2007, expressed as numbers of units of dental activity is provided in the following tables. Units of dental activity are a weighted measure of the annual courses of treatment provided for NHS patients. This information does not include orthodontics or other specialist services. This information is also available at:

www.performance.doh.gov.uk/dental_contracts/index.htm

Information on courses of treatment (and the corresponding units of dental activity) reported and processed up to the end of March 2007 is contained in a report published by the Information Centre for health and social care: "NHS Dental Statistics for England: Quarter 4:31 March 2007" which is available in the Library.

Dental contracts, primary care trusts in England, as at 31 March 2007

			UDAs commissioned			*UDAs recommissioned*		
SHA code	*PCT code*	*PCT name*	*And provided b2*	*But not yet provided b1*	*Total b1+b2*	*And provided a2*	*But not yet provided a1*	*Total a1+a2*
		England	77,125,114	1,286,803	78,411,917	2,533,414	302,651	2,836,065
Q31	5HG	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	517,502	1,960	519,462	26,190	1,960	28,150
Q36	5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	256,158	—	256,158	—	—	—
Q36	5A9	Barnet PCT	365,687	—	365,687	6,368	—	6,368

Dental contracts, primary care trusts in England, as at 31 March 2007

			UDAs commissioned			UDAs recommissioned		
SHA code	*PCT code*	*PCT name*	*And provided*	*But not yet provided*	*Total*	*And provided*	*But not yet provided*	*Total*
			b1		*b1+b2*	*a2*	*a1*	*a1+a2*
Q32	5JE	Barnsley PCT	416,216	—	416,216	16,527	—	16,527
Q33	5ET	Bassetlaw PCT	158,439	—	158,439	4,898	—	4,898
Q39	5FL	Bath and North East Somerset PCT	228,264	—	228,264	—	—	—
Q35	5P2	Bedfordshire PCT	516,153	1,003	517,156	6,498	1,003	7,501
Q38	5QG	Berkshire East PCT	423,524	—	423,524	12,144	—	12,144
Q38	5QF	Berkshire West PCT	477,079	3,500	480,579	42,520	3,500	46,020
Q36	TAK	Bexley Care Trust	296,238	—	296,238	—	—	—
Q34	5PG	Birmingham East and North PCT	692,059	—	692,059	—	—	—
Q31	5CC	Blackburn and Darwen Teaching PCT	233,036	—	233,036	15,250	—	15,250
Q31	5HP	Blackpool PCT	214,079	9,192	223,271	16,411	9,192	25,603
Q31	5HQ	Bolton PCT	404,521	—	404,521	2,800	—	2,800
Q39	5QN	Bournemouth and Poole PCT	633,533	—	633,533	36,306	—	36,306
Q32	5NY	Bradford and Airedale PCT	770,303	—	770,303	8,065	—	8,065
Q36	5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	487,783	—	487,783	664	—	664
Q37	5LQ	Brighton and Hove City PCT	445,815	—	445,815	17,337	—	17,337
Q39	5QJ	Bristol PCT	715,857	—	715,857	—	—	—
Q36	5A7	Bromley PCT	320,000	—	320,000	18,338	—	18,338
Q38	5QD	Buckinghamshire PCT	537,541	12,335	549,876	20,478	9,725	30,203
Q31	5JX	Bury PCT	335,000	—	335,000	1,323	—	1,323
Q32	5J6	Calderdale PCT	361,903	3,417	365,320	—	—	—
Q35	5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	782,884	—	782,884	34,940	—	34,940
Q36	5K7	Camden PCT	294,234	—	294,234	18,344	—	18,344
Q31	5NP	Central and Eastern PCT	791,829	—	791,829	17,672	—	17,672
Q31	5NG	Central Lancashire PCT	760,739	9,673	770,412	8,780	9,430	18,210
Q36	5C3	City and Hackney Teaching PCT	253,569	—	253,569	2,188	—	2,188
Q39	5QP	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	772,689	—	772,689	30,122	—	30,122
Q30	5ND	County Durham PCT	792,176	—	792,176	23,963	—	23,963
Q34	5MD	Coventry Teaching PCT	529,190	—	529,190	28,596	—	28,596
Q36	5K9	Croydon PCT	497,480	—	497,480	3,683	—	3,683
Q31	5NE	Cumbria PCT	751,923	22,500	774,423	23,350	7,000	30,350
Q30	5J9	Darlington PCT	199,208	45,919	245,127	—	—	—
Q33	5N7	Derby City PCT	377,592	—	377,592	—	—	—
Q33	5N6	Derbyshire County PCT	1,021,360	—	1,021,360	21,922	—	21,922
Q39	5QQ	Devon PCT	1,035,384	20,138	1,055,522	26,748	18,255	45,003
Q32	5N5	Doncaster PCT	565,378	—	565,378	—	—	—
Q39	5QM	Dorset PCT	527,471	35,152	562,623	55,151	17,500	72,651
Q34	5PE	Dudley PCT	563,052	—	563,052	45,773	—	45,773
Q36	5HX	Ealing PCT	481,597	—	481,597	11,713	—	11,713
Q35	5P3	East and North Hertfordshire PCT	868,979	3,279	872,258	12,249	—	12,249
Q31	5NH	East Lancashire PCT	495,504	—	495,504	1,405	—	1,405
Q32	5NW	East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	321,414	26,133	347,547	—	—	—
Q37	5P7	East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	496,346	—	496,346	4,560	—	4,560
Q37	5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	929,990	33,664	963,654	39,187	6,232	45,419
Q36	5C1	Enfield PCT	422,274	—	422,274	1,346	—	1,346
Q30	5KF	Gateshead PCT	344,848	—	344,848	21,626	—	21,626

Dental contracts, primary care trusts in England, as at 31 March 2007

			UDAs commissioned			*UDAs recommissioned*		
SHA code	*PCT code*	*PCT name*	*And provided* b2	*But not yet provided* b1	*Total* b1+b2	*And provided* a2	*But not yet provided* a1	*Total* a1+a2
Q39	5QH	Gloucestershire PCT	499,113	—	499,113	—	—	—
Q35	5PR	Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	470,955	—	470,955	3,384	—	3,384
Q36	5A8	Greenwich Teaching PCT	378,400	—	378,400	6,050	—	6,050
Q31	5NM	Halton and St. Helens PCT	542,462	11,000	553,462	21,000	11,000	32,000
Q36	5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	278,981	—	278,981	2,706	—	2,706
Q38	5QC	Hampshire PCT	1,341,644	85,850	1,427,494	71,038	25,330	96,368
Q36	5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	464,340	—	464,340	468	—	468
Q36	5K6	Harrow PCT	328,544	—	328,544	2,630	—	2,630
Q30	5D9	Hartlepool PCT	199,357	—	199,357	—	—	—
Q37	5P8	Hastings and Rother PCT	309,082	—	309,082	—	—	—
Q36	5A4	Havering PCT	340,478	—	340,478	4,666	—	4,666
Q34	5MX	Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	521,876	5,446	527,322	7,531	5,446	12,977
Q34	5CN	Herefordshire PCT	246,627	—	246,627	11,244	—	11,244
Q31	5NQ	Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	300,791	4,232	305,023	26,773	—	26,773
Q36	5AT	Hillingdon PCT	350,223	—	350,223	1,022	—	1,022
Q36	5HY	Hounslow PCT	349,428	—	349,428	2,213	—	2,213
Q32	5NX	Hull PCT	511,229	29,324	540,553	21,872	—	21,872
Q38	5QT	Isle of Wight NHS PCT	200,095	—	200,095	—	—	—
Q36	5K8	Islington PCT	269,280	—	269,280	3,878	—	3,878
Q36	5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	129,067	3,435	132,502	6,956	1,200	8,156
Q36	5A5	Kingston PCT	167,972	—	167,972	35,433	—	35,433
Q32	5N2	Kirklees PCT	745,415	—	745,415	11,000	—	11,000
Q31	5J4	Knowsley PCT	266,235	—	266,235	4,869	—	4,869
Q36	5LD	Lambeth PCT	410,417	—	410,417	—	—	—
Q32	5N1	Leeds PCT	1,168,549	6,386	1,174,935	76,741	6,386	83,127
Q33	5PC	Leicester City PCT	528,727	—	528,727	13,796	—	13,796
Q33	5PA	Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	1,010,815	—	1,010,815	108,020	—	108,020
Q36	5LF	Lewisham PCT	470,785	—	470,785	—	—	—
Q33	5N9	Lincolnshire PCT	1,035,763	31,359	1,067,122	42,053	31,359	73,412
Q31	5NL	Liverpool PCT	853,766	—	853,766	—	—	—
Q35	5GC	Luton Teaching PCT	274,268	—	274,268	—	—	—
Q31	5NT	Manchester PCT	872,174	—	872,174	36,416	—	36,416
Q37	5L3	Medway Teaching PCT	415,818	8,750	424,568	5,176	—	5,176
Q35	5PX	Mid Essex PCT	606,245	3,373	609,618	26,015	—	26,015
Q30	5KM	Middlesbrough County PCT	250,379	40,666	291,045	18,590	22,076	40,666
Q38	5CQ	Milton Keynes PCT	303,415	—	303,415	19,982	—	19,982
Q30	5D7	Newcastle PCT	522,532	—	522,532	8,939	—	8,939
Q36	5C5	Newham PCT	285,239	7,242	292,481	—	—	—
Q35	5PQ	Norfolk PCT	1,267,726	13,757	1,281,483	79,226	—	79,226
Q35	5PW	North East Essex PCT	499,927	—	499,927	13,267	—	13,267
Q32	5AN	North East Lincolnshire PCT	213,337	7,160	220,497	—	—	—
Q31	5NF	North Lancashire PCT	492,947	85,097	578,044	26,437	—	26,437
Q32	5EF	North Lincolnshire PCT	185,926	4,617	190,543	—	—	—
Q39	5M8	North Somerset PCT	360,416	—	360,416	—	—	—

Dental contracts, primary care trusts in England, as at 31 March 2007

			UDAs commissioned			UDAs recommissioned		
			And provided	But not yet provided	Total	And provided	But not yet provided	Total
SHA code	PCT code	PCT name	b2	b1	b1+b2	a2	a1	a1+a2
Q34	5PH	North Staffordshire PCT	342,812	—	342,812	14,000	—	14,000
Q30	5E1	North Tees PCT	290,868	—	290,868	—	—	—
Q30	5D8	North Tyneside PCT	364,220	—	364,220	30,682	—	30,682
Q32	5NV	North Yorkshire and York PCT	1,150,039	24,882	1,174,921	67,516	—	67,516
Q33	5PD	Northamptonshire PCT	938,388	—	938,388	96,858	—	96,858
Q30	TAC	Northumberland Care Trust	561,829	19,302	581,131	29,639	—	29,639
Q33	5EM	Nottingham City PCT	635,786	—	635,786	22,277	—	22,277
Q33	5P8	Nottinghamshire County PCT	832,801	382,738	1,215,539	2,122	—	2,122
Q31	5J5	Oldham PCT	391,675	—	391,675	20,087	—	20,087
Q38	5QE	Oxfordshire PCT	707,458	—	707,458	25,929	—	25,929
Q35	5PN	Peterborough PCT	295,380	35,735	331,115	12,967	840	13,807
Q39	5F1	Plymouth Teaching PCT	359,125	—	359,125	—	—	—
Q38	5FE	Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	327,743	—	327,743	26,762	—	26,762
Q36	5NA	Redbridge PCT	403,887	—	403,887	—	—	—
Q30	5QR	Redcar and Cleveland PCT	274,026	—	274,026	—	—	—
Q36	5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	121,359	—	121,359	25,214	—	25,214
Q32	5H8	Rotherham PCT	386,393	—	386,393	11,997	—	11,997
Q31	5F5	Salford Teaching PCT	408,736	—	408,736	11,200	—	11,200
Q34	5PF	Sandwell PCT	646,751	—	646,751	—	—	—
Q31	5NJ	Sefton PCT	484,550	—	484,669	—	—	—
Q32	5N4	Sheffield PCT	865,029	—	865,029	3,141	—	3,141
Q34	5M2	Shropshire County PCT	422,647	—	422,647	13,100	—	13,100
Q34	TAM	Solihull Care Trust	268,247	—	268,247	11,858	—	11,858
Q39	5QL	Somerset PCT	932,179	—	932,179	26,612	—	26,612
Q34	5M1	South Birmingham PCT	652,256	7,875	660,131	28,700	7,875	36,575
Q35	5P1	South East Essex PCT	484,701	—	484,701	4,355	—	4,355
Q39	5A3	South Gloucestershire PCT	444,708	—	444,708	—	—	—
Q34	5PK	South Staffordshire PCT	872,800	50,899	923,699	68,221	—	68,221
Q30	5KG	South Tyneside PCT	365,208	—	365,208	—	—	—
Q35	5PY	South West Essex PCT	582,463	—	582,463	23,774	—	23,774
Q38	5L1	Southampton City PCT	336,349	15,000	351,349	24,842	15,000	39,842
Q36	5LE	Southwark PCT	388,116	—	388,116	—	—	—
Q31	5F7	Stockport PCT	517,299	750	518,049	45,230	—	45,230
Q34	5PJ	Stoke on Trent PCT	403,535	—	403,535	—	—	—
Q35	5PT	Suffolk PCT	847,800	8,754	856,554	14,688	—	14,688
Q30	5KL	Sunderland Teaching PCT	549,042	—	549,042	1,386	—	1,386
Q37	5P5	Surrey PCT	1,128,437	24,000	1,152,437	75,869	24,000	99,869
Q36	5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	474,799	—	474,799	—	—	—
Q39	5K3	Swindon PCT	224,736	—	224,736	50,000	—	50,000
Q31	5LH	Tameside and Glossop PCT	445,748	—	445,748	31,665	—	31,665
Q34	5MK	Telford and Wrekin PCT	291,720	—	291,720	—	—	—
Q39	TAL	Torbay Care Trust	209,164	—	209,164	13,664	—	13,664
Q36	5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	269,022	—	269,022	9,350	—	9,350

Dental contracts, primary care trusts in England, as at 31 March 2007

			UDAs commissioned			UDAs recommissioned		
			And provided	But not yet provided	Total	And provided	But not yet provided	Total
SHA code	PCT code	PCT name	b2	b1	b1+b2	a2	a1	a1+a2
Q31	5NR	Trafford PCT	328,686	4,876	333,562	15,650	4,876	20,526
Q32	5N3	Wakefield District PCT	584,148	4,000	588,148	—	—	—
Q34	5M3	Walsall Teaching PCT	374,368	—	374,368	—	—	—
Q36	5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	345,070	—	345,070	—	—	—
Q36	5LG	Wandsworth Teaching PCT	347,833	—	347,833	5,200	—	5,200
Q31	5J2	Warrington PCT	305,154	16,807	321,961	—	—	—
Q34	5PM	Warwickshire PCT	904,738	—	904,738	19,801	—	19,801
Q35	5PV	West Essex PCT	383,312	3,196	386,508	27,819	—	27,819
Q35	5P4	West Hertfordshire PCT	768,922	5,934	774,856	60,267	5,934	66,201
Q37	5P9	West Kent PCT	739,278	8,576	747,854	22,832	265	23,097
Q37	5P6	West Sussex PCT	1,069,592	—	1,069,592	56,240	—	56,240
Q31	5NN	Western Cheshire PCT	479,715	—	479,715	19,086	—	19,086
Q36	5LC	Westminster PCT	317,231	—	317,231	5,584	—	5,584
Q39	5QK	Wiltshire PCT	492,173	—	492,173	22,843	—	22,843
Q31	5NK	Wirral PCT	633,542	—	633,542	—	—	—
Q34	5MV	Wolverhampton City PCT	451,843	22,939	474,782	2,847	—	2,847
Q34	5PL	Worcestershire PCT	775,003	74,981	849,984	26,714	57,267	83,981

			Total initially in dispute		Unresolved		Resolved, outcome accepted		Resolved, outcome not accepted	
			Contracts	UDAs	Contracts	UDAs	Contracts	UDAs	Contracts	UDAs
SHA code	PCT code	PCT name	c1+c3+c5	c2+c4+c6	c1	c2	c3	c4	c5	c6
		England	2,726	27,915,402	396	4,018,349	2,315	23,758,039	15	139,014
Q31	5HG	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	18	268,000	—	—	18	268,000	—	—
Q36	5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	5	65,435	—	—	5	65,435	—	—
Q36	5A9	Barnet PCT	44	245,019	—	—	44	245,019	—	—
Q32	5JE	Barnsley PCT	17	232,157	2	12,717	14	208,326	1	11,114
Q33	5ET	Bassetlaw PCT	6	94,785	3	72,771	3	22,014	—	—
Q39	5FL	Bath and North East Somerset PCT	5	57,629	2	17,234	3	40,395	—	—
Q35	5P2	Bedfordshire PCT	6	53,443	—	—	6	53,443	—	—
Q38	5QG	Berkshire East PCT	15	160,801	—	—	15	160,801	—	—
Q38	5QF	Berkshire West PCT	16	186,276	1	18,580	15	167,696	—	—
Q36	TAK	Bexley Care Trust	14	128,362	2	26,030	12	102,332	—	—
Q34	5PG	Birmingham East and North PCT	32	356,318	10	135,401	22	220,917	—	—
Q31	5CC	Blackburn and Darwen Teaching PCT	3	9,683	—	—	3	9,683	—	—
Q31	5HP	Blackpool PCT	9	55,518	3	11,357	6	44,161	—	—
Q31	5HQ	Bolton PCT	3	6,500	—	—	3	6,500	—	—
Q39	5QN	Bournemouth and Poole PCT	8	138,853	1	7,163	7	131,690	—	—
Q32	5NY	Bradford and Airedale PCT	15	198,016	2	18,587	13	179,429	—	—

			Total initially in dispute		Unresolved		Resolved, outcome accepted		Resolved, outcome not accepted	
			Contracts	UDAs	Contracts	UDAs	Contracts	UDAs	Contracts	UDAs
SHA code	PCT code	PCT name	c1+c3+c5	c2+c4+c6	c1	c2	c3	c4	c5	c6
Q36	5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	21	3,600	—	—	21	3,600	—	—
Q37	5LQ	Brighton and Hove City PCT	33	213,338	3	12,549	30	200,789	—	—
Q39	5QJ	Bristol PCT	21	301,509	2	1,768	19	299,741	—	—
Q36	5A7	Bromley PCT	34	253,111	2	9,494	32	243,617	—	—
Q38	5QD	Buckinghamshire PCT	31	190,694	2	16,286	28	166,641	1	7,767
Q31	5JX	Bury PCT	13	81,809	2	4,405	11	77,404	—	—
Q32	5J6	Calderdale PCT	2	14,768	—	—	2	14,768	—	—
Q35	5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	22	212,963	3	26,310	19	186,653	—	—
Q36	5K7	Camden PCT	10	53,705	—	—	10	53,705	—	—
Q31	5NP	Central and Eastern PCT	8	113,248	5	83,807	3	29,441	—	—
Q31	5NG	Central Lancashire PCT	29	442,333	1	9,643	28	432,690	—	—
Q36	5C3	City and Hackney Teaching PCT	22	159,958	3	12,752	19	147,206	—	—
Q39	5QP	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	42	425,485	16	232,916	26	192,569	—	—
Q30	5ND	County Durham PCT	18	194,636	1	19,510	17	175,126	—	—
Q34	5MD	Coventry Teaching PCT	28	468,119	—	—	28	468,119	—	—
Q36	5K9	Croydon PCT	8	53,793	2	2,571	6	51,222	—	—
Q31	5NE	Cumbria PCT	13	71,495	—	—	13	71,495	—	—
Q30	5J9	Darlington PCT	5	50,954	—	—	5	50,954	—	—
Q33	5N7	Derby City PCT	18	209,453	7	75,640	11	133,813	—	—
Q33	5N6	Derbyshire County PCT	21	281,358	—	—	21	281,358	—	—
Q39	5QQ	Devon PCT	15	225,653	—	—	15	225,653	—	—
Q32	5N5	Doncaster PCT	6	83,494	—	—	6	83,494	—	—
Q39	5QM	Dorset PCT	5	80,432	—	—	5	80,432	—	—
Q34	5PE	Dudley PCT	4	65,472	3	38,635	1	26,837	—	—
Q36	5HX	Ealing PCT	7	4,187	—	—	7	4,187	—	—
Q35	5P3	East and North Hertfordshire PCT	69	329,825	—	—	69	329,825	—	—
Q31	5NH	East Lancashire PCT	7	130,343	—	—	7	130,343	—	—
Q32	5NW	East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	4	28,979	—	—	4	28,979	—	—
Q37	5P7	East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	14	121,336	—	—	14	121,336	—	—
Q37	5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	51	487,149	31	268,680	19	201,694	1	16,775
Q36	5C1	Enfield PCT	32	342,422	2	24,208	30	318,214	—	—
Q30	5KF	Gateshead PCT	18	198,194	—	—	18	198,194	—	—
Q39	5QH	Gloucestershire PCT	39	239,747	—	—	39	239,747	—	—
Q35	5PR	Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	8	166,305	3	34,305	5	132,000	—	—

			Total initially in dispute		Unresolved		Resolved, outcome accepted		Resolved, outcome not accepted	
			Contracts	UDAs	Contracts	UDAs	Contracts	UDAs	Contracts	UDAs
SHA code	PCT code	PCT name	c1+c3+c5	c2+c4+c6	c1	c2	c3	c4	c5	c6
Q36	5A8	Greenwich TeachinG PCT	15	215,016	3	61,746	12	153,270	—	—
Q31	5NM	Halton and St. Helens PCT	1	5,600	—	—	1	5,600	—	—
Q36	5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	3	5,501	—	—	3	5,501	—	—
Q38	5QC	Hampshire PCT	30	317,046	1	7,771	29	309,275	—	—
Q36	5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	30	303,426	5	72,389	25	231,037	—	—
Q36	5K6	Harrow PCT	2	1,598	—	—	2	1,598	—	—
Q30	5D9	Hartlepool PCT	5	129,186	—	—	5	129,186	—	—
Q37	5P8	Hastings and Rother PCT	8	65,129	4	18,777	4	46,352	—	—
Q36	5A4	Havering PCT	4	45,452	—	—	4	45,452	—	—
Q34	5MX	Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	12	93,225	—	—	12	93,225	—	—
Q34	5CN	Herefordshire PCT	5	78,138	2	48,147	3	29,991	—	—
Q31	5NQ	Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	15	124,231	1	1,483	13	116,192	1	6,556
Q36	5AT	Hillingdon PCT	17	135,332	—	—	17	135,332	—	—
Q36	5HY	Hounslow PCT	12	7,671	—	—	12	7,671	—	—
Q32	5NX	Hull PCT	2	10,756	—	—	2	10,756	—	—
Q38	5QT	Isle of Wight NHS PCT	9	116,688	1	7,568	8	109,120	—	—
Q36	5K8	Islington PCT	6	50,941	—	—	6	50,941	—	—
Q36	5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	3	32,690	—	—	3	32,690	—	—
Q36	5A5	Kingston PCT	7	36,691	—	—	7	36,691	—	—
Q32	5N2	Kirklees PCT	47	611,220	—	—	47	611,220	—	—
Q31	5J4	Knowsley PCT	15	217,445	6	116,021	9	101,424	—	—
Q36	5LD	Lambeth PCT	16	25,941	—	—	16	25,941	—	—
Q32	5N1	Leeds PCT	65	781,216	9	176,711	56	604,505	—	—
Q33	5PC	Leicester City PCT	56	453,361	11	57,338	45	396,023	—	—
Q33	5PA	Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	54	415,609	3	18,980	49	373,976	2	22,653
Q36	5LF	Lewisham PCT	26	321,436	—	—	26	321,436	—	—
Q33	5N9	Lincolnshire PCT	20	348,684	4	22,992	15	296,010	1	29,682
Q31	5NL	Liverpool PCT	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q35	5GC	Luton Teaching PCT	4	66,313	—	—	4	66,313	—	—
Q31	5NT	Manchester PCT	56	522,377	2	15,533	53	500,638	1	6,206
Q37	5L3	Medway Teaching PCT	19	138,916	1	453	18	138,463	—	—
Q35	5PX	Mid Essex PCT	14	200,510	—	—	14	200,510	—	—
Q30	5KM	Middlesbrough County PCT	2	23,008	—	—	1	19,508	1	3,500
Q38	5CQ	Milton Keynes PCT	16	121,753	—	—	16	121,753	—	—
Q30	5D7	Newcastle PCT	11	142,821	—	—	11	142,821	—	—

			Total initially in dispute		Unresolved		Resolved, outcome accepted		Resolved, outcome not accepted	
			Contracts	UDAs	Contracts	UDAs	Contracts	UDAs	Contracts	UDAs
SHA code	PCT code	PCT name	c1+c3+c5	c2+c4+c6	c1	c2	c3	c4	c5	c6
Q36	5C5	Newham PCT	11	150,566	3	16,481	8	134,085	—	—
Q35	5PQ	Norfolk PCT	20	167,988	—	—	20	167,988	—	—
Q35	5PW	North East Essex PCT	11	112,963	6	80,894	5	32,069	—	—
Q32	5AN	North East Lincolnshire PCT	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q31	5NF	North Lancashire PCT	1	3,678	—	—	1	3,678	—	—
Q32	5EF	North Lincolnshire PCT	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q39	5M8	North Somerset PCT	12	227,763	4	14,954	8	212,809	—	—
Q34	5PH	North Staffordshire PCT	2	13,828	—	—	2	13,828	—	—
Q30	5E1	North Tees PCT	3	38,836	—	—	3	38,836	—	—
Q30	5D8	North Tyneside PCT	4	56,099	—	—	4	56,099	—	—
Q32	5NV	North Yorkshire and York PCT	22	243,567	14	114,944	6	118,342	2	10,281
Q33	5PD	Northamptonshire PCT	12	169,978	—	—	10	151,346	2	18,632
Q30	TAC	Northumberland Care Trust	7	114,167	—	—	7	114,167	—	—
Q33	5EM	Nottingham City PCT	22	459,490	19	202,056	2	252,566	1	4,868
Q33	5N8	Nottinghamshire County PCT	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q31	5J5	Oldham PCT	13	143,180	—	—	13	143,180	—	—
Q38	5QE	Oxfordshire PCT	51	430,419	20	135,623	31	294,796	—	—
Q35	5PN	Peterborough PCT	7	151,876	2	58,025	5	93,851	—	—
Q39	5F1	Plymouth Teaching PCT	1	627	—	—	1	627	—	—
Q38	5FE	Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	12	201,236	3	31,670	9	169,566	—	—
Q36	5NA	Redbridge PCT	13	133,078	—	—	13	133,078	—	—
Q30	5QR	Redcar and Cleveland PCT	2	38,754	—	—	2	38,754	—	—
Q36	5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	3	12,743	—	—	3	12,743	—	—
Q32	5H8	Rotherham PCT	30	386,393	3	43,515	27	342,878	—	—
Q31	5F5	Salford Teaching PCT	5	29,415	1	2,987	4	26,428	—	—
Q34	5PF	Sandwell PCT	46	580,226	9	120,607	37	459,619	—	—
Q31	5NJ	Sefton PCT	4	40,687	—	—	4	40,687	—	—
Q32	5N4	Sheffield PCT	70	865,029	23	289,556	47	575,473	—	—
Q34	5M2	Shropshire County PCT	55	340,561	23	111,380	32	229,181	—	—
Q34	TAM	Solihull Care Trust	26	206,570	1	7,101	24	198,489	1	980
Q39	5QL	Somerset PCT	28	326,884	—	—	28	326,884	—	—
Q34	5M1	South Birmingham PCT	34	402,443	1	18,680	33	383,763	—	—

			Total initially in dispute		Unresolved		Resolved, outcome accepted		Resolved, outcome not accepted	
			Contracts	UDAs	Contracts	UDAs	Contracts	UDAs	Contracts	UDAs
SHA code	PCT code	PCT name	c1+c3+c5	c2+c4+c6	c1	c2	c3	c4	c5	c6
Q35	5P1	South East Essex PCT	17	167,410	3	24,309	14	143,101	—	—
Q39	5A3	South Gloucestershire PCT	20	380,288	6	96,926	14	283,362	—	—
Q34	5PK	South Staffordshire PCT	33	183,707	—	—	33	183,707	—	—
Q30	5KG	South Tyneside PCT	16	365,208	—	—	16	365,208	—	—
Q35	5PY	South West Essex PCT	17	221,553	4	79,969	13	141,584	—	—
Q38	5L1	Southampton City PCT	15	149,264	—	—	15	149,264	—	—
Q36	5LE	Southwark PCT	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q31	5F7	Stockport PCT	46	488,519	—	—	46	488,519	—	—
Q34	5PJ	Stoke on Trent PCT	11	192,230	1	24,167	10	168,063	—	—
Q35	5PT	Suffolk PCT	29	231,995	—	—	29	231,995	—	—
Q30	5KL	Sunderland Teaching PCT	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q37	5P5	Surrey PCT	28	246,433	5	65,233	23	181,200	—	—
Q36	5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	39	211,279	8	29,455	31	181,824	—	—
Q39	5K3	Swindon PCT	2	19,549	—	—	2	19,549	—	—
Q31	5LH	Tameside and Glossop PCT	10	167,073	—	—	10	167,073	—	—
Q34	5MK	Telford and Wrekin PCT	24	272,475	8	51,285	16	221,190	—	—
Q39	TAL	Torbay Care Trust	3	77,642	—	—	3	77,642	—	—
Q36	5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	2	9,217	—	—	2	9,217	—	—
Q31	5NR	Trafford PCT	23	172,200	—	—	23	172,200	—	—
Q32	5N3	Wakefield District PCT	19	342,735	2	27,125	17	315,610	—	—
Q34	5M3	Walsall Teaching PCT	3	67,127	—	—	3	67,127	—	—
Q36	5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	7	53,143	6	44,562	1	8,581	—	—
Q36	5LG	Wandsworth Teaching PCT	17	347,833	—	—	17	347,833	—	—
Q31	5J2	Warrington PCT	14	133,357	1	21,155	13	112,202	—	—
Q34	5PM	Warwickshire PCT	22	186,743	5	46,952	17	139,791	—	—
Q35	5PV	West Essex PCT	9	76,923	3	11,442	6	65,481	—	—
Q35	5P4	West Hertfordshire PCT	82	506,883	25	212,853	57	294,030	—	—
Q37	5P9	West Kent PCT	44	376,667	8	85,256	36	291,411	—	—
Q37	5P6	West Sussex PCT	55	493,016	2	2,636	53	490,380	—	—
Q31	5NN	Western Cheshire PCT	3	16,925	—	—	3	16,925	—	—
Q36	5LC	Westminster PCT	9	43,029	—	—	9	43,029	—	—
Q39	5QK	Wiltshire PCT	9	104,709	1	10,728	8	93,981	—	—
Q31	5NK	Wirral PCT	43	633,542	5	97,711	38	535,831	—	—
Q34	5MV	Wolverhampton City PCT	8	71,841	—	—	8	71,841	—	—

			Total initially in dispute		Unresolved		Resolved, outcome accepted		Resolved, outcome not accepted	
			Contracts	UDAs	Contracts	UDAs	Contracts	UDAs	Contracts	UDAs
SHA code	PCT code	PCT name	c1+c3+c5	c2+c4+c6	c1	c2	c3	c4	c5	c6
Q34	5PL	Worcestershire PCT	19	134,254	4	18,884	15	115,370	—	—

Source:
Department of Health form DC01.

Dental contracts, strategic health authorities in England, as at 31 March 2002

		UDAs commissioned			UDAs recommissioned		
SHA code	SHA name	And provided b2	But not yet provided b1	Total b1+b2	And provided a2	But not yet provided a1	Total a1+a2
	England	77,125,114	1,286,803	78,411,917	2,533,414	302,651	2,836,065
Q30	North East	4,713,693	105,887	4,819,580	134,825	22,076	156,901
Q31	North West	11,827,723	166,087	11,993,810	371,594	43,458	415,052
Q32	Yorkshire and the Humber	8,245,279	105,919	8,351,198	216,859	6,386	223,245
Q33	East Midlands	6,539,671	414,097	6,953,768	311,946	31,359	343,305
Q34	West Midlands	8,959	162,140	9,121,664	278,385	70,588	348,973
Q35	East of England	8,649,715	75,031	8,724,746	319,449	7,777	327,226
Q36	London	10,565,491	10,677	10,576,168	174,014	1,200	175,214
Q37	South East Coast	5,534,358	74,990	5,609,348	221,201	30,497	251,698
Q38	South Central	4,654,848	116,685	4,771,533	243,695	53,555	297,250
Q39	South West	7,434,812	55,290	7,490,102	261,446	35,755	297,201

		Contracts	UDAs	Contracts	UDAs	Contracts	UDAs	Contracts	UDAs
SHA code	SHA name	c1+c3+c5	c2+c4+c6	c1	c2	c3	c4	c5	c6
	England	2,726	27,915,402	396	4,018,349	2,315	23,758,039	15	139,014
Q30	North East	91	1,351,863	1	19,510	89	1,328,853	1	3,500
Q31	North West	352	3,877,158	27	364,102	323	3,500,294	2	12,762
Q32	Yorkshire and the Humber	299	3,798,330	55	683,155	241	3,093,780	3	21,395
Q33	East Midlands	209	2,432,718	47	449,777	156	1,907,106	6	75,835
Q34	West Midlands	364	3,713,277	67	621,239	296	3,091,058	1	980
Q35	East of England	315	2,666,950	49	528,107	266	2,138,843	—	—
Q36	London	439	3,452,175	36	299,688	403	3,152,487	—	—
Q37	South East Coast	252	2,141,984	54	453,584	197	1,671,625	1	16,775
Q38	South Central	195	1,874,177	28	217,498	166	1,648,912	1	7,767
Q39	South West	210	2,606,770	32	381,689	178	2,225,081	—	—

Source:
Department of Health form DC01.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of patients who underwent assessment were assessed as eligible for national health service orthodontic treatment, broken down by primary care trust in the last 12 months. [149690]

Ann Keen: Information is not held centrally in this form. Information has been placed in the Library which shows the ratio of case assessments to case starts (i.e. the start of a course of treatment) notified to the Business Services Authority, Dental Services Division for the period April 2006 to March 2007 for national

health service orthodontic services provided under primary care contracts. However, there are likely to be a number of potential reasons (i.e. not limited to decisions that a patient is not eligible for treatment) why a case assessment is not followed by a case start.

Under the dental reforms introduced in April 2006, all providers of primary care orthodontic services are required to use a well-established index of orthodontic treatment need to assess eligibility for NHS treatment. This provides a fairer and more consistent way of assessing clinical needs and ensuring that resources are deployed on treatments that bring genuine health gain. It is for primary care trusts to agree local clinical governance frameworks that cover what information providers of orthodontic services have to make available to demonstrate compliance with this and other contractual requirements.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to assist the resolution of the general dental services contracts that were in dispute at 31 March. [149693]

Ann Keen: Primary care trusts and local providers of national health service dental services are responsible for seeking to resolve any disputed elements of NHS contracts. If the parties cannot reach a local resolution, the dispute can be referred to the NHS Litigation Authority. The NHS primary care contracting team offers and provides support and advice on dispute resolution to those commissioners who request it.

Eighty seven per cent. of all those contracts originally signed in dispute have so far been resolved. Well over 99 per cent. of the disputes so far resolved have ended in the dentist deciding to stay with the NHS.

Dental Services: Waiting Lists

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for orthodontic treatment was in each primary care trust in each year since 2001. [149689]

Ann Keen: Tables have been placed in the Library which set out available information on the average waiting times for first consultant outpatient appointments and for hospital orthodontic treatment. Information relating to treatment in primary care is not collected centrally.

Average waiting times are based on the median wait of patients still waiting for admission or first outpatient appointment at the end of the quarter. For outpatients, medians can also be calculated using patients seen during the quarter. However, for consistency with inpatient data, the outpatient median has been calculated from those still waiting.

Dentistry: Training

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what basis applicants to practise as dentists in the NHS are able to claim exemption from the requirement to undertake vocational training in the UK prior to acceptance; and if he will make a statement. [149502]

Ann Keen: Dentists who hold appropriate European diplomas are exempt from the requirement to undertake vocational training. Dentists who, in the four years before applying for inclusion in a primary care trust's (PCT) dental performers list, have experience in primary care for a total period of at least two years or an equivalent period part time in the community dental service, the armed forces of the Crown, or the performance of personal dental services prior to 1 April 2006, are also exempt. Through their responsibility for clinical governance and the management of their performers lists PCTs are accountable for the quality of the services provided by all dentists on their lists.

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in his Department have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for (i) inappropriate use of the internet while at work and (ii) using work telephones to access premium rate telephone numbers in the last 12 months. [149191]

Dawn Primarolo: Two departmental employees have been subject to disciplinary action for internet misuse, neither was dismissed.

We also had two cases of disciplinary action involving temporary contractors. In each case, the contract was terminated immediately.

The Department has blocked calls to all premium numbers.

Departments: Public Appointments

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has any plans to reorganise the system of health tsars. [150277]

Dawn Primarolo: There are no plans to reorganise the system of national clinical directors (health tsars) in the Department.

Departments: Publicity

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the cost effectiveness of advertising commissioned by his Department in the last 12 months. [148500]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has run a number of advertising campaigns during the previous 12 months in the drive to improve public health. In some instances these are part of longer-term campaigns to address particular issues, e.g. smoking cessation, and some are tactical campaigns, e.g. flu immunisation.

Where long-term campaigns are involved, evaluation techniques are used to measure current performance against pre-determined targets, and to benchmark against previous campaigns. By so doing the department can aim to improve the effectiveness of future campaigns. This is consistent with the recommended principles of the Engage planning framework, which is designed to improve the quality and effectiveness of government campaigns.

Where campaigns have short-term tactical targets, evaluation is also specifically undertaken to ensure response levels are achieved through the most effective deployment of media, and once more to inform future planning for similar activities. Examples of these two campaign approaches follow.

Depending on the nature of the task, the department uses appropriate industry-wide recognised measures to determine the success and cost effectiveness of the campaign. The Central Office of Information is often involved in the campaign development process and these measures are also used by them to measure campaign success levels. The measures chosen will include some of the following elements:

spontaneous ad awareness;

prompted ad awareness;

spontaneous ad recall;

prompted ad recall;

logo/brand recognition;

slogan recognition;

ad recall (first mention);

ad recall (all mentions);

attitude shift (pre/post);

attitude shift (regular tracking);

specific policy/product detail recall;

agreement with relevant statements (pre/post);

response by channel (telephone, coupon, website);

response by medium (TV, national press, etc);

response for information;

response to helpline;

second stage response (e.g. fill in an application form);

final stage response (e.g. receive benefit, give blood);

tracking of response quality (from initial inquiry to final result);

behavioural shift—immediate (e.g. join smoking cessation group); and

behavioural shift—long term (e.g. give up smoking).

Example of long-term campaign evaluation

Using these measures, some of the top line results from recent tobacco campaigns since September 2006 are as follows:

Motivations That Matter (September 2006)

70 per cent. of 16-34 smoking men aware that impotence can be caused by smoking, (compared to 45 per cent. at start of campaign).

41 per cent. of 16-34 smoking women said the ads made them more likely to quit.

Hook/Send Off (January to March 2007)

82 per cent. of smokers agreed that a smoker who smokes 5,000 cigarettes a year must be really addicted;

76 per cent. of smokers agreed that the campaign was aimed at people like me;

39 per cent. of smokers said 'Hook' made them think they should give up now; and

23 per cent. of smokers said that TV advertising was a prompt for their most recent quit attempt (prompted).

Direct Response:

During the Hook/Send Off campaign 83,606 people phoned the NHS Smoking Helpline, 545,564 people visited the gosmokefree website and 195,000 people interacted with the interactive TV pages (total of 824,170 responses).

Secondhand Smoke (March 2007)

42 per cent. of adults (48 per cent. of smokers) spontaneously recalled any element of the campaign (82 per cent. and 84 per cent. respectively for prompted awareness);

88 per cent. of adults agreed second hand smoke can cause lung cancer in non-smokers post-campaign (78 per cent. pre-campaign);

75 per cent. of adults agreed second hand smoke can cause heart disease in non-smokers post-campaign (70 per cent. pre-campaign); and

50 per cent. agreed most of the smoke from a cigarette can't be seen or smelt post-campaign (27 per cent. pre-campaign).

Example of tactical campaign evaluation:

The flu immunisation communications campaign has been run annually since 2000. The advertising has been evaluated by pre and post campaigns surveys of the target audiences to measure changes in spontaneous and prompted recall and recognition of the advertising, propensity to get the jab, the relative cost effectiveness of the different media, take-up of campaign materials, and ultimately, take-up of the jab.

In 2006 the research indicated that, compared to 2005, the advertising had achieved:

similar levels of prompted recall and recognition among the at-risks groups;

propensity to get the jab was also similar to 2005 among the total sample surveyed, and increased with the number of media recognised;

among the over-65s there was some decline in spontaneous and prompted recall of any flu jab advertising, and in propensity to get the jab; and

among the at-risk groups of all ages spontaneous recall of any flu jab advertising changed little, but there was a decline in prompted recall. Propensity to get the jab remained stable, and was slightly higher among those who had seen the campaign.

Take-up of the campaign materials by the national health service was 2.8 million items.

The campaign contributed a take-up of the vaccine of 74 per cent. among the over-65s in 2006 (65.3 per cent. in 2000-01), towards the World Health Organization target of 75 per cent. by 2010.

Departments: Racial Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [149252]

Dawn Primarolo: During the last 12 months (for the period July 2006 to July 2007) the Department has received no official complaints of racial abuse.

Drugs: Advisory Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children have used the Talk to Frank helpline in each year since it was set up. [150371]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of children who have contacted the Talk to Frank Helpline from 2004-05 are shown in the following table.

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Total
Under 16	4,237	5,917	4,444	14,598
16 to 25	11,629	14,136	14,974	40,739

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the reasons for calls to the Talk to Frank helpline, broken down by substance abuse type. [150372]

Dawn Primarolo: From April 2006 to March 2007, the main reason (72 60 per cent.) for calls to the Talk to Frank helpline was to ask for information on individual substances. This reflects an increase of 6.3 per cent. compared to 2005-06. Further details of caller requirements are contained in the following table.

Caller requirements	Percentage
Information given	72.60
National referral	14.24
Local referral	6.33
Literature	5.78
Campaign specific	0.67
Query complaint	0.38

Of the calls requesting information, queries on Cannabis accounted for the majority of calls. They ranged from simple questions about the effects and general usage to more complex queries regarding the link between cannabis use and mental health. These queries were a result of increased media attention.

Cocaine was the second most frequently discussed topic. Again these ranged from simple questions about the effects and risks of taking cocaine to more complex queries on how to cut down/reduce intake, and drug detection/testing.

Further details showing a breakdown on individual substance/topic are contained in the following table.

Information advice topic	Percentage
Cannabis general	20.51
Cocaine	14.77
Drugs (not specific)	13.38
Heroin	8.76
Drug detection and testing	6.48
Other	6.45
Ecstasy	4.65
Amphetamines	3.17
Crack	3.13
Mental health-related	2.72
Alcohol	2.33
Methadone	1.98
Legal-related	0.88
Information on FRANK	0.86
Misuse of other drugs	0.74
Volatile substances	0.74
Detoxification	0.73
Other Opiates	0.73
Anabolic Steroids	0.68
Ketamine	0.68
LSD	0.62
Cannabis reclassification	0.50
Pregnancy-related	0.50
Medicinal use of drugs	0.44
Other benzodiazepines	0.44
Alkyl nitrates	0.36
Hallucinogenic mushrooms	0.34
Tobacco	0.30
Crystal Meth/Methamphetamine	0.30
Sexual behaviour-related	0.28
GHB	0.27
Temazepam	0.24
Rohypnol	0.20
Hepatitis C	0.14
Employment-related (other than testing)	0.13
Financial-related	0.12
HIV-related	0.10
Herbal highs	0.10
Housing-related	0.07
PCP	0.06
Viagra	0.05
Ice	0.04
Khat	0.03

April 2006 to October 2006

Information/advice given	Percentage
Cannabis	30.60
Cocaine	20.63
Drugs (not specific)	11.85
Heroin	8.54
Ecstasy	6.16
Amphetamines	3.36
Alcohol	3.31
Crack	3.27
Other	2.76
Methadone	1.28
Ketamine	0.93
Prescription Drugs	0.79
Anabolic Steroids	0.65
LSD	0.64
Volatile Substances	0.62
Alkyl Nitrates	0.56
Crystal Meth/Methamphetamines	0.50
Subutex	0.47
Valium/Diazepam	0.43
Hallucinogenic Mushrooms	0.38
GHB	0.36
Other Opiates	0.35
Misuse of other drugs	0.30
Herbal Highs	0.24
Other Benzodiazepines	0.24
Tobacco	0.18
Hepatitis C	0.13
Temazepam	0.13
Rohypnol	0.12
Viagra	0.10
PCP	0.06
Khat	0.04
Naltrexene	0.04

November 2006 to March 2007

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost has been of the Talk to Frank helpline since inception. [150373]

Dawn Primarolo: The Talk to Frank helpline is run as part of a pooled service that includes Know the Score, Drinkline, Sexual Health Line and Hepatitis C Information Line. This allows for a more efficient and cost effective model that shares costs across the helplines. The overall cost for the pooled service in 2006-07 was £1.45 million. Due to the shared nature of this service, it is impossible to give completely accurate cost for the Talk to Frank helpline alone. But based upon the split in number of calls, we estimate that the Talk to Frank helpline service would cost roughly £800,000 of the £1.5 million.

Drugs: Misuse

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of problematic drug users (PDUs) in each county area in 2004-05 and *(b)* the percentage of PDUs not in treatment who require it. [149485]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has made no estimate of the numbers of problematical drug users (PDUs) in each county area or the percentage of PDUs not in treatment who require it.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are receiving rehabilitation treatment for *(a)* drug abuse and *(b)* alcohol abuse. [150353]

Dawn Primarolo: In 2005-06, the last year for which there is data available a total of 5,617 clients undertook residential rehabilitation in relation to drug misuse. This compares with a 2004-05 figure of 4,992.

We do not collect data centrally on the numbers of clients who undertake residential rehabilitation as a result of alcohol misuse.

Eating Disorders: Children

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 568W, on eating disorders: children, if he will break down the numbers of finished consultant episodes in each year from 1996-97 to 2005-06 by *(a)* region and *(b)* primary care trust. [148356]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not available in the format requested. Information at the primary care trust level could only be provided at the risk of breaching patient confidentiality. Tables have been placed in the Library which give the number of finished consultant episodes by region (pre-1998-99 national health service regional boundary change) when the primary diagnosis was related to an eating disorder.

Exercise: Children

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the amount of physical activity undertaken by school age children each week in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. [150357]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the format requested. Data on childhood physical activity are not available for 2007. Data on physical activity among children are collected in the Health Survey for England (HSE), but not in every year. We can provide data on the level of physical activity undertaken outside of school by boys and girls aged two-10 and boys and girls aged 11-15 for 1997 and 2002. Data are published in "Statistics on Obesity, Physical Activity and Diet: England, 2006", produced by The Information Centre for health and social care (The IC) at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/obesity/statistics-on-obesity-physical-activity-and-diet-england-2006

This information is provided in the following table.

In addition, data are available on participation in physical education (PE) and school sport from the School Sport survey. These are also published in "Statistics on Obesity, Physical Activity and Diet: England, 2006". The data were collected from 16,882 schools that are within school sport partnerships in England. The latest survey results show that in 2005-06 80 per cent. of pupils in school years one to 11 (mainly aged five to 15-years) in partnership schools participated in at least two hours of high quality PE and school sport in a typical week. These school sport partnerships were set up in a number of phases starting September 2000 and so there are no data available for 1997.

Table 1: Children's summary physical activity levels[1, 2, 3], 1997 and 2002—England

Percentages

	1997	*2002*
Boys 2-10		
High[4]	54	55
Medium	9	20
Low	37	26
Boys 11-15		
High[4]	55	56
Medium	13	16
Low	33	29
Girls 2-10		
High[4]	45	48
Medium	10	21
Low	44	30
Girls 11-15		
High[4]	27	34
Medium	15	22
Low	59	44
Bases (weighted)		
Boys aged 2-10	1,425	2,705
Boys aged 11-15	719	1,495
Girls aged 2-10	1,456	2,598
Girls aged 11-15	679	1,460

[1] High = 60 minutes or more on all seven days; Medium = 30-59 minutes on all seven days; Low = Lower level of activity
[2] Only activities that lasted 15 minutes and over were included.
[3] It was assumed that all walking and housework/gardening sessions in 2002 lasted 15 minutes. This was necessary in order to make 2002 and 1997 data comparable as there was no duration question for walking and housework/gardening in 1997.
[4] Based on the assumption that all activity was of at least moderate intensity, this group represents those who met the physical activity recommendations for at least an hour of at least moderate-intensity activity a day.
Source:
Health Survey for England, 2002. The Department of Health

Family Planning

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* full and *(b)* part time family planning clinics there were in each health trust area in each of the last five years. [150973]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not held centrally.

The Department only currently collects aggregate data from family planning clinics at primary care trust (PCT) and national health service trust level. As such we cannot identify data on numbers of individual clinics (of which there are many) within these organisations.

Data at PCT and NHS trust level are published in "NHS Contraceptive Services, England 2005-06" and a copy of the latest bulletin is available in the Library. The information is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/contraception/nhs-contraceptive-services-england-2005-06

Family Planning: Expenditure

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much each health trust spent on family planning services in each year since 1997; [150970]

(2) how the £20 million earmarked for improving access to contraceptive services and long acting reversible contraception in 2007-08 will be audited. [151060]

Dawn Primarolo: Family planning services are funded through revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs). It is for PCTs to determine how to use the funding allocated to them to commission services, including contraceptive services, to meet the health care needs of their local populations.

We have no plans to audit how Choosing Health funding allocated to PCTs to improve sexual health, including access to contraception, was spent. The national health service must be free to make its own local spending decisions and we do not believe it is necessary to increase the burden on the NHS by collecting and monitoring details of their expenditure.

Rather we are interested in the real outcomes from local investment, and this is why we have introduced sexual health into the local delivery planning process and have identified this area as a key priority. This will enable us to see where real improvements are being delivered in areas such as waiting times and rates of infections.

Food: Labelling

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what new proposals he has on food labelling. [150599]

Dawn Primarolo: Food labelling legislation is largely harmonised within the European Union. The European Commission is currently conducting a review of food labelling legislation, and is expected to publish a draft proposal for a new regulation by the end of the year.

Gender Identity Disorder

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what choices of provider are available for those referred for assessment, counselling and treatment for gender dysphoria and related gender role anxieties and conditions; whether the national waiting list targets apply to such referrals; and if he will make a statement. [150252]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The main national health service centre providing specialist care for gender dysphoria and related gender role anxieties and conditions for adults in England is at Charing Cross hospital in London. There are smaller services in Leeds, Leicester, Newcastle and Bristol.

The 18-week target for the maximum wait from general practitioner referral to first appointment with a consultant applies to all clinical conditions.

The Government remain committed to reducing waiting times for all patients in all specialties and to providing choice of provider wherever appropriate.

Genito-urinary Medicine: Manpower

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* health professionals and *(b)* administrators worked in sexual health clinics during each of the last three years. [150637]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not held centrally.

Genito-urinary Medicine: Publicity

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on publicising sexual health clinics to children and young people under the age of 18 years in each of the last three years. [150641]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not held centrally.

Health Services: Private Sector

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what contracts Milton Keynes primary care trust has with private sector suppliers in 2007-08, broken down by procedure; how many procedures have been contracted for in each case; and at what cost; [150515]

(2) which procedures contracted out by Milton Keynes primary care trust to the private sector are also carried out by Milton Keynes hospital; [150516]

(3) what proportion of contracts placed with private contractors by Milton Keynes primary care trust in 2006-07 have been fulfilled, broken down by procedure; [150517]

(4) what surgery was referred by Milton Keynes primary care trust to private contractors in each of the last three financial years, broken down by procedure; [150547]

(5) to which private contractors Milton Keynes primary care trust contracts out surgical work. [150548]

Mr. Bradshaw: There is one independent sector contract, that was procured centrally through the Department, that delivers services across the Midlands, including Milton Keynes primary care trust (PCT). The treatment centres within the contract are the Reading NHS Treatment Centre, Norton NHS Treatment Centre and Blakelands NHS Treatment Centre. The provider for the contract is Capio. Information on locally procured services from independent sector providers is not held centrally.

The contract for the centres is based on total value rather than procedure numbers as this allows PCTs to vary the case mix, within contracted limits, according to changing local needs. However, the indicative total activity for the contract is 17,852 procedures.

Information held on case mix and patient discharges is shown in following tables.

Case mix

Centre	*Case mix*
Reading NHS Treatment Centre	General Surgery, Urology, Trauma and Orthopaedics, Gynaecology
Horton NHS Treatment Centre	Trauma and Orthopaedics
Blakelands NHS Treatment Centre	General Surgery, Urology, Trauma and Orthopaedics, Dermatology

Procedure numbers

Financial year	*Reading NHS Treatment Centre*	*Horton NHS Treatment Centre*	*Blakelands NHS Treatment Centre*
2004-05	—	—	—
2005-06	1,147	—	1,045
2006-07	1,180	446	2,272

Overall utilisation for the independent sector treatment centres programme as at May 31 was 84 per cent. Individual utilisation rates and information detailing numbers of procedures can not be disclosed as this information is considered commercially sensitive in confidence. The Department is currently reviewing what information is made publicly available on phase one contracts, however no decision has yet been taken.

Health Services: Procurement

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when his Department expects to complete the update of the review of commissioning arrangements for specialised services; [150729]

(2) when he plans to set up the commissioning groups recommended under the Carter review. [150730]

Mr. Bradshaw: The different commissioning groups recommended by Sir David Carter in his review of commissioning arrangements for specialised services are the National Commissioning Group, the National Specialised Commissioning Group and 10 local specialised commissioning groups. These were all established on 1 April 2007.

An updated implementation plan will be posted very shortly on the Department's website. This sets out the key milestones that have been achieved in implementing the review recommendations and the remaining challenges.

Health Services: South East Region

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many letters were received by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the West Sussex primary care trust as part of the response to the fit for the future discussion document published in May 2006; who is responsible for such papers; and where the letters are stored. [150336]

Dawn Primarolo: Due to the way correspondence is recorded, this information cannot be supplied without disproportionate cost.

Health Services: Tourism

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of British nationals requiring medical treatment whilst on holiday abroad over the last five years. [150952]

Dawn Primarolo: We do not keep records about people treated outside Europe and no estimates have been made. We do know the costs of people treated under the European Union social security coordinating regulations. However the claims received from member states cover a number of different categories of people and to separate out temporary visitors could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Health Visitors: Hertfordshire

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on current levels of recruitment of *(a)* health visitors, *(b)* nursery nurses, *(c)* support workers and *(d)* midwives in Hertfordshire. [150102]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is the responsibility of primary care trusts and strategic health authorities to analyse their local situation and develop plans, in liaison with their local national health service trusts and primary care providers, to deliver high quality NHS services and take action to recruit the appropriate staff required to deliver these services. We understand that the current levels of recruitment of health visitors, nursery nurses, support workers and midwives are in line with work force plans designed to ensure that high-quality services and patient care will continue in Hertfordshire.

Health: Schools

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of schools have healthy school status. [150289]

Dawn Primarolo: As at 16 July 2007, there were 8,930 schools (40 per cent.) who had gained the full National Healthy Schools Status. We are on track to meet our next milestone, of 55 per cent. of schools with National Healthy School Status by December 2007.

Hospitals: West Sussex

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will provide to the West Sussex Primary Care Trust the representations he and his Department have received in the last 12 months relating to the possible change in hospital services at Worthing and Southlands hospital. [150129]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department received approximately 155 letters relating to possible changes at the Worthing and Southlands hospital, between July 2006 and July 2007.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether letters received by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* West Sussex primary care trust in response to the original fit for the future discussion document will be taken into account when considering responses to the consultation exercise on the reconfiguration of hospitals in West Sussex. [150337]

Dawn Primarolo: This is a matter for the national health service locally. The Department of Health expects the local NHS to take a range of factors into account when considering proposals.

Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccination

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to ensure that all adolescent girls are offered the human papilloma virus vaccination before they leave compulsory education; and if he will make a statement. [149793]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has agreed in principle to accept the advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) that human papilloma virus vaccines should be introduced routinely for girls aged around 12-13 years, subject to independent peer review of the cost benefit analysis. Details of the programme will be finalised in the coming months, following further advice from the JCVI and discussions with the national health service on the implementation of the programme. The JCVI is currently considering the evidence regarding the benefits and costs of vaccinating older girls, and will provide advice on this issue in due course.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to enable self-referral to a GP for the human papilloma virus vaccine for *(a)* those that will not take part in the immunisation programme in the 2007-08 school year and *(b)* older women. [149794]

Dawn Primarolo: The new human papilloma virus vaccines offer tremendous potential to protect women as they prevent up to 70 per cent. of cervical cancers, provided it is given before youngsters become sexually active. This is because the vaccine does not, in general, protect against established human papilloma virus infection.

The priority is to directly protect young girls against their future risk of cervical cancer.

General practitioners may exceptionally prescribe the vaccine if the clinical circumstances of a patient warrant such action.

IVF

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many cycles of in-vitro fertilisation treatment were offered in *(a)* each regional health authority, *(b)* each primary care trust and *(c)* England in each of the last five years; [149111]

(2) what principal criteria are used to determine the availability of in-vitro fertilisation treatment in each primary care trust. [149112]

Dawn Primarolo: We do not currently collect this information on a routine basis. Clinical criteria for the provision of fertility services, including in-vitro fertilisation (IVF), are set out in the guideline on the assessment and treatment for people with fertility problems published in 2004 by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. We are aware that most primary care trusts are providing at least one cycle of IVF and we are working with the patient support organisation Infertility Network UK to help primary care trusts share best practice in the provision of fertility services and engage with fertility patients in the planning and prioritisation of services.

IVF: Costs

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the reasons for the change in the cost of in-vitro fertilisation in the NHS in the last 10 years. [149271]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 10 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1449W.

Maternity Services: Admissions

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the grounds are for a maternity unit to be required to close temporarily to admissions for safety reasons. [150275]

Ann Keen: Demand for beds in maternity units is by its very nature unpredictable. There are various factors that influence the decision to close a maternity unit for a period of time, including staff and bed availability and the number of women and complexity of care needed. It is important that in circumstances where a unit considers or actually does close, systems and guidelines are in place to ensure pregnant women continue to have access to alternative maternity services and safe provision of care.

Maternity Services: Intensive Care

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many neonatal intensive care cots there were in each NHS trust in each of the last five years; [148388]

(2) how many *(a)* neonatal intensive cots and *(b)* special care cots in each trust were not being used due to lack of staff in each of the last five years; [148390]

(3) how many neonatal units were closed to admissions for a period during each of the last five years; and how long each such unit was closed for; [148391]

(4) what the average occupancy rate for intensive care cots was in each NHS trust in each of the last five years. [148392]

Ann Keen: There were 1,543 cots in England in 2001-02; 1,551 in 2002-03; 1,491 in 2003-04; 1,523 in 2004-05 and 1,688 in 2005-06. The number of cots in each national health service trust in each year has been placed in the Library. Statistics on when and for how long units were closed and where babies may have had to travel in the absence of a local bed are not available. The average occupancy rate of neonatal intensive care cots remains steady at 73-75 per cent.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he will reply to the letter of 12 June 2007 from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire about pay for nurses. [150763]

Ann Keen: The letter from the hon. Member was answered on 13 July 2007.

Mental Health Services

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what choices are being offered to mental health service users. [148733]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department launched "Our Choices in Mental Health" in November 2006 and this sets out four points in the care pathway where mental health service users and carers value choice. This document also provides positive practice examples of how this is now being offered.

The four choice points are:

life choices, where people manage their own care to the extent with which they are comfortable, and maintain their normal lives as far as is possible;

a choice of mental health services contacts other than a general practitioner being the only port of call for service users and carers during an episode of mental illness;

a choice in when and where an assessment of mental illness is carried out; and

a choice of care options so that service users and carers have a range of suitable care options to choose from, information about each option and support to make these decisions.

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to review mental health services; and if he will make a statement. [149848]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The "National Service Framework for Mental Health" (NSF) was published in 1999, setting out a comprehensive vision for mental health care in England and outlining a 10 year programme of work in an area that was previously neglected.

The NSF was reviewed in 2004 by Louis Appleby, the National Director for Mental Health. His report, "The National Service Framework for Mental Health—Five years on", identified the need to broaden the focus of work from the specialist mental health services to the mental health needs of the community as a whole.

The NSF's programme of work is kept under regular review, especially in the light of recent reforms to health and social care systems.

Mentally Ill: Hospitals

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* England, *(b)* Nottinghamshire and *(c)* Nottingham were sectioned to psychiatric wards in each of the last five years. [148382]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information about the number of formal detentions under the Mental Health Act 1983 since 2001-02 is shown in the following table. These figures relate to all age groups of adults and children.

Number of detentions under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation (England): children and adults of all ages

	Number
2001-02	47,806
2002-03	46,489
2003-04	45,691
2004-05	46,673
2005-06	47,394

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care published data Form KP90

Number of detentions under the Mental Health Act 1983 in Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust which provides mental health services across Nottinghamshire

	Number
2001-02	Not available
2002-03	1,034
2003-04	861
2004-05	1,062
2005-06	959

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care Form KP90.

The figures for Nottinghamshire include those for Nottingham. Separate figures for Nottingham are not available.

National Patient and Public Involvement Director

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to replace the National Patient and Public Involvement Director. [150272]

Ann Keen: Following Harry Cayton's appointment as chief executive of the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence, the Department will be appointing a new Director for Patients and the Public in the autumn. The Department is taking this opportunity to review the role in light of wider changes within the Department and, in particular, how the new director can drive forward increased patient and public involvement in local services.

Harry Cayton has held the post of National Director for Patients and the Public since 2002. This has been a

time of significant impact and achievement. He has accepted the Secretary of State's invitation to chair the National Information Governance Board until October 2008.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the relative needs formula component of the formula grant for local authorities is determined; when it was last reviewed; which variables are included in the formula; who determines the formula; and if he will make a statement. [148141]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The social care relative needs formulae for all client groups were reviewed in 2005 and new formulae were introduced for the 2006-07 settlement. The formulae are mainly produced through academic research projects and will remain unchanged for the next three-year settlement.

The older people's formula consists of a basic amount per person aged 65 and over and top-ups for age, deprivation, sparsity, low income from fees and charges, and area costs.

The variable in the age top-up is the proportion of the 65 and over population that is aged 90 years and over.

The variables in the deprivation top-up are the proportions of people aged 65 and over with the following characteristics:

in receipt of income support or pension credit;

in receipt of attendance allowance;

living in rented accommodation; and

living alone in a household.

The sparsity top-up is calculated using data on the population sparsity of those aged over 65.

The variable in the current top-up for low income from fees and charges is the proportion of older people living in rented accommodation. This is the only part of the funding formulae that is calculated internally by departmental analysts, and the analysis has recently been re-run using the latest data. The resulting two options will be included in the Department for Communities and Local Government's Formula Grant Distribution Consultation over the summer.

The area cost adjustments for older people and younger adults are calculated by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to take into account the differing costs of providing adult social care by area.

The younger adult's formula consists of a basic amount per person aged 18-64 and top-ups for deprivation and area costs. The variables included in the deprivation top-up are:

the proportion of people in receipt of disability living allowance aged 18-64;

the proportion of people who have never worked or are long term unemployed;

the proportion of people in routine occupations; and

the proportion of households with no family.

The DCLG have responsibility for the overall local government finance settlement.

Central Government, following consultation with local government and subject to parliamentary approval, determines the relative needs formulae based on the results of the research and analysis.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely impact of recent changes in the NHS capital expenditure budget. [150828]

Mr. Bradshaw: The capital expenditure budget for 2007-08 has been adjusted to reflect latest forecasts of expenditure for the year from the national health service. Therefore, recent changes in the NHS capital expenditure budget have had no impact on the NHS capital expenditure programme.

NHS: Surveys

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the full results of the IpsosMORI survey referred to on page 24 of the Chief Executive of the NHS's Annual Report 2006-07, published on 21 June 2007, showing that less than 60 per cent. of the public are satisfied with the NHS overall. [147567]

Ann Keen: The full results of the IpsosMORI survey, referred to on page 24 of the Chief Executive of the NHS's Annual Report 2006-07, were published in June and have been placed in the Library and are available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Freedomofinformationpublicationschemefeedback/Classesofinformation/Communicationsresearch/index.htm

NHS: Translation Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he or his predecessor has received any requests from primary care trusts for extra funding to cover patient translation costs. [148260]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has no record of any specific requests from primary care trusts to the current or former Secretary of State for extra funding to cover patient translation costs.

Osteoporosis: Blackpool

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of people living in Blackpool who have been diagnosed with osteoporosis are *(a)* under and *(b)* over the age of 70 years; [149773]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* Blackpool and *(b)* the North West who have been diagnosed with osteoporosis and are (i) unable to take and (ii) do not respond to the drug alendronate; [149774]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* Blackpool and *(b)* the North West who have been diagnosed with osteoporosis; [149775]

(4) what estimate he has made of the proportion of people in *(a)* Blackpool and *(b)* the North West who have osteoporosis and receive no drug treatment for the disease. [149776]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Osteoporosis: Preventive Medicine

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what range of treatments is available to post-menopausal women at risk of osteoporotic fracture; [150007]

(2) what percentage of people diagnosed with osteoporosis are prescribed treatments to help prevent fractures occurring; [150008]

(3) what assessment his Department has made of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on the use of drugs to prevent osteoporotic fractures in post-menopausal women. [150009]

Ann Keen: We have made no assessment of the range of treatments available to post-menopausal woman at risk from osteoporotic fracture.

Information on the percentage of those diagnosed with osteoporosis prescribed treatments to help prevent fractures occurring is not collected.

We have made no assessment of the draft guidance currently being developed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

Patients: Accidents

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients received injuries as a result of accidents while staying in hospitals in England in the last period for which figures are available. [150402]

Ann Keen: The number of incidents reported to the National Patient Safety Agency's national reporting and learning system (NRLS) classified as patient accidents, resulting in some degree of harm to a patient, in an inpatient setting in either acute, general, community or mental health hospitals in England between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2007 is 84,240. This information is based on the date the incident was reported to the NRLS rather than on the actual date of occurrence.

Plagiocephaly

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the incidence of plagiocephaly; and what statistical correlation there is between that incidence and numbers of babies placed on their backs to sleep; [149954]

(2) how many cases of plagiocephaly were identified in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; [149955]

(3) what treatment is available on the NHS for plagiocephaly; how many babies were treated for plagiocephaly in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [149956]

Ann Keen: The Department has made no such assessment. Neither does it collect figures on the numbers of cases of plagiocephaly. However, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children has estimated that almost half of children develop positional plagiocephaly and that only a very small minority develop it in the womb. The rest develop positional plagiocephaly from spending a lot of time in one position, usually on their backs. Nevertheless, Doctors recommend that babies sleep on their backs in order to reduce the incidence of cot death.

There are several treatments for plagiocephaly available either on the national health service, or through parental intervention. However, since in the overwhelming majority of cases, the condition is self-correcting, many doctors do not deem additional treatment necessary.

Pleural Plaques

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were treated for pleural plaques in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [150559]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of people treated for pleural plaques is not collected.

Pregnant Women: Alcoholic Drinks

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he is giving to making screening for maternal alcohol consumption via objective techniques such as Tolerance Annoyed Cut down Eye-opener (T-ACE) and Tolerance Worried Eye-opener Amnesia, Kut-down (TWEAK) part of routine antenatal care in the NHS. [150273]

Dawn Primarolo: There are no plans to use these techniques. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence are currently updating their antenatal care guideline and it will include a risk assessment tool. The guideline will include educational aspects of antenatal care, the normal physiological processes taking place, how the women can contribute to her own and the baby's good health and well-being and minimise exposure to risks (for example, diet, exercise, alcohol and drug consumption, sexual activity and smoking cessation).

Primary Care Trusts: Local Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the likely impact of implementing district unitary authorities on the operation of primary care trusts; [146457]

(2) what assessment she has made of the impact of the bids of local authorities shortlisted for unitary status on health provision in those areas; [146463]

(3) what discussions she had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the local authorities seeking unitary status which appeared on the shortlist published by the Department for Communities and Local Government on 27 March 2006. [146475]

Mr. Bradshaw: The decision as to which proposals should proceed to stakeholder consultation reflected the collective decision of Government. All 26 unitary proposals that were received in response to the invitation issued on 26 October 2006 were assessed against the five criteria set out in that invitation. The 16

unitary proposals that have been subject to the stakeholder consultation will now be reassessed against the same five criteria having regard to all the information available including that received in response the consultation. Primary care trusts, along with a range of public bodies, have been able to submit their views as part of the stakeholder consultation.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her policy is on co-terminosity of boundaries between primary care trusts and local government structures. [146460]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are committed to enabling local authorities and their partners in the national health service to work together to deliver better integrated health and social care services. One of the aims of the reconfiguration programme 'Commissioning a Patient-led NHS', which was published in July 2005, was to improve relationships between healthcare and local authorities by bringing their boundaries closer together. Approximately 70 per cent. of the new primary care trusts (PCTs) are coterminous with the boundaries of local authorities with social services responsibilities. This compares with 44 per cent. of PCTs previously coterminous.

PSSEX1 Expenditure Return

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information is gathered in the PSSEX1 Expenditure Return. [148839]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The personal social services expenditure return (PSSEX1) is collected by The Information Centre for health and social care, and shows data from local authorities on current expenditure and unit costs on personal social services for adults and children, both nationally and for individual authorities. Expenditure data is presented on a gross and net basis, and is also split between authorities' own provision and provision by others. It is also broken down by client groups:

older people (including those with disabilities);

children and family services (including children with disabilities);

learning disabled adults;

physically disabled adults;

mentally ill adults;

asylum seekers; and

other adult services.

Services are analysed between residential day and domiciliary provision, and the costs of assessment and care management are also identified.

The latest available data are on 2005-06 Expenditure report, which can be accessed at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/social-care/adult-social-care-information/personal-social-services-expenditure-and-unit-costs-england:-2005-06

Smoking

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on *(a)* prevention and *(b)* campaigns designed to assist people to stop smoking in each year since 1997. [150958]

Dawn Primarolo: The available information is set out in the tables.

The Department does not centrally collect information on additional local spend on tobacco control including campaigns.

Campaign advertising expenditure for smoking

	£ million
1997-98	—
1998-99	—
1999-2000	6.18
2000-01	8.97
2001-02	7.79
2002-03	7.87
2003-04	17.34
2004-05	24.00
2005-06	22.70
2006-07	13.5

Financial allocations to the NHS for stop smoking services

	£ million
1997-98	—
1998-99	—
1999-2000	[1]10
2000-01	[2]20
2001-02	[2, 3]23
2002-03	[3]23
2003-04	41
2004-05	46
2005-06	51
2006-07	56
2007-08	56

HAZ = Health action zones.

[1] HAZs only.

[2] 10 million HAZs, 10 million HAs.

[3] £3 million in 2001-02 and 2002-03 for smoking in pregnancy initiative.

Smoking: Health Hazards

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by his Department on treating smoking related diseases in each year since 1997, broken down by health authority. [150959]

Dawn Primarolo: Data are not collected in the format requested.

In the White Paper "Smoking Kills" a cost of up to £1.7 billion per year was identified as the cost to the national health service of treating smoking related diseases. This was based on research published by the Health Education Authority in 1997. These documents are available in the Library.

Smoking: Public Places

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the likely effect of the smoking ban on *(a)* the number of pubs operating in England and *(b)* employment in that sector. [150754]

Dawn Primarolo: An assessment of the costs and benefits of smokefree legislation is set out in the final Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) that was published by the Department in December 2006.

Partial RIAs were included within the "Consultation on the Smokefree Elements of the Health Improvement and Protection Bill" published in 2005 and in "Smoke-free Premises and Vehicles: Consultation on proposed regulations to be made under powers in the Health Bill" published in 2006. Both consultation exercises invited stakeholders to provide comments on the partial RIA as well as the proposals in the consultation. Responses from stakeholders assisted the Department in producing the final RIA.

All documents referred to are available in the Library.

Solvents: Misuse

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the number of children who have *(a)* died and *(b)* been brain damaged by volatile substance abuse in each of the last 10 years. [150335]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of young people under the age of 18 who have died from volatile substance misuse in the last 10 years is shown in the following table.

	Number of children
1996	35
1997	29
1998	26
1999	25
2000	17
2001	25
2002	24
2003	10
2004	13
2005	8
Total	212

Source:
Statistics from St. George's University of London

Information regarding young people who have been brain damaged by volatile substance abuse in the last 10 years is not collected centrally.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who sits on the stakeholder group set up under the Volatile Substance Abuse Framework. [150375]

Dawn Primarolo: A stakeholder group made up of key players in the field, was set up in December 2004 to develop and implement the National Framework for Volatile Substance Abuse. The group was revised in December 2006 to include key departments across Government. It is chaired by the Department.

Prior to the Government machinery of changes, stakeholders included:

Department of Health
Home Office
Department for Education and Skills
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
Department of Trade and Industry
National Treatment Agency
Local Government Office—Young People Lead
Plus the Welsh Assembly and Scottish Executive
ReSolv
Solv-It
National Children's Bureau
Drug Education Forum
St. George's University of London
British Aerosols Manufacturing Association
Trading Standards
SC Johnson
Swan
Ronson
LP Gas Association
Shell UK

Statins

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the side-effects of statins; and if he will make a statement on the use of statins under the new National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines. [149639]

Ann Keen: The Medicines and Healthcare product Regulatory Agency (MHRA), with independent advice from the Commission on Human Medicines, assesses the balance of risks and benefits of all medicines at the time of initial licensing and throughout their use in clinical practice.

The MHRA reviews new safety information as it emerges, including reports of suspected adverse drug reactions from healthcare professionals and the public, published scientific literature (including clinical trials and epidemiological studies), and periodic safety update reports from pharmaceutical companies. When necessary, the MHRA takes regulatory action to minimise risks and communicate new advice on the safe use of medicines to healthcare professionals and the public.

Statins are generally well tolerated but, as with all medicines, side effects can occur. Serious side-effects, however, are rare. The recognised side effects of licensed medicines are listed in their product information, provided for healthcare professionals. All new medicines are now also required to have patient information leaflets which provide information on how to use the medicine, and on their side effects.

In January 2006 the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence published a health technology appraisal of statins which found that they were both clinically and costs effective for prescription to people at a 20 per cent. ten-year risk of developing cardiovascular disease, as well as for patients with established disease. That finding has been repeated in their draft guideline on lipid modification, published for consultation on 27 June.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has commissioned into the long-term effects of the use of statins by people over the age of 50. [149728]

Ann Keen: None, although the Department has through both its policy research and health technology assessment programmes funded research concerned with the use and value of statins in health care.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC has funded studies that show cholesterol-lowering statin treatment reduces the risk of heart attacks and strokes by at least one-third as well as lowering the need for arterial surgery, angioplasty and amputations.

In particular the Heart Protection Study (HPS), funded by the MRC and the British Heart Foundation, is the biggest world-wide study of cholesterol lowering therapy. The HPS which reported in July 2002 found significant benefits of statins to people aged over 70 as well as for younger people.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of statins in lengthening quality assured life years. [149730]

Ann Keen: Quality adjusted life years (QALYS) and life-years gained are both measures used by researchers, including the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), in evaluating the benefits of treatments and interventions.

In January 2006 the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence published a health technology appraisal of statins which found that they were both clinically and cost-effective for prescription to people at a 20 per cent. 10-year risk of developing cardiovascular disease, as well as for patients with established disease. That finding has been repeated in their draft guideline on lipid modification, published for consultation on 27 June.

West Sussex Primary Care Trust: Public Appointments

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects a director of public patient involvement to be appointed to the West Sussex primary care trust. [149411]

Ann Keen: The appointment of a director of public patient involvement is a matter for West Sussex primary care trust.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 23 July 2007

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Coastal Areas: Finance

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals for financial support for coastal clear-up in Cornwall. [152040]

Jonathan Shaw: My Department is not looking to provide financial support for coastal clear-up in Cornwall or elsewhere. However, local authorities, and others, who have incurred costs as a result of pollution from a ship-source pollution incident may recover their costs by lodging a claim in court in accordance with the domestic law which applies the Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims Convention, 1966 (LLMC).

Where marine pollution incidents do occur which pose a particular risk to the marine environment, my Department will consider whether to undertake and fund appropriate monitoring so as to be able to assess the impact of the incident.

Domestic Wastes: Recycling

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to encourage all councils to provide residents with a second bin for recyclables. [150785]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 19 July 2007]:* The Government encourages all local authorities to work closely with householders to increase levels of recycling and composting and my Department has set challenging national and local targets to drive improvements forward.

The Household Waste Recycling Act 2003 requires all waste collection authorities (subject to certain exemptions) to provide a separate kerbside collection service for at least two recyclable materials by 2010. Each authority is free to choose its own method of collection and the priority, degree of effort and resources required to meet its target and the requirements of the Act.

Recent statistics show that approximately 88 per cent. of households are now served by a kerbside collection for two or more recyclates.

Fisheries: Cornwall

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the volume of fish caught by Cornish fishing crews was between *(a)* 2001 and 2006, *(b)* 1996 and 2000 and *(c)* 1990 and 1995. [152032]

Jonathan Shaw: Fisheries Departments in the UK do not record information to allow landings made by Cornish fishing crews to be separately identified. Information is available on landings by UK fishing vessels whose home ports are within Cornwall, excluding those vessels administered from port offices in Cornwall but owned by foreign interests. The following table shows details of these landings in tonnes live weight of all fish species. The table also includes data for grouped landings by small vessels of 10 metre and under length into ports in Cornwall, on the assumption that these vessels will be primarily Cornish vessels.

Year range	*Weight (tonnes live weight)*
(a) 2001 to 2006	82,670
(b) 1996 to 2000	89,695
(c) 1990 to 1995	71,397

Fisheries: Industrial Accidents

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* deaths and *(b)* injuries were sustained by Cornish fishermen at work between (i) 1977 and 1986, (ii) 1987 and 1996 and (iii) 1997 and 2006. [152031]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

The Marine Accident Investigation Branch hold details of deaths and injuries aboard UK registered fishing vessels from 1991. Crew deaths and injuries aboard or boarding fishing vessels registered in a Cornish port are:

	Deaths	*Injuries*
1991-96	14	27
1997-2006	15	42

Fisheries: Protection

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 553W, on fisheries: protection, what estimate he has made of the number of hours per week the Royal Navy Fishery Protection service will be operational in UK seas in each of the five years of the new agreement beginning on 1 April 2008; and if he will make a statement. [150566]

Jonathan Shaw: For 2008-09 it is proposed that the Royal Navy Fisheries Protection Squadron will provide the Marine and Fisheries Agency with 700 patrol days. The precise number of patrol days for subsequent years will be subject to detailed operational requirements. It is proposed that there will be flexibility to increase or reduce the requirement by 50 days a year subject to notice being given by the Marine and Fisheries Agency in September the year before. The operational details of future tasking is not determined on an hourly basis. The Marine and Fisheries Agency agrees task profiling with the RN and MOD and at present is considering an option of operating on a 21-day patrol cycle for each vessel.

The maximum patrol days available during the period of the agreement will be 750 a year and the minimum will be 600.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what average number of hours per *(a)* week and *(b)* month the Royal Navy Fishery Protection Service was operational in UK seas was in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [150568]

Jonathan Shaw: The RN/MFA Agreement refers to patrol days dedicated to the task of fishery protection. This has been accounted for on a monthly basis as set out in the following table.

Month	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
January	—	79	91	67	71	65	56	50	58	46	51
February	—	96	91	64	74	89	82	82	79	65	77
March	—	74	91	86	85	82	87	72	83	82	70
April	98	93	82	77	84	87	78	79	78	66	66
May	92	91	80	86	93	86	85	72	80	79	79
June	107	94	97	85	86	89	95	83	88	81	66
July	111	112	102	97	79	92	86	86	82	92	—
August	113	102	73	74	78	76	86	80	89	80	—
September	100	103	99	102	78	77	94	83	87	80	—
October	98	92	88	80	82	85	69	63	67	73	—
November	101	91	78	85	83	76	65	69	50	54	—
December	61	54	63	61	58	49	46	45	41	42	—

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answers of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 553W, on when he expects to conclude discussions with the Marine and Fisheries Agency, the Royal Navy and the Ministry of Defence on the detail of the agreement for the Royal Navy Fishery Protection Service from 1 April 2008; and if he will make a statement. [150571]

Jonathan Shaw: The Marine and Fisheries Agency, the Royal Navy and Ministry of Defence are currently considering the detailed provisions of the new agreement. I expect these discussions to be concluded in good time for the new arrangements to operate from 1 April 2008.

Fisheries: Quotas

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1663W, on fisheries quotas, for what reasons no *(a)* scientific assessments have been carried out and *(b)* safe biological limits have been defined for certain fish stocks; and if he will make a statement. [150565]

Jonathan Shaw: Fish stocks in EU waters are assessed by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). Scientists from the UK's fisheries laboratories contribute to the undertaking of these assessments. The ability to perform scientific assessments is directly linked to the quality of fisheries data. In some fisheries, for example, the quality of catch and effort data are deemed to be insufficient or the available catch data appear to conflict with data from research surveys. In such cases, as a consequence, quantitative scientific assessments are not available.

In the absence of a quantitative scientific assessment, it is not possible to define a stock's status with respect to safe biological limits.

Flood Control: Telephone Services

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs where urgent calls dealt with by the Worthing emergency control centre of the Environment Agency will be routed following the closure of that office. [149296]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 12 July 2007]:* The Environment Agency has two principal offices in Worthing, a regional office in Guildbourne House and an area office in Saxon House.

The southern regional emergency control centre is based in Guildbourne House, where staff receive and route calls associated with incidents and emergencies.

These calls will continue to be dealt with there until at least June 2008, at which point a decision will be taken as to whether to transfer them to the well established National Customer Contact Centre in Sheffield.

However, if a local incident occurs these will continue to be managed by local centres within the affected region.

Heating: Carbon Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the potential effect on carbon dioxide emissions of commercial and residential buildings adopting heat pump technology in place of gas boilers. [150214]

Joan Ruddock: The Federation of Environmental Trade Associations (FETA) has confirmed that 200,000 heat pumps were sold in the commercial sector in 2006, of which around 90 per cent. were air source.

Estimates for the costs and savings in the housing market have been made for the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT). Ground source heat pumps

are not currently a cost-effective substitute for gas condensing boilers. In a typical three bed-roomed semi-detached house, carbon dioxide (CO_2) savings are around 0.46 tonnes CO_2 each year.

However, if they replace conventional electric heating, they are cost-effective, with annual CO_2 savings of around 4.3 tonnes CO_2 each year. If they replace solid fuel stoves, they are not cost effective but save around 5.7 tonnes CO_2 each year. By comparison, cavity wall insulation would save 0.575 tonnes CO_2 each year in a gas condensing boiler-heated house.

If 10 million homes with gas condensing boilers had them replaced with ground source heat pumps, national savings would be around 4.6 $MtCO_2$ (million tonnes of CO_2) each year. This compares with the impact of all the policies in the Climate Change Programme by 2010, of 17.6 $MtCO_2$ each year.

Lighting: Nuisance

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will issue quantitative guidance on the levels of obtrusive light which constitute a statutory nuisance. [151273]

Jonathan Shaw: There is no set level at which an activity becomes a statutory nuisance. It is for local authorities to consider what is a statutory nuisance on a case-by-case basis, taking into account a number of factors, including the character of the locality, the frequency of the occurrence, its duration, reasonableness of use, and the sensitivity of the complainant.

Marine Bill

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to publish a draft Marine Bill. [151044]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 19 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 505W.

Recycling

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what his policy is on the promotion of single-stream recycling by local authorities; [149721]

(2) what research he has commissioned into the take-up of recycling facilities, including door-step collection, where single-stream recycling is employed. [149722]

Joan Ruddock: Decisions on the best way to collect waste and recyclables are rightly a matter for local authorities, not central government. Decisions to collect recyclables for sorting at kerbside or in a single-stream (co-mingled) for sorting at a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) will depend on a range of factors, including the local housing stock, the range of materials being collected and the sorting and re-processing facilities available.

No research has been commissioned by my Department on the take-up of recycling facilities where co-mingled recyclable collection is employed. Assessments on the uptake of local recycling facilities would normally be undertaken by individual local councils.

WRAP will be undertaking a study into the cost and performance of different kerbside collection schemes later in the year and they are planning for that study to investigate several of these issues.

Household waste recycling/composting has doubled in the last four years to reach 27 per cent. in 2005-06, which exceeds the Waste Strategy 2000 target of 25 per cent. This excellent progress is thanks to the commitment and hard work of the vast majority of local authorities, ever more enthusiastic householders and carefully targeted Government support.

SCOTLAND

Departments: Flint Bishop Solicitors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have made payments to Flint Bishop solicitors since 1997. [151373]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999 and, since that date, has made no payments to Flint Bishop.

Departments: Ministerial Red Boxes

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many ministerial red boxes the Department bought in each of the last five years; what the cost of each was; who the suppliers were; and what tendering process was used in selecting them. [150292]

David Cairns: Details of boxes purchased by the Scotland Office are set out in the table.

	Number of boxes	*Cost (£)*
2002	2	1,110
2003	1	510
2004	0	0
2005	0	0
2006	0	0

Ministerial red boxes are supplied via Banner Business Supplies.

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many overseas visits were made by *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers within his responsibility, and at what cost, in each year since 1997. [151647]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis, a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2006-07 is currently being compiled and will be published before the summer recess. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Civil Service Management Code" and the "Ministerial Code". The Office does not maintain a central record of overseas trips by officials.

Official Engagements

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his official engagements were for the week of 9 to 15 July. [151508]

David Cairns: During the week of 9 to 15 July, the Secretary of State for Scotland had five engagements, primarily meetings with Ministers and officials, and participated in Scottish Questions in the House of Commons.

WALES

Departments: Agencies

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department paid in fees to recruitment agencies for *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent staff in each year since 1997. [151665]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office paid the following sums to agencies to supply temporary staff:

	Amount (£)
2004-05	99,199
2005-06	91,914
2006-07	19,808

We have not used agencies to recruit permanent staff.

Corresponding information for previous years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

National Assembly for Wales: Powers

Mr. Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what representations he has received on holding a referendum on extending the powers of the National Assembly for Wales. [150226]

Mr. Hain: None. There is widespread debate as to the timing of a future referendum and I am aware of the different views that exist. The Government of Wales Act 2006 allows for the National Assembly for Wales to obtain enhanced legislative competence by way of Orders in Council. I am focussed on ensuring that these new procedures are a success.

Revenue and Customs: Location

Mr. Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the likely effect on economic development of proposals to move HM Revenue and Customs jobs away from Objective 1 areas. [150218]

Mr. Hain: My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and I continue to take a keen interest in the HMRC Change Programme and its possible impact on Objective 1 areas. My hon. Friend's predecessor also met Treasury Ministers to discuss this issue.

The HMRC Change Programme is a genuine consultation; no official decision has yet been made on any Welsh HMRC office.

Welsh Language: Legislation

Mr. Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether he plans to bring forward new legislation on the Welsh language; and if he will make a statement. [150227]

Mr. Hain: The Government have no plans to bring forward legislation at Westminster on the Welsh Language. The Welsh Assembly Government announced on 6 June this year, their intention to seek enhanced legislative competence in the area of Welsh Language by way of an Order in Council. If approved by the National Assembly for Wales and Parliament this would enable the administration in Cardiff to bring forward an Assembly Measure on the Welsh Language.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

East Midlands

22. **Sir Peter Soulsby:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what support is available for local authorities in the east midlands to develop their strategies and policies for London 2012. [151116]

Tessa Jowell: Local authorities have a key role to play in ensuring we maximise the legacy of hosting the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games in 2012.

In the east midlands, as in other regions, local authorities are represented on the regional groups for 2012 and supported by the regional coordinator. Additionally, the Local Government Association is supporting local authorities across England to ensure they realise the opportunities that the 2012 Games bring.

All this work is being driven forward nationally by the London 2012 Nations and Regions group, chaired by Charles Allen.

Departmental Reorganisation

24. **Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how she expects the recent departmental reorganisation to affect the delivery of London 2012; and if she will make a statement. [151119]

26. **Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how she expects the recent departmental reorganisation to affect the delivery of London 2012. [151121]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave today to the hon. Member for North-West Cambridgeshire (Mr. Vara).

Legacy Plans

John Barrett: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what legacy plans have been put in place for the venues to be used for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [151120]

Tessa Jowell: A key consideration in the design of Olympic venues is the provision of a lasting and sustainable legacy.

A legacy business plan is being developed for each venue to ensure economic viability.

Venues outside of the Olympic Park will revert back to their original use, although some with enhanced facilities, such as the Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy, which will benefit from an expanded slipway and increased number of moorings.

Cabinet Office

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will make a statement on the work programme of the Better Cabinet Office programme. [151261]

Edward Miliband: The Better Cabinet Office programme has been superseded by a new change programme aimed at addressing the findings of the Department's Capability Review and the results of staff surveys. The capability review implementation plan, which was published 13 December 2006, covers actions up to the end of 2008. Copies of the Capability Review and the implementation plan are available in the Library for the reference of Members.

Charities

Mr. Geoffrey Robinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the Government's policy on funding for the third sector. [149512]

Phil Hope: Recent surveys indicate that Government funding for the voluntary sector has doubled between 1996-97 (£5 billion) and 2004-05 (£10 billion). Initiatives like Futurebuilders, Capacitybuilders, the Invest to Save budget, expansion of Gift Aid (which currently provides £838 million to the third sector) and the new youth volunteering charity, v, have helped build the sector's ability to make a real difference in local communities. In November 2006, the Government launched an action plan for social enterprise which committed £18 million to supporting social enterprises achieve their social, environmental and economic goals and proposals on their access to finance.

The Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 review into "The future role of the third sector in social and economic regeneration" is to be published later this month and followed a one-year consultation with the sector. The interim report of the review, published in December 2006, recognised that there was more to do to improve the relationship between Government and the third sector which included ensuring that there is stable and longer-term funding. The interim report announced a £30 million community assets fund and in addition an £80 million grants scheme for small community organisation was announced in Budget 2007.

The Government have also launched a consultation on considering measures to improve the take-up of Gift Aid on 23 June 2007.

Departments: Direct mail

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many contracts for direct mail his Department has entered into since November 2005; and what the value was of each. [151268]

Edward Miliband: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many civil servants have been transferred from HM Treasury to *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* No. 10 Downing street since 27 June 2007. [148866]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Since 27 June, three civil servants have transferred from HM Treasury to the Cabinet Office and three to No. 10 Downing street.

Departments: Ministerial Red Boxes

John Hemming: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many ministerial red boxes her Department bought in each of the last five years; what the cost of each was; who the suppliers were; and what tendering process was used in selecting them. [150419]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 239W.

Departments: Task Forces

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which task forces were *(a)* established and *(b)* abolished by Government departments since the last general election. [151264]

Edward Miliband: Information on department's task forces in existence on 31 March 2006 is contained in "Public Bodies 2006". This publication also lists those task forces that were wound up during 2005-06. "Public Bodies 2006" is available in the Libraries of the House.

Information for 2006-07 is in the process of being published by departments alongside the publication of departmental reports. A summary of this information will be published by the Cabinet Office after publication by departments.

Departments: Theft

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether items in his Department worth more than £100 have gone missing since May 2005. [151369]

Edward Miliband: Four items with a value of more than £100 have gone missing from this Department since May 2005.

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many overseas visits were made by *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers within his responsibility, and at what cost, in each year since 1997. [151653]

Edward Miliband: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given on 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2048-49W, by my predecessor the right hon. Member for North-West Durham (Hilary Armstrong) to the hon. Member for Hertford and Stortford (Mr. Prisk). Information relating to Ministers overseas travel for 2006-07 will be published shortly.

Departments: Written Questions

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the role of special advisers is in producing answers to written parliamentary questions; and if he will make a statement. [151271]

Edward Miliband: Special advisers carry out their duties in accordance with the requirements of the "Code of Conduct for Special Advisers".

Lord Birt

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster who occupies the office previously occupied by Lord Birt. [151416]

Edward Miliband: The room is currently occupied by staff of the Prime Minister's Office.

Ministers: Official Residences

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster for which official residential properties used by Ministers the council tax liability was met *(a)* by the Minister or Ministers occupying the property and *(b)* their Department in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [151440]

Edward Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by the former Prime Minister to the hon. Members for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning) and Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 2 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 816W, and to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 15 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 789W.

Official Residences: Theft

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether any *(a)* works of art and *(b)* (i) valuable furniture, (ii) porcelain and (iii) other items have been reported missing from (A) 10 Downing street, (B) 11 Downing street and (C) Admiralty House since 1977. [152013]

Edward Miliband: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what discussions she has had with the National Sports Academy at Lilleshall, Shropshire on the prospect of it being used as an Olympic regional training facility for the 2012 Olympics. [150728]

Tessa Jowell: The first class sporting facilities at the National Sports Centre at Lilleshall will prove attractive to visiting teams. I have had no discussions with the National Sports Centre on this subject; however I look forward to visiting the centre shortly.

London 2012 has received over 700 applications from facilities across the UK that wish to feature in their Pre-Games Training Camp Guide, and is now carrying out an assessment and selection process.

Facilities will be notified of their inclusion in the Guide at the beginning of 2008—which will be distributed to National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) in August 2008.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Carbon Footprint

31. **Norman Baker:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what steps the Commissioners are taking to reduce their carbon footprint. [151092]

Sir Stuart Bell: The national Church institutions are committed to the Church's Shrinking the Footprint campaign and are working hard to understand current energy consumption, reduce energy use in absolute terms and promote environmental best practice.

Footprint is a substantial and ambitious campaign which flows from the universal support for such action given by General Synod and the personal commitment of the Archbishop of Canterbury as evidenced by the recent award made to him by the Parliamentary Renewable and Sustainable Energy Group.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Commission: Annual Reports

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission when the annual report of the Electoral Commission for 2006-07 is to be published by the Commission. [151194]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission's Annual Report for 2006-07 was laid before Parliament on Thursday 19 July and has been published by the Commission as House of Commons Paper No. 851. Copies of the report are available to Members from the Vote Office.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Carter Ruck and Partners

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much the Commission paid in legal bills to Carter Ruck and Partners in each year since 1997. [151437]

Nick Harvey: The House of Commons Commission has paid £2,820 (inclusive of VAT) to Carter Ruck and Partners since 1 April 2003. Details of legal bills paid are not available for earlier years.

Legal Costs

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much was spent on legal *(a)* advice and *(b)* actions on behalf of (i) the Commission as a whole and (ii) individual members of the Commission in each year since 1997. [151438]

Nick Harvey: It is not possible to disaggregate legal costs specifically for the Commission or individual members of it. However, the total legal costs paid since 2003-04 have been:

	£
2003-04	111,813
2004-05	165,350
2005-06	130,987
2006-07	789,802
2007-08 (first quarter)	54,416

Figures are not available prior to 2003-04.

The information provided is based on costs paid to the Treasury Solicitors who act on behalf of the House of Commons and disbursements incurred during claims. Types of cases and advice received include: Personal injury claims made against the House, employment tribunals, FOI appeals, advice on MPs allowances and expenses, Parliamentary Privilege Bill, judicial review proceedings, Legal Services Bill and air passenger duty.

The figures for 2004-05 to 2006-07 also include legal and project fees paid in order to resolve claims on Portcullis House and Normal Shaw South. These alone amounted to £96,154 (2004-05), £79,159 (2005-06) and £596,586 (2006-07).

Proof of Identity

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will take steps to replace the visitor stickers issued to visitors to the parliamentary estate with another form of temporary pass. [151877]

Nick Harvey: A new access control system for the parliamentary estate will be introduced in the autumn. Part of this project is to introduce an improved visitor management system, which is currently in development. The intention is to provide a paper visitor pass clipped to the person instead of the stickers used at present.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Diarrhoea

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to help tackle the recent outbreak of diarrhoea in Afghanistan. [150321]

Mr. Malik: The provincial reconstruction team (PRT) in Lashkar Gah has not been contacted by either the provincial health director or any other local medical providers alerting them to a recent diarrhoea outbreak in Helmand. Civil and military (CIMIC) teams who are actively engaged in health programmes in Lashkar Gah are also not aware of any outbreak. If more specific information can be provided, the PRT will make further inquiries.

The most effective way to deliver any aid to Afghanistan is to provide funding directly to the Afghan government. This ensures that the money is spent on what Afghans need and provides the best chance for building effective state institutions that will last. DFID provides around 80 per cent. of its aid in this way. Although we do not provide assistance specifically to the health sector, we are the largest donor to the Government's recurrent budget which, for example pays salaries of health workers.

In July 2006, DFID announced a £30 million programme of support to the Helmand Agriculture and Rural Development Programme (HARDP). This programme increases economic opportunities for the rural poor of Helmand through a series of programmes operated by the government of Afghanistan. These programmes will provide essential assistance to the people of Helmand, including better water and sanitation.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to increase the availability of medical supplies to combat the recent diarrhoea outbreak in Helmand, Afghanistan following security threats in the region. [150322]

Mr. Malik: The provincial reconstruction team (PRT) in Lashkar Gah has not been contacted by either the provincial health director or any other local medical providers alerting them to a recent diarrhoea outbreak in Helmand. Civil and military (CIMIC) teams who are actively engaged in health programmes in Lashkar Gah are also not aware of any outbreak. If more specific information can be provided, the PRT will make further inquiries.

DFID continues to help people have improved access to clean water and sanitation. In July 2006, DFID announced a £30 million programme of support to the Helmand Agriculture and Rural Development Programme (HARDP). This programme increases economic opportunities for the rural poor of Helmand through a series of programmes operated by the government of Afghanistan. These programmes will provide essential assistance to the people of Helmand, including better water and sanitation.

Africa: International Assistance

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the nature is of his Department's relationship with the Africa Progress Panel. [149301]

Mr. Thomas: The Africa Progress Panel's objective is to maintain the momentum for delivery of high level commitments to Africa's development to which DFID is committed. It has an important part to play in holding donors and African countries alike to account for the promises made for Africa in the G8 summits and elsewhere.

While DFID provides funds to the Africa Progress Panel, it is operationally independent. DFID is providing £1 million over three years (March 2007 to December 2010) to support a Secretariat that serves the panel, and cover the expenses of panel members. It is expected that the Africa Progress Panel will also be funded by others.

Departments: Postal Services

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what volume of correspondence his Department sent *(a)* by Royal Mail and *(b)* by other commercial delivery services in each of the last five years; and what the reasons were for the use of other commercial delivery services. [150456]

Mr. Malik: The following table shows the volume of mail sent by DFID using Royal Mail and other commercial carriers in the last five years. Other commercial carriers have been used on the grounds of urgency, value for money and security. The vast majority of the mail by commercial carrier is in respect of a point-to-point contracted service between our two UK offices.

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Royal Mail	255,698	246,340	216,831	203,763	170,219
Commercial carriers	199,123	134,129	118,583	105,800	93,386

Overseas Aid

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what programmes his Department runs in *(a)* the Democratic Republic of Congo, *(b)* Tunisia and *(c)* Thailand. [148778]

Mr. Malik *[holding answer 12 July 2007]:* We expect to provide £70 million through our programme in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in 2007-08, which is aimed at three broad objectives:

(a) saving lives and meeting humanitarian needs;

(b) supporting democratisation and reform of the army, police and justice systems, to consolidate peace and stability in DRC; and

(c) expanding access to basic services and stimulating broad based economic growth through more equitable use of natural resources.

DFID itself does not run programmes in DRC. Our programmes are implemented by local and international non-governmental organisations and multilateral agencies. Last year 1 per cent. of our funding also went through the government of DRC, and in future we would expect to provide more through government systems if these can be proven to be effective.

DFID does not provide direct development assistance to Tunisia or Thailand which are middle-income countries. However, we provide significant support to countries in north Africa and the middle east through multilateral channels. In particular we will contribute a £1.5 billion share of the EC's European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument's (ENPI) £8.3 billion support from 2007 to 2013, which will include aid to Tunisia. DFID also provides funding to the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank and the European Commission, which have programmes in Thailand.

TREASURY

Departments: Manpower

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what consideration is given to an individual's tax status by his Department and its executive agencies when offering *(a)* employment and *(b)* a consultancy contract; and if he will make a statement; [150520]

(2) how many individuals claiming non-domicile tax status in the UK were born in the UK; and if he will make a statement; [150521]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of people living in the UK who are eligible for non-domicile tax status; and if he will make a statement; [150522]

(4) how many individuals *(a)* successfully and *(b)* unsuccessfully applied for non-domicile tax status in each of the last 10 years for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [150523]

Jane Kennedy: All individuals taking up employment or consultancy contracts with the Treasury Departments undergo background and security checks. However, we regard the tax status of individuals as being a private matter between themselves and the appropriate Tax Office of HM Revenue and Customs.

We do not currently hold information on how many individuals claiming non-domicile tax status in the UK were born in the UK; how many individuals are eligible for non-domicile tax status in the UK; or, how many individuals have successfully applied for non-domicile tax status in each of the last 10 years.

Departments: Postal Services

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what volume of correspondence his Department sent *(a)* by Royal Mail and *(b)* by other commercial delivery services in each of the last five years; and what the reasons were for the use of other commercial delivery services. [150458]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury uses Royal Mail for its postal services, and other companies for parcel and courier deliveries.

	Number of items sent by Royal Mail	Number of parcel/courier deliveries
2003	99,845	101
2004	88,868	113
2005	59,104	410
2006	56,982	184

Information for 2002 is not available.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what mechanism is in place to levy road tax on vehicles used in the UK but registered in other EU member states. [151248]

Angela Eagle: European Union (EU) vehicles (excluding commercial vehicles) circulating temporarily within or between member states are allowed under EC Directive 83/182 to be used on public roads without the need to register or license in the host country. These provisions limit visits to six months in any 12-month period and the vehicle must be compliant with the registration and licensing requirements of its home country. Any vehicle used in this country for more than six months in any 12 must be registered and licensed with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA). In addition, where the keeper of the vehicle becomes resident in this country, the vehicle must immediately be registered and licensed here.

The Department for Transport is currently undertaking a feasibility study to explore ways of delivering better targeted enforcement on foreign heavy goods vehicles.

First Solution Money Transfer: Insolvency

Ms Keeble: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the impact on UK residents of the collapse of First Solution Money Transfer Ltd. [149505]

Kitty Ussher: In light of the recent financial difficulties experienced by the money transfer company, First Solution Money Transfer Ltd., the Companies Investigation Branch of the Insolvency Service, within the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, is carrying out an examination of the facts of the case. Further information is set out in my written ministerial statement, which was issued to the House on 11 July.

The Government welcome the announcement by the Sir William Beveridge Foundation on 16 July that an independent help line and support fund will be set up to provide advice and assistance to members of the Bangladeshi community affected. I will be making a personal donation to the fund, and would encourage others who are able to do so.

HM Revenue and Customs: Location

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made on the inquiry into the future of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) offices; whether there are plans to relocate the Chelmsford HMRC offices; and if he will make a statement. [150881]

Jane Kennedy: For the purposes of HMRC's regional review programme the two Chelmsford offices have been grouped in a cluster with Witham. No firm date has yet been set for the review of these offices but it will take place between this summer and early next year. Whatever the outcome of the review the inquiry centres housed in two of the offices will be retained in their current localities.

Home Information Packs

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the written submissions by HM Revenue and Customs to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Department for Communities and Local Government on home information packs. [150665]

Angela Eagle: Representations on the Home Condition Report register were made by the Valuation Office Agency, an executive agency of HM Revenue and Customs. The information was provided in confidence and disclosure would therefore be inappropriate.

Inheritance Tax

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the change in *(a)* inheritance tax revenue and *(b)* stamp duty revenue on property due to fiscal drag since 1997. [150668]

Jane Kennedy: No such estimates have been made. Budget 2007 announced that the inheritance tax nil rate band would rise by more than forecast inflation to £312,000 in 2008-09 and to £325,000 in 2009-10. The initial stamp duty threshold was doubled from £60,000 to £120,000 in Budget 2005 and further raised to £125,000 in Budget 2006.

Taxation: Environment Protection

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which taxes are levied for reasons which include an aspect of meeting an environmental policy objective; and if he will make a statement. [150809]

Angela Eagle: Those taxes (and tax reliefs) that contribute towards meeting the Government's environmental policy objectives are set out in Table 7.2 of the Budget document.

I would also like to refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 18 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 443W.

Unemployment: Young People

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many economically inactive 18 to 24-year-olds there were in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 1997, broken down by (i) region and (ii) gender. [152030]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 23 July 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the levels of economically inactive people aged 18 to 24 by (i) region and (ii) gender in (a) 2006 and (b) 1997. (152030)

The attached table shows the numbers of economically inactive people aged 18 to 24 by region and gender for 1997 and 2006. The estimates cover the three month period ending December each year, and are not seasonally adjusted.

Each month the ONS publishes the latest estimates of economic inactivity by age in the Labour Market Statistics Regional First Release available in Table 10 in the attached link. http://www.statistics.gov.uk/onlineproducts/lms_regional.asp. This data is consistent with the data given in the table overleaf.

Estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Economically inactive[1] people aged 18 to 24 by region and gender 1997 and 2006, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

Three months ending December each year	*All persons*	*Men*	*Women*
1997			
United Kingdom[2]	1,191	479	712
North East	60	22	38
North West	140	58	82
Yorkshire and the Humber	113	45	69
East Midlands	68	24	44
West Midlands	111	47	64
East	82	32	50
London	198	91	107
South East	144	59	86
South West	78	29	49
Wales	72	29	43
Scotland	94	37	57
Northern Ireland	34	10	24
2006			
United Kingdom[2]	1,430	608	822
North East	68	29	38
North West	170	77	94
Yorkshire and the Humber	118	41	77
East Midlands	95	43	52
West Midlands	139	59	80
East	95	38	56
London	253	110	143
South East	155	65	90
South West	106	50	56
Wales	65	28	37
Scotland	113	46	66
Northern Ireland	59	24	35

[1] Economically inactive people are those who are neither in employment or unemployed.

[2] Due to slight methodological differences between the way the national and regional LFS estimates have been adjusted for the 2001 Census there may be small differences between the UK totals and the sum of the regional components. The estimates in this table have been weighted to the 2005 mid-year population estimates.

Source: ONS Labour Force Survey (ONS)

VAT: Registration

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many VAT registration applications were received in each of the last five years; what the average time taken to process such applications was in each year; what the target time is to process such applications; and how many and what proportion of applications were processed within that target time in the latest period for which figures are available. [144728]

Jane Kennedy: VAT registration is the entry point to Missing Trader Intra-Community and other fraud—which reduced VAT receipts by an estimated £2 billion to £3 billion (2005-06). It is right that HM Revenue and Customs take steps to stop those who would abuse the system.

However, HMRC recognise that there has been a problem in recent months with delays in processing the VAT registration applications of genuine businesses. HMRC has put in place plans to improve the processing of registrations and already have additional staff in post and IT investment under way.

	Number of applications received	*Average processing time (95 per cent.)*[1]	*Target time*	*How many/what proportion processed within target*
2002-03	257,139	[2]n/a	15 working days	248,910 (96.8 per cent.)
2003-04	299,043	n/a	15 working days	278,409 (93.1 per cent.)
2004-05	269,515	n/a	15 working days	262,238 (97.3 per cent.)
2005-06	284,804	n/a	15 working days	267,431 (93.9 per cent.)
2006-07	285,176	29 days	14 calendar days	77,568 (27.2 per cent.)

[1] Average measurement made on basis of 95 per cent. of low risk cases

[2] Revenue and Customs did not record the average processing times for years 2002-03 to 2005-06.

Welfare Tax Credits

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were *(a)* overpaid and *(b)* underpaid tax credits in each year since their inception in (i) Hampshire and (ii) England. [151040]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the numbers of families with tax credits awards, including information on overpayments and underpayments by county and country, based on final family circumstances and incomes, for the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are available in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits. Finalised Awards. Supplement on Payments. Geographical Analysis", for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Welfare Tax Credits: Hereford

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was overpaid to recipients of tax credits in Hereford constituency in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [150756]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 3 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 957W to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson).

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was overpaid to recipients of tax credits in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in the last 12 months. [151433]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the numbers of families with tax credits awards, including information on overpayments and underpayments by constituency and county, based on final family circumstances and incomes, for 2005-06, is available in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards 2005-06. Supplements on Payments in 2005-06. Geographical Analysis", which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Estimates for 2006-07 tax credit awards are due to be published in May 2008 when family circumstances and incomes have been finalised.

Welfare Tax Credits: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in City of York constituency receive *(a)* child and *(b)* working tax credit; and what the average value of tax credits to those households was in the latest period for which figures are available. [151615]

Jane Kennedy: The average number of households benefiting from either child or working tax credits in 2005-06, or receiving the equivalent support through out-of-work benefits, by constituency, is shown in "Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. 2005-06. Geographical Analyses". This publication also includes average annual entitlement for 2005-06 and is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

The publication referred to shows that there were around 9.5 thousand families benefiting from child and working tax credits in the City Of York constituency in 2005-06. It also shows that the average annual entitlement to these families was £3,086.

TRANSPORT

A27: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents there were on the A27 between Lewes and Polegate in each of the last 10 years. [151429]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table gives the Highways Agency's record of road traffic accidents that have occurred on the A27 between Lewes and Polegate in each year since 1997.

	Total number of accidents
1997	78
1998	58
1999	56
2000	63
2001	60
2002	59
2003	59
2004	61
2005	57
2006	61

The accident rate for this road between Lewes and Polegate is 24.04 Personal Injury Accidents (PIA) per 100 million vehicle kilometres. The national average figure for this type of road is 24 PIAs per 100 million vehicle kilometres.

Aviation: Noise

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment her Department has made of the environmental impact and noise pollution caused by private aircraft; [152005]

(2) what plans she has to introduce measures to reduce noise and noise pollution caused by private aircraft. [152006]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department is not aware of any assessment of the environmental impact and noise pollution caused by private aircraft. Propeller driven aircraft weighing under 9,000 kg—the main "general aviation" aircraft—have to comply with an internationally agreed noise certification standard, unless they were on the UK register prior to 1980. This standard was tightened for aircraft certificated after 1999. We expect aerodromes to set and to enforce appropriate rules to minimise noise nuisance, reflecting local circumstances. Guidance on recommended measures to help reduce the noise related nuisance from light aircraft is available on the Civil Aviation Authority's website (www.caa.co.uk).

Biofuels

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much biofuel the UK produced in 2005-06; and what the estimated level of biofuel production is for 2007-08. [151573]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Total UK biofuel sales for the financial year 2005-06 amounted to some 139 million litres, and provisional figures suggest that total UK biofuel sales for the financial year 2006-07 amounted to some 327 million litres. Further details are available via:

http://www.uktradeinfo.com

Some of these biofuels were produced in the UK from a variety of feedstocks, and some were imported. The Department does not hold precise information on the breakdown between domestically produced and imported biofuels, nor does the Department have a precise forecast for UK biofuel production in 2007-08.

The Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation, due to be introduced in April 2008, will significantly increase the

demand for biofuels in the UK. A number of major new UK biofuel production facilities are due to come on stream over the next few years to help meet this additional demand. UK biofuel producers will, however, continue to need to compete with overseas producers to supply the UK market.

Departments: Early Retirement

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of her staff took early retirement in the last five years; at what cost; what grades of staff took early retirement; and what percentage of each grade took early retirement. [148810]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table represents the number of staff exits for the Department for Transport and its agencies broken down by grade and the total cost to the Department for the last five complete financial years. Information relating to percentage of staff who took early retirement broken down by grade can be given only at disproportionate cost.

Grade	*Number/£*
AA	57
AO	239
EO	126
HEO	113
SEO	139
Grade 7	54
Grade 6	8
SCS Payband 1	16
SCS Payband 2	2
SCS Payband 3	1
Not known	52
Total	807
Total cost (£)	31,271,609

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what legislative provisions introduced by her Department since 1997 have not yet been brought into force. [149560]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have placed in the Libraries of the House a list of the provisions in Acts for which the Department for Transport has lead responsibility, which have received Royal Assent since 1 January 1997 and which remain to be brought into force.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what legislative provisions introduced by her Department's predecessors since 1997 have been repealed. [149589]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have placed in the Libraries of the House a list of the provisions in Acts for which the Department for Transport has lead responsibility, which have received Royal Assent since 1 January 1997 and which have been repealed.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criminal offences have been created by primary legislation sponsored by her Department since October 2006. [149599]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have placed in the Library of the House a list of the criminal offences created by primary legislation which received Royal Assent on or after 1 October 2006 and for which the Department for Transport has lead responsibility. The list includes *(a)* provisions that reform or modernise existing offences and *(b)* provisions that confer power to create new offences under secondary legislation.

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants within her Department's areas of responsibilities in the last 12 months. [149056]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport (central) and four of its agencies spent a combined total of £3,102,287 on overnight accommodation and associated subsistence in the last 12 months. The remaining three agencies do not record overnight accommodation separately from other business travel expenses, and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Racial Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which her Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [149242]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport (C) and its agencies have had three complaints in the past 12 months, all of which are still under investigation.

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many overseas visits were made by *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers within her responsibility, and at what cost, in each year since 1997. [151652]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis, a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2006-07 is currently being compiled and will be published before the summer recess. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Civil Service Management Code" and the "Ministerial Code".

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Shrewsbury

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 394-5W, on the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Shrewsbury, how long the Shrewsbury Office of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency took to process the vehicle registration application in respect of *(a)* DX07OVF (Chassis No. ending 330934) and *(b)* CU07XDZ (Chassis No. ending 177735); and if she will make a statement. [150620]

Jim Fitzpatrick: While every effort is made to adhere to published service times, fluctuations in workloads can occasionally result in a failure to meet targets. Application forms to register CU07XDZ and DX07OVF were received at the Shrewsbury office of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) on 3 July 2007, but were not processed until 10 July 2007. Registration Certificates for both vehicles were issued on 13 July 2007.

Driving Under Influence: Accidents

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* car drivers and *(b)* passengers died in drink driving-related accidents in (i) December and (ii) January in each year since 2003, broken down by local authority area. [151905]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not available by local authority area.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents were caused by drink-driving in each year since 2003, broken down by local authority area. [151906]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The estimated number of personal injury road accidents involving at least one driver or rider over the legal alcohol limit can be found in table 2a of the 'Drinking and Driving' article in 'Road Casualties Great Britain', available at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/accidents/casualtiesgbar/roadcasualtiesgreatbritain2005

Estimates are calculated on a national basis. Local authority estimates are not available.

Driving: Licensing

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the implications of the arrangements by which a Chinese driving licence can be exchanged for a British licence, via a Hong Kong licence, for road safety in England; how many licences have been issued in exchange for Hong Kong licences; and if she will make a statement. [151475]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The arrangements which allow the exchange of Hong Kong licences for British licences are governed by legislation.

This requires the exchange of a Hong Kong licence even if it was issued as a result of a test passed elsewhere. There is no discretion but officials are considering the effect of the legislation.

Approximately 4,500 Hong Kong licences are exchanged for a British licence each year. Figures are not available for how many were issued as a result of a test passed in Hong Kong as this information is not required for the exchange process.

First Great Western

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make it her policy to terminate the franchise held by First Great Western; and if she will make a statement. [151279]

Mr. Tom Harris: First Great Western is not currently in breach of either the punctuality or reliability benchmarks specified in the Franchise Agreement.

Garage and Petrol Stations: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many filling stations in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex are (i) able to accommodate and (ii) offer alternative fuel types for cars. [151431]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This information is not held centrally by Government. However information on geographical locations is available on the Energy Saving Trust website at:

www.est.org.uk

The Government provide funds to the Energy Saving Trust to run their Infrastructure grant programme. The grants assist the building of refuelling stations for alternative fuels (natural gas/biogas, hydrogen and bio-ethanol).

M3: Road Traffic

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the volume of traffic *(a)* on the M3 motorway between junctions 6 and 7 and *(b)* entering and leaving the motorway at those junctions was in each year since 1993. [151999]

Mr. Tom Harris: Traffic data on the volume of traffic on the M3 motorway between junctions 6 and 7 are only available from 1995 to 2006. Information on traffic entering and leaving the motorway at these junctions is only available for 2005 and 2006. The information is shown in the following tables.

Volume of traffic M3 junctions 6-7—annual average daily traffic flows in vehicles/day

	Junction 6-7 eastbound	*Junction 7-6 westbound*
1995	38,222	37,946
1996	39,387	39,303
1997	41,177	40,956
1998	42,331	42,770
1999	43,138	43,418
2000	[1]n/a	43,995
2001	44,938	45,122
2002	45,108	43,948
2003	45,074	45,298
2004	45,060	44,217
2005	44,952	43,744
2006	45,930	46,616

[1] Not available as the automatic traffic counting sites were out of operation.

Source:

Southern Region Trunk Road Traffic Monitoring Reports 2005 and 2006, HA TRADS2.

Volume of traffic entering M3 junctions 6 and—annual average daily traffic flows in vehicles/day

	Junction 6 on-slip westbound	*Junction 6 on-slip eastbound*	*Junction 7 on-slip westbound*	*Junction 7 on-slip eastbound*
2005[1]	8,032	15,145	4,014	1,744
2006	8,550	13,568	4,233	3,936

[1] Data not available prior to year stated as automatic traffic counting sites on slip roads were not installed until 2005.

Source:

Southern Region Trunk Road Traffic Monitoring Reports 2005 and 2006, HA TRADS2.

Volume of traffic leaving M3 junctions 6 and 7—annual average daily traffic flows in vehiclesIday

	Junction 6 off-slip westbound	*Junction 6 off-slip eastbound*	*Junction 7 off-slip westbound*	*Junction 7 off-slip eastbound*
2005[1]	12,879	8,169	3,024	4,034
2006	13,100	8,233	2,971	4,070

[1] Data not available prior to year stated as automatic traffic counting sites on slip roads were not installed until 2005.

Source:

Southern Region Trunk Road Traffic Monitoring Reports 2005 and 2006. HA TRADS2.

Metronet

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate her Department has made of the public financial liabilities which may arise from Metronet going into administration. [151818]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Transport for London and London Underground are in discussions with PPP administrators to identify the best long term financial outcome resulting from the administration of Metronet's activities. It would be premature to comment on any liabilities while those discussions are still in their early stages.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what requirements for *(a)* MOT and *(b)* vehicle insurance are placed on owners of vehicles used in the UK but registered in other EU member states. [151247]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information is as follows.

(a) All vehicles have to comply with the minimum standards of roadworthiness irrespective of the country in which the vehicle is registered. If they do not their drivers and operators can be prosecuted and fined. The vehicle can also be prohibited from moving until necessary repairs have been carried out.

(b) European law requires all vehicles registered in any member state to have insurance for the use of that vehicle in any other member state. That insurance must cover the driver's liability for any personal injury or property damage caused to any third party.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of vehicles other than HGVs and LGVs failed the MOT test for reasons limited to exhaust emissions in the last 12 months. [151466]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) is responsible for the operation of the MOT Scheme. Statistics regarding the number of vehicles that failed the MOT test on the grounds of emissions standards are published annually in VOSA's Effectiveness Report. This is available on line at www.vosa.gov.uk and in the House of Commons Library, Business and Transport Section.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to consult on changes to the UK's MOT testing regime. [151472]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We will be consulting shortly.

Motorways: Repairs and Maintenance

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average cost per mile is to resurface a motorway with *(a)* noise reducing materials and *(b)* non-noise reducing materials; and if she will make a statement. [151820]

Mr. Tom Harris: Motorways are only resurfaced with noise reducing materials. The average cost per mile for resurfacing a motorway, with three lanes in each direction plus a hard shoulder with a noise reducing surface, is approximately £180,000. This excludes the costs for traffic management, contract preliminaries, any road strengthening and other consequential works.

Official Cars: Ministers

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Ministers have opted not to take up the use of a ministerial car since May 2005. [151266]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Since 2005, one Minister has opted not to take-up the use of a ministerial car through the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

Railways: EU Action

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what timescale will be covered by the UK's proposed derogation from the EU proposal 2004/0048 (COD) for a European Parliament and Council directive on the certification of train drivers operating locomotives and trains on the Community's rail network. [151452]

Mr. Tom Harris: The renewable derogation allowing member states to disapply on a time-limited basis provisions in the proposed directive on the certification of train drivers operating locomotives and trains is for a period of 10 years.

The UK is minded to invoke this derogation. However, details of its implementation, especially with regard to any future renewal of the derogation, will be subject to consultation with the industry and users once the final text has been agreed both by the European Council and the European Parliament.

Railways: Scotland

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with Ministers in the Scottish Executive on the development of high speed rail links between Scotland and London. [150492]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Secretary of State has not met the Scottish Executive to discuss a high-speed rail link between Scotland and London.

Department for Transport Ministers and officials regularly consult the Scottish Executive on reserved railway matters which are of strategic importance to Scotland, including issues concerning cross-border capacity and franchising.

The Government will set out their position on high-speed rail links in the HLOS Rail White Paper later in the week.

Railways: Vandalism

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many *(a)* incidents of and *(b)* prosecutions there were for (i) vandalism, (ii) informed vandalism and (iii) trespass on rail lines in each year since 2001-02; [151863]

(2) how many incidences of arson on the railways there were in each year since 2000, broken down by *(a)* train operating company and *(b)* line. [151865]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is not held by the Department for Transport but by the British Transport Police who can be contacted at: British Transport Police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN, E-mail: general.enquiries@btp.pnn.police.uk.

Roads: Accidents

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in what percentage of road accidents resulting in the death or serious injury in each of the last five years vehicle defects were found to be a contributory factor. [152437]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The proportion of reported personal injury road accidents which had "vehicle defects" as a contributory factor was 2.6 per cent. in 2005 and 2.3 per cent in 2006.

2005 is the earliest year for which this information is available.

Severn Barrage

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make an assessment of the potential of the proposed Severn Barrage to provide a new rail link from South Wales to London and the South East; and if she will make a statement. [151920]

Mr. Tom Harris: This would be primarily a matter for the promoters of the proposed Severn Barrage to consider, but the Department would be pleased to co-operate in any such assessment.

Transport: Private Finance Initiatives

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many transport projects were funded by private finance initiatives in each of the last 10 years, broken down by local authority. [151463]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The HM Treasury website provides updated details (on a six monthly basis) of awarded PFI projects overseen by the Department for Transport. The project details include the awarding authority, date of financial close, total capital value and the annual unitary charge payment. This information is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people are employed by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency. [151468]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) publishes the average number of staff employed (full-time equivalent) in its annual report and accounts. This is available online at www.vosa.gov.uk and in the House of Commons Library, Business and Transport Section.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects the study by Deloitte and Touche into the possible outsourcing of elements of the work of the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency to be presented to the Department for Transport Board. [152441]

Jim Fitzpatrick: An update on progress on the outsourcing feasibility study will be presented to the DfT Board in the autumn.

Vehicle and Operators Services Agency: Property

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her estimate is of the value of the land and buildings used by the Vehicle and Operators Services Agency for its annual HGV and PSV inspections. [151258]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The net book value for existing use of the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) estate used for testing HGV and PSV vehicles was £78.3 million as at end March 2007.

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers: Procurement

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to be able to make an announcement on the order for the Future Aircraft Carriers; and what the reason is for the time taken to do so. [149880]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 18 July 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 22 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1181W, to the hon. Member for Brecon and Radnorshire (Mr. Williams).

Armed Forces: Council Tax

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1456W to the hon. Member for the Forest of Dean, on the armed forces: council tax, what conclusion he has reached on support for the council tax costs in England of service personnel serving overseas; and if he will make a statement. [149659]

Derek Twigg: Work is ongoing to find a resolution to this issue and an announcement will be made in due course.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military personnel are *(a)* deployed and *(b)* stationed in each country outside the UK. [150020]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The approximate number of UK service personnel deployed by operation and location as at 9 July 2007 is shown in the following table:

Operation	*Number*
Total	13,500
Of which:	
Telic	6,800
Of which:	
Iraq	5,500
Other (including 'at sea')	1,300
Herrick	6,200
Of which:	
Afghanistan	6,200
Oculus	240
Of which:	
Kosovo	180
Bosnia	60
UN	320
Of which:	
Cyprus	290
Other[1]	30

[1] Other UN locations have fewer than 10 personnel per country and include Georgia, Nepal, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia.

Note:
Due to rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts.

The strength of UK regular forces posted outside the UK is available in Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 6—Global Location of UK Regular Forces. The most recent publication show the numbers of service personnel at 1 October 2006.

Copies of TSP 6 are available in the Library of the House and are also available at:

www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/tsp6/tsp6_oct06.pdf.

Due to the introduction of a new joint personnel administration system (JPA), TSP6 RAF location data for 1 April 2006 are provisional and subject to review, and after 1 April 2006 are not currently available.

The Defence Analytical Services Agency is currently validating JPA RAF location data and expect to publish provisional RAF figures for 1 July 2006 and 1 October 2006 by the end of July 2007.

Armed Forces: Homosexuality

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the uniformed participation of members of the armed forces in Gay Pride events. [151943]

Derek Twigg: In accordance with Queen's Regulations, decisions on whether armed forces personnel can attend Gay Pride or any other public events are a matter for the chain of command.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel are eligible for the key worker discount; and how many used the discount in each of the last five years. [148346]

Derek Twigg: All armed forces personnel stationed in London, the East and South East of England, with a household income of less than £60,000, are eligible to be considered for the key worker living (KWL) programme. The scheme was only extended to include Service personnel in September 2006, and the first two beneficiaries have moved into their new homes. Other applicants are at various stages in the process.

Armed Forces: Key Worker Living Scheme

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel are eligible for the key worker discount in Tamworth constituency; and how many have used the discount in the last five years. [150300]

Derek Twigg: None. Only armed forces personnel stationed in London, the East and South East of England with a household income of less than £60,000, are currently eligible to be considered for the Key Worker Living programme. That scheme was extended to include service personnel in September 2006, and the scope for extending similar arrangements to other areas of Great Britain, where there are major military establishments, is being explored with the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Armed Forces: Smoking

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the ban on smoking in enclosed public places applies to military vehicles. [151170]

Derek Twigg: The ban on smoking in enclosed public places applies to all military vehicles and has been in place for sometime.

Army Board: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on alcohol for entertainment at the homes of the non-ministerial members of the Army Board in the last year, broken down by *(a)* event and *(b)* type of alcohol. [138518]

Derek Twigg: The entertainment expenses claimed by non-ministerial members of the Army Board, as presented on 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 535W, and 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1761W, include the costs of alcohol for the official functions in question.

Neither the Assistant Chief of the General Staff nor 2nd Permanent Under-Secretary incurred any expenditure on alcohol for official entertainment.

The Chief of the General Staff and his immediate predecessor claimed costs of approximately £521.33 for alcohol expenses for official entertainment in 2006, broken down as follows:

Date	Event/reason	Amount (£)
7 February	Lunch with Chief of the General Staff, Italy	[1]90.00
15 March	The Friends of the Army Dinner	[1]90.00
21-25 May	The Kermit Roosevelt Lecture Tour	94.47
21 June	Lunch with Chief of the Defence Staff New Zealand	[2]25.00
16-20 July	Visit of Vice Chief of the Army Staff Pakistan	96.26
12 December	Lunch with Chief of the General Staff Sweden	125.60

[1] Estimated costs based on the cost of events of a similar nature.
[2] Estimated cost.

The Adjutant-General claimed £394.83 for the cost of alcohol for official entertainment in 2006. A breakdown is set out in the following table:

Date	Event/reason	Amount (£)
23 January	Visit of Master General of Ordnance	24.45
13 February	Visit of Quarter Master General with Director Army Legal Services and Senior Defence Lecturer, Cranfield	28.54
20 February	Army 3-star officer and senior civilian representatives	21.36
1 March	Visit of Senior Minister of the Catholic Group (Army)	28.00
30 March	Visit of Assistant Chief General Staff	35.34
27 April	Military and civilian staff Headquarters Adjutant General	31.12
8 May	Visit of Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Personnel) and senior officers concerned with welfare/personnel issues	23.34
12 June	Visit of CinC Land Command	35.82
23 August	Visit of Judge Advocate General and hosting of Private Secretary to TRH Princes William and Harry	22.70
31 August	Visit of Governor Royal Hospital Chelsea	27.99
12 September	Visit of Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Reserves and Cadets) regarding Territorial Army soldiers operational and welfare needs	22.74
4 October	Visit of Chief Constable Wiltshire Constabulary	19.25
17 October	Sir Max Hastings, General Sir Mike Jackson, Sir Ronnie Hempel and senior military personnel	26.62
15 October	Visit of Minister of State for Armed Forces and Member for Air Personnel	20.37
21 November	Visit of Chief Constable Hampshire Constabulary (enhancement of relations and working best practice)	27.19

The General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland claimed £770.63 for the cost of alcohol for official entertainment in 2006. The events were:

Date	Event/reason	Amount (£)
21 January	Unit Cohesiveness event. Civilian and military staff from throughout the Command	57.29
2 February	Entertainment to foster relationships within the wider community	51.45
9 February	Visit by Dir CT&UK Ops, MOD	51.51
13 May	Unit Cohesion event. Civilian and military staff from throughout the Command	20.29
15-18 May	Visit by GOC NI (designate)	4.75
18 May	Entertainment to foster relationships within the wider community	49.02
1 August	Unit cohesiveness event. Civilian and military staff from throughout the Command	16.95
11 September	Entertainment to foster relationships within the wider community	60.39
19 September	Entertainment to foster relationships within the wider community	70.02
17 October	Entertainment to foster relationships within the wider community	69.63
24 October	Entertainment to foster relationships within the wider community	49.91
21 November	Entertainment to foster relationships within the wider community	62.07
23 November	Visit by Deputy Adjutant General	35.48
6 December	Entertainment to foster relationships within the wider community	63.61
19 December	Unit cohesiveness event. Civilian and military staff from throughout the Command	108.26

The Commander in Chief Land Command claimed £1,294.60 for the cost of alcohol for official entertainment in 2006, broken down as follows:

Date	Event/reason	Amount (£)
25 January	Hosting visit by UK dignitaries	152.59
5 March	Hosting visit by UK dignitaries	101.70
6 March	Hosting foreign visitor	26.10
21 March	Unit cohesiveness	136.98
4 April	Hosting visit By UK dignitaries	87.24
18 April	Unit cohesiveness	72.90
18 May	Entertainment to foster relationships with wider community	143.63
23 May	Unit cohesiveness	117.36
10 June	Hosting UK officials	28.39
17 June	Hosting prominent members of the civilian community	195.40
18 July	Hosting visit by overseas dignitaries	44.94
20 July	Hosting visit by overseas dignitaries	89.17
14 November	Visit of Spanish Commander in Chief	98.20

All expenditure on official entertainment is subject to strict departmental rules and compliance with the principles of propriety set out in Government Accounting.

It has not been possible to break down the expenditure on alcohol by type as this information is not held.

AWE Aldermaston: Press

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse was of holding the media open day at AWE Aldermaston in June 2007; what plans he has to hold other such open days at atomic weapons establishment sites; and if he will make a statement. [150236]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The only identifiable cost of the AWE media open day was £494.40. These costs were for catering and the production of press packs. There will have been other small unquantifiable costs associated with employees' time. The media open day was organised to coincide with an on-site exhibition for employees, contractors and their families. This was in response to the House of Commons Defence Committee's (HCDC) view that there was a case for greater openness regarding the work undertaken at

AWE. The Government response to the HCDC's report 'The Future of the UK's Strategic Nuclear Deterrent: the Manufacturing and Skills Base' (HC 59 dated 19 December 2006) provides further details.

Currently we have no plans to hold another media open day at an AWE site.

Battlefield Artillery Target Engagement System

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the original estimated cost was of the Battlefield Artillery Target Engagement System when the project was originally undertaken; what the latest estimated total outturn cost is; and if he will make a statement. [149671]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Battlefield Artillery Target Engagement System was brought into service in the early 1980s, and declared out of service in December 2006. Information on the costs of the system is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

British Merchant Fleet

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the strategic implications of the decline in the number of British Merchant Navy vessels. [149882]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 18 July 2007]:* No formal assessment has been conducted recently. The MOD's strategic shipping requirements are met initially by the six British flagged and manned roll-on roll-off vessels provided under a private finance initiative.

Additional requirements are met under reciprocal arrangements with allies and from the wider commercial market.

The recent House of Commons Defence Committee enquiry into Strategic Lift, whilst noting the good arrangements for securing additional sealift, recommended that the MOD undertake an analysis of the reducing commercial shipping market. The MOD is currently considering its response to this recommendation.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the ability of *(a)* the Merchant Navy and *(b)* the UK maritime skills base to provide adequate strategic assets to support future operations. [151524]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No formal assessment has been conducted recently. The MOD's strategic shipping requirements are met initially by the six British flagged and manned roll-on roll-off vessels provided under a private finance initiative. Additional requirements are met under reciprocal arrangements with allies and from the wider commercial market.

The recent House of Commons Defence Committee inquiry into Strategic Lift, while noting the good arrangements for securing additional sealift, recommended that the MOD undertake an analysis of the reducing commercial shipping market. The MOD is currently considering its response to this recommendation.

Defence Export Services Organisation

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future of the Defence Export Services Organisation. [150279]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 13W.

Defence Medical Services: ICT

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Defence Medical Information Capability Programme has cost to date; and how much he expects it to have cost to establish once fully operational. [149662]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* The total cost of the Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) to date, including the concept and assessment phases of the programme, has been £14.7 million. Full operating capability is expected to be achieved in 2010, by which time £48 million is expected to have been spent.

The total programme costs, over the 10-year lifespan of the system, are expected to be £107 million. All figures are exclusive of VAT.

DMCIP will provide a single integrated health record (including a dental record) for all patients treated by the Defence Medical Services, instantly accessible by all medical personnel who need to treat a patient, a range of improved administrative and patient management tools, and a comprehensive management information system. DMICP will be available from all fixed medical and dental centres in the UK, Germany and certain other permanent bases overseas; a deployed capability will be available on operations from late2008; and from 2010 DMCIP will be linked to NHS Care Records Service.

Departments: BAE Systems

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1132W, on Department: BAE Systems, how many of those applicants granted permission to join BAE in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007 had dealt with (i) the receipt of tenders from BAE and (ii) the award of contracts to BAE, alone or as part of a team, while employed by his Department; which jobs those granted permission to join BAE took up; and what jobs those people had performed while in his Department. [149675]

Des Browne *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* The number of those granted permission to join BAE Systems in 2006 and 2007 are as follows:

	Granted permission to join BAE Systems	*Who had dealt with receipt of tenders*	*Number Involved with contract awards (alone or as part of a team)*
2006	21	4	4
2007 (to date)	12	4	4

It is not possible to confirm from records where the applicant actually took up the post, but the proposed post in the application, i.e. the last post in MOD, were as follows:

BAE post	*Last MOD post*
UK Customer Relations	Naval Adviser
Procurement Adviser	DG, Trafalgar 200th Anniversary
Senior Software Assurance Engineer	Quality Assurance Representative
Executive Secretary to Tornado Director	PA/Harrier Assistant Director
Sales Support	Regional Director/Central DESO
Team Leader Supply Chain	Tornado IPT
Procurement Manager	AD/DG Log Proc
EVP Market Development	On secondment to BAE
Test Pilot	Equipment Capability
Maintenance Programme Manager	Engineering Manager
Consultant	Supply Engagement Manager
Project Ldr Comms Suite	Senior Equipment Support Manager
Marketing Development and Sales	Procurement Manager
Consultant , defence matters	UK Government agreements with Saudi MOD
Typhoon Information Systems Officer	Typhoon Information Support Officer
Resource Engineer	Managing Technical Demo Programme
Senior rep on RAF Station	OC Depth Support Manager
Head of maintenance	AD Depth Support Tornado
Bid Team	Niteworks Business Co-ordinator
Senior Quality Assurance Engineer	Logistic Sustainability Deployability Audit
ILS Manager	ILS Engineer
Business Manager, Light Munitions	CO Duke of Lancaster Regiment
Cost and Pricing Manager	Project Manager Army Base Repair Organisation
Avionics Implementation Manager	Tornado Project Office
Programme Manager	AD Engineering Policy
Trials and Delivery Manager	OC Comms Services Group
Test Pilot	Test Pilot
Senior Support Project Engineer	Tornado Project Support
Director of International Maintenance and Logistics	DG Logistics DLO
Engineering Support Engineer	Harrier Engineering Authority
Tornado Customer Liaison Manager	Tornado IPT Manager
Export Support for Typhoon	Regional Director for DESO
Flying Training	SO Fast Jet Training

Departments: Buildings

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what office accommodation standards apply to civilian staff in his Department's buildings. [150284]

Derek Twigg: The scale (including floor space standards) of provision of MOD office accommodation is directed by guidelines within Joint Services Publication (JSP) 315—Services Accommodation Code. Within the JSP, Scale 45 applies to office accommodation for both military and civilian personnel.

A copy of JSP 315 can be found on the Defence Estates internet site at:

http://www.defence-estates.mod.uk/publications/jsp/index.php

Departments: Flint Bishop

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have made payment to Flint Bishop Solicitors since 1997. [151396]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence has no record of any payments being made to Flint Bishop Solicitors since 1997.

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what legislative provisions introduced by his Department's predecessors since 1997 have been repealed. [149592]

Derek Twigg: None. The Ministry of Defence has been unchanged since its establishment pursuant to the Defence Transfer of Functions Act 1964, and therefore has had no predecessors since 1997.

Departments: Official Engagements

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his official engagements were for the week of 9 to 15 July. [151507]

Des Browne: On Monday 9 July I was in London where I had a series of meetings with officials from the Ministry of Defence and the Scotland Office. On Tuesday 10 July I attended Cabinet and answered oral questions for the Scotland Office before travelling to Berlin for a bilateral meeting with the German Defence Minister. I returned to London on Wednesday for further meetings with officials from both my departments. On Thursday 12 July, I attended the 90th anniversary world war one commemorations in Tyne Cot, Belgium, before travelling to Brussels for a meeting with the Secretary General of the Council of the European Union on Friday 13 July. I travelled from Brussels to Paris on 13 July and held a bilateral meeting with the French Defence Minister on Saturday 14 July, before attending the Bastille Day commemorations hosted by President Sarkozy.

Departments: Postal Services

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what volume of correspondence his Department sent *(a)* by Royal Mail and *(b)* by other commercial delivery services in each of the last five years; and what the reasons were for the use of other commercial delivery services. [150445]

Derek Twigg: Official mail within the Department is primarily distributed by the internal Defence Mail Service, provided by the British Forces Post Office, while mail for personnel serving overseas is usually distributed by RAF air transport. Most external mail is sent through the Royal Mail Group, or, exceptionally through other approved carriers, who are used on an

ad-hoc basis, usually for urgent requirements. The volume of correspondence is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Publicity

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the cost-effectiveness of advertising commissioned by his Department in the last 12 months; [148517]

(2) what assessment he has made of the cost effectiveness of advertising commissioned by his Department in the last 12 months. [148682]

Derek Twigg: The armed forces employ a wide range of measures to ascertain the effectiveness of their recruitment advertising campaigns. They are then set against advertising expenditure to assess the cost effectiveness of the various media channels and tools used and compared with each other, across-government and with industry averages.

For civilian advertising, delegation of responsibility across the Department has resulted in a variable level of effectiveness and identified that improvements could be made. As part of the Civil Service's People Programme we are moving towards a centralised recruitment service. In addition, an advertising contract via the Central Office of Information has been negotiated which enables a continued presence in the national and diversity media and recruitment and diversity websites but also has the flexibility to allow managers to target post specific advertising more effectively. New adverts began in February 2007 to support a pilot of MOD's new external recruitment process. 'TMP Worldwide' has provided generic adverts that appear in monthly selected publications such as diversity press and national newspapers and three large recruitment and diversity websites. In June, Phase 1 of the recruitment service for Broader Banded grades launched and has been supported by the new adverts and any post specific adverts; the service is planned to be fully delivered by June 2008. It is too early to give results but we anticipate a cost saving plus an increase in effectiveness.

EU Battlegroups

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which British military units formed the EU battle group in 2005; and which units will form the EU battle group in 2008. [151509]

Des Browne: The last UK commitment to form a European Union Battle Group on standby was from January-June 2005. The Joint Rapid Reaction Force covered this commitment. During this period, there was no deployment of an EU Battle Group.

The British military units which will form the EU Battle Group that the United Kingdom will have on standby in the second half of 2008 will again come from our Joint Rapid Reaction Force. A decision is likely to be taken later this year on the preferred unit to form the core of this capability.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he will reply to the letter of 19 June 2007 (MOD Reference: MC03439/2007) from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire. [150767]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 19 July 2007]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 19 July 2007.

Military Attaches

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Aldershot (Mr. Howarth) of 7 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 924-6W, on military attaches, what the total cost is of maintaining the attaché/adviser network; and what the value is of the Foreign Office contribution to the cost which is being withdrawn. [150178]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 18 July 2007]:* The total cost to the MOD of maintaining the attaché/adviser network was £38.7 million for financial year 2006-07.

The FCO are establishing the cost of the Defence Attaché network to them in financial year 2006-07. Exact figures are not yet available, however, it is estimated that the amount is in the region of £10 million.

Military Exercises: Ammunition

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military exercises were cancelled due to a lack of blank ammunition in each of the last two years. [150624]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In the last two years there are no records of military exercises being cancelled as a result of a lack of blank ammunition. In 2005 some cadet camps experienced a reduced supply, caused by shortages arising from production problems; these were subsequently resolved. Since that time, the Defence General Munitions Integrated Project Team has received no reports of shortages of blank ammunition.

Military Police: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Ministry of Defence police were employed at Colchester Garrison in *(a)* May 1997, *(b)* May 2001 and *(c)* May 2005; and how many are now employed there. [146279]

Derek Twigg: The number of Ministry of Defence police officers employed at Colchester in May 1997, May 2001, May 2005 and June 2007 is as follows:

Date	*Inspector*	*Sergeant*	*Constable*	*Total*
May 1997	1	5	26	32
May 2001	1	5.5	25.5	33
May 2005	1	4.5	14.5	20
June 2007	0	2.5	6.5	9

These figures do not include Criminal Investigation Department Officers who are not part of the MDP complement at Colchester Garrison and not funded by Land Command. They are based in Colchester for administrative convenience and are responsible for investigating crime on defence estates in East Anglia.

Nimrod Aircraft

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on the Nimrod MRA4 project against the original timetable for work; what effect the time taken on the project has had on the future of the Nimrod MRA4 trainer facility in Kinloss; and if he will make a statement. [149571]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The current forecast In Service date for Nimrod MRA4 is 2010 against an original expectation of 2003 when the contract was let in 1996. The MRA4 training facility has been developed concurrently with the aircraft; the extended development programme for the aircraft has allowed risk to be removed from the training facility development programme through more extensive testing being conducted on site at RAF Kinloss by BAE Systems, assisted by the MOD.

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what problems have been encountered with *(a)* the software and *(b)* operation of the MRA4 trainer facility at Kinloss; and if he will make a statement. [149572]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Nimrod MRA4 training facility is currently in the design and development phase. It is a sophisticated system which will provide training for aircrew and groundcrew operating one of the most complex weapon systems in the RAF. The recent, extensive, post-commissioning testing has, as intended, identified anomalies in the software which integrates the numerous and complex systems that make up the simulators. These have been addressed and the corrective actions will be consolidated during the planned upgrade of the simulators to the production delivery standard.

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the lifetime budget is for the MRA4 trainer at Kinloss. [149573]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Nimrod MRA4 training facility does not have a separate budget. The costs of development and production of the facility form part of the prime contract with BAE Systems for the provision of the overall Nimrod MRA4 weapon system. The costs of the operation and maintenance of the training facility will form part of the contract for the future support of the weapon system, which has yet to be negotiated.

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions departmental Ministers have had with BAE Systems on progress on the MRA4 trainer; and when such discussions took place. [149575]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There have been no specific discussions between departmental Ministers and BAE Systems over progress on the Nimrod MRA4 training facility.

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent from the public purse on the development of the Nimrod MRA4 since his announcement of the decision to procure the aircraft. [149576]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Total design and development costs for Nimrod MRA4 to date are some £1.73 billion of which about £215 million has been incurred since the production contract was signed in July 2006.

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the running costs of the Nimrod MRA4 trainers at Kinloss have been since the project commenced. [149580]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Nimrod MRA4 training facility is currently in the design and development phase, the costs of which form part of the contract with BAE Systems for the provision of the overall Nimrod MRA4 weapon system. Contractual arrangements for operating and maintaining the training system have therefore yet to be negotiated.

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the length is of the contract with BAE Systems for the Nimrod MRA4 trainer at Kinloss; and what contractual provisions are in place to deal with the circumstances where the system does not work. [149582]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The development and production of the Nimrod MRA4 training facility forms part of the prime contract with BAE Systems for the overall Nimrod MRA4 weapon system. The contract requires the training system to replicate the standard of the first production aircraft and it will only be contractually accepted by MOD when it has successfully completed extensive testing to prove that it will function appropriately. The contract contains default provisions which could be implemented if the system did not meet the contractual requirement. Contractual arrangements for the operation and maintenance of the training facility have yet to be negotiated.

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has allocated further funds to the Nimrod MRA4 trainer facility at Kinloss to assist its development and against contingencies. [149583]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Development and production of the Nimrod MRA4 training facility forms part of the overall prime contract with BAE Systems for provision of the overall Nimrod MRA4 weapon system and will be funded from the provision made for that contract. No additional funding has been allocated to that contract as a contingency provision for the training system.

Nuclear Weapons: RAF Lakenheath

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on reducing the number of US free-fall nuclear bombs stored at RAF Lakenheath. [150225]

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with his US counterpart in respect of reducing the number of United States free-fall nuclear bombs stored at RAF Lakenheath. [150177]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 28 July 2007]*: It is not the practice of the Government to make public details of all discussions with foreign Governments as this would, or would be likely to, prejudice international relations.

Shipping: Accidents

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with his French counterpart on the recent report of the French judicial investigation into the loss of the Bugaled Breizh off the coast of the Lizard in January 2004. [149477]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 200-01W. Furthermore, no discussions have been held and none have been sought by the French authorities.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments: Licensing

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to applicants is of a licence to conduct animal experiments under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986; how the monies raised from this are spent; what proportion is spent on funding research into non-animal methods; and if she will increase this fee in order to increase financial support for research into non-animal methods. [149948]

Meg Hillier: Under section 8 of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, holders of certificates of designation under section 6 or 7 of the 1986 Act are required to pay such periodical fees as may be prescribed or determined. A composite fee is currently charged, comprising of an annual fee for the certificate of designation and an annual fee for each personal licensee with primary availability at the establishment. No fee is levied with respect to project licences.

The current fees are: certificate of designation, scientific procedures establishment: £252; certificate of designation, breeding and/or supplying establishment: £1,130; personal licence: £226.

The fees are collected in arrears to cover the costs of operating the 1986 Act. These are, primarily, the staff and running costs of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate, the administrative staff running the licensing operation and the Animal Procedures Committee. Fee income is not currently used to provide financial support for research into non-animal methods and we have no plans to increase them for this purpose.

We announced on 21 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 69WS, that the Home Office would transfer its separately-funded budget for research into the reduction, replacement and refinement of animal experimentation (the 3Rs) to the National Centre for Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) once pre-existing commitments had been honoured. Accordingly, the Home Office contributed £35,000, £125,000 and £250,000 to the funding of the centre in financial years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, respectively.

The National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research is an independent organisation, funded by Government, research councils and industry, reporting to the Minister for Science and Innovation, and provides a United Kingdom focus for the promotion, development and implementation of the 3Rs in animal research and testing. The centre funds high-quality 3Rs research and facilitates the exchange of information and ideas, the identification of knowledge gaps, and the translation of research findings into practice to benefit both animals and science.

Antisocial Behaviour

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reported incidents there were of antisocial behaviour in *(a)* Southampton and *(b)* Hampshire in each year since 1997. [151029]

Mr. Coaker: The data are not available in the form requested. Antisocial behaviour (ASB) is not measured by incidents but through a measure of perceptions using the British Crime Survey (BCS). The size of the sample in the British Crime Survey means that we cannot provide reliable data for geographical areas smaller than police force areas. Due to changes in the measure of antisocial behaviour, police force area data comparable to the national figures are only available for 2004-05 to 2006-07, and the national measure of perceptions of ASB only back to 2001-02.

Statistics regarding incidents of antisocial behaviour are not collected centrally in the police recorded crime statistics. It is the substantive result of an action of ASB that will be recorded by the police e.g. criminal damage.

The following table sets out the national BCS figures for the last six years and the comparable figure for Hampshire police force area.

Table 1: Percentage of people perceiving high levels of ASB in their local area

	National (Percentage)	*Hampshire police force area (Percentage)*	*Statistically significantly different (at the 95 per cent. level) from the national average*
2001-02	19	—	—
2002-03	21	—	—
2003-04	16	—	—
2004-05	17	18	No
2005-06	17	13	No
2006-07	18	15	No

Note:
The measure of antisocial behaviour used is based on a scale constructed from seven questions on problems due to noisy neighbours or loud parties, teenagers and young people hanging around, rubbish and litter, vandalism, people using or dealing drugs, people being drunk or rowdy and abandoned cars (see background notes for more details).

Burglary: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many domestic burglaries there were in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each of the last 10 years. [151361]

Mr. Coaker: The available information is given in the following tables and relates to the Eastbourne Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area and the Sussex police force area as a whole. Data specifically for East Sussex are not available.

Table 1: domestic burglary offences recorded in 1997

	Eastbourne CDRP	Sussex police force area
1997	n/a	10,862

n/a = Not available.

Table 2: domestic burglary offences recorded by the police—1998-99 to 2001-02

	Eastbourne CDRP	Sussex police force area
1998-99	n/a	11,026
1999-2000	n/a	9,596
2000-01	665	8,498
2001-02	667	7,618

n/a Not available.

Notes:

1. The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.
2. The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3: domestic burglary offences recorded by the police—2002-03 to 2006-07

	Eastbourne CDRP	Sussex police force area
2002-03	667	8,209
2003-04	843	7,920
2004-05	545	6,876
2005-06	431	5,709
2006-07	394	4,556

Note:

The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Departments: Racial Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which her Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [149251]

Mr. Byrne: During the last 12 months (for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007) the Home Office, including the Border and Immigration Agency, the Identity and Passport Service and the Criminal Records Bureau, has received nine official complaints of racial discrimination and racial harassment (racial abuse is not a category within the Home Office bullying, harassment and discrimination policy) from staff against their colleagues, all of which were investigated. Fewer than five of the complaints were upheld, and specific information about those individuals is withheld on grounds of confidentiality.

The Border and Immigration Agency also received 50 complaints regarding allegations of racism from customers against its staff, all of which were investigated. Fewer than five of the complaints were upheld, and this information is therefore withheld on grounds of confidentiality.

All employees have a duty to respect the dignity of others at work, be mindful of the effect their behaviour may have on colleagues, and ensure their own conduct does not breach the provisions of the Home Office bullying, harassment and discrimination policy.

Under the policy, line managers are responsible for maintaining a workplace that is free from bullying, harassment and discrimination, confronting unacceptable behaviour and dealing promptly, sensitively and confidently with any issues that come to their attention.

Departments: Wales

Mr. Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what land in Wales is owned by her Department. [150224]

Mr. Byrne: My Department owns no land in Wales.

Driving Under Influence

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drink-driving tests were carried out in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each of the past five years. [151362]

Mr. Coaker: Data on the number of screening breath tests conducted by the police are available by police force area only. The most recently available figures in respect of Sussex are as follows:

Screening breath tests in Sussex police force area from 2000 to 2004

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total tests	20,800	21,800	17,300	17,200	15,200

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Breath Tests Statistical Collection, held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how she plans to reduce drink driving rates. [151970]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are committed to reducing drinking and driving through a combination of effective law enforcement, maintenance of a tough penalties regime and continuing investment in high-profile national publicity campaigns.

We have given the police new powers to carry out evidential roadside breath testing, subject to type approval of appropriate equipment. We have also included in the Road Safety Act 2006 a number of further measures designed to deter drink driving and reduce reoffending. These include enabling powers to require serious, including repeat, offenders to retake the driving test at the end of their driving disqualification, improvements to the operation of the drink drive rehabilitation scheme and provision for a statutory alcohol ignition interlock programme.

We have just launched a new £3 million multi-media publicity campaign aimed primarily, though not exclusively, at young, male drivers who are more likely to be involved in drink-related crashes than other driver categories. This is designed to emphasise the very serious consequences of being convicted for drink driving and provides a powerful deterrent message for potential drink drivers.

We have also announced, in the second three-year review of the Road Safety Strategy published in February 2007, that we intend to carry out a consultation on other ways of tackling drink driving, including ways of making police enforcement against drink driving easier. A consultation paper will be published by the end of this year.

Electronic Surveillance

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what controls exist on the use of equipment outside buildings capable of listening in on conversations inside buildings but which is not covered by the Interception of Communications Act 1985. [151893]

Mr. McNulty: The Interception of Communications Act 1985 was repealed following the full entry into force of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA). Part 2 of RIPA provides for the authorisation of covert surveillance, including surveillance carried out in relation to anything taking place in residential premises by means of a surveillance device. Where the device is not present on the premises, directed surveillance may be authorised—unless the device consistently provides information of the same quality and detail as might be expected from a device actually present on the premises, in which case intrusive surveillance should be authorised. Authorisation of both intrusive and directed surveillance is subject to independent oversight by the Office of the Surveillance Commissioners and the Intelligence Services Commissioner.

Fingerprints: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in Suffolk had had their fingerprints held on file in each of the last five years. [150543]

Mr. McNulty: The number of people in Suffolk that have had their fingerprints held on file in each of the past five years is as follows:

	Number
2002	3,807
2003	4,929
2004	4,456
2005	4,662
2006	5,162

Genetics

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long the process of identifying an individual through analysis of a DNA profile takes. [151750]

Meg Hillier: It is not possible to provide a precise time for how long it takes to identify an individual through a DNA profile since this will vary between cases and depend on the circumstances of the case investigation.

Genetics: Databases

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK nationals recorded on the National DNA Database have been identified as having their DNA found on bomb parts and fragments in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [150719]

Meg Hillier: It is not policy to answer questions of this nature since to do so would constitute a breach of national security.

Identity and Passport Service: Vetting

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what security checks are made of a recruited member of Identity and Passport Service staff responsible for approving passport applications; and if she will make a statement. [151504]

Meg Hillier: All recruits to the IPS have to meet the baseline personnel security standards which include:

Identity;

Employment history;

Nationality/immigration status; and

Unspent criminal record.

Staff dealing with passport applications have to meet counter terrorist check standards and those in the new interview office network, who will be interviewing first time passport applicants, have to be cleared to the higher level of security check and are subject to checks with the Criminal Records Bureau.

Asylum and Immigration Tribunal

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has received notification from the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal of its decision in the case of Ms L.K., wife of Mr. P.H. of Aylesbury (AIT OA/44119/2006; post reference 115884 Harare); and if she will make a statement. [152002]

Mr. Byrne: A copy of the decision was received at the Border and Immigration Agency on 6 July and was forwarded to the overseas post on 13 July.

Immigration: Advisory Services

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigration advice centres there are; and how much Government funding is provided to them. [149405]

Mr. Byrne: An individual who wishes to obtain immigration advice can do so through a solicitor registered with the Law Society or through an advisor registered with the Office of Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC). The OISC is a non-departmental public body of the Border and Immigration Agency. Organisations regulated by the OISC can be 'for profit' or 'not for

profit.' In 2006-07 there were 673 'for profit' organisations registered with the OISC and 976 'not for profit' registered with the OISC of which 596 were Citizen Advice Bureaus (CABs).

Some of the 'not for profit' sector only provide immigration advice, but others such as CABs offer advice on a range of issues. As such, the actual funding the Government provides for immigration advice through the not for profit sector cannot be isolated.

Immigration: Philippines

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the number of Philippine nationals working in the *(a)* NHS and *(b)* nursing home care sector who will be required to leave the UK in the last quarter of 2007 and the first quarter of 2008 because of new visa restrictions. [150748]

Mr. Byrne: Regular discussions are held between the Department of Health and the Border and Immigration Agency on labour market and immigration related issues.

Police: Finance

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding has been allocated to the police per head of population in *(a)* Sussex and *(b)* the South East of England for 2007-08. [151782]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is set out in the following table.

The Government do not distribute grant to police authorities purely on the basis of population. The police funding formula uses a range of data relating to demographic and social characteristics to reflect the relative needs of each authority. Grant allocations also take into account the relative tax base of each authority. Grant allocations are stabilised by damping to limit year-on-year variations.

Police authority	*Total grants 2007-08[1] (£ million)*	*Resident population mid-2005[2] (million)*	*Funding per head of population 2007-08 (£)*
Hampshire	233.17	1.81	128.82
Kent	235.37	1.62	145.29
Surrey	114.32	1.08	105.85
Sussex	198.89	1.52	130.85
Thames Valley	270.72	2.14	126.50
Total south-east of England	1,052.47	8.17	128.82
Total England	8,884.81	50.42	176.22

[1] Total grants comprises: Home Office Police Grant, DCLG Revenue Support Grant and National Non-Domestic Rates; Special Formula grant, Specific Grants: Crime Fighting Fund, Neighbourhood Policing Fund, Basic Command Unit Fund, Community Support Officer Funding, Pension Deficit Grant and Dedicated Security Post funding and Capital provision (including the increased capital allocations announced on 24 May and 19 June 2007).

[2] Population data sourced by the Office for National Statistics from the mid-2005 population estimates.

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the timetable is for the full implementation of the agreed police funding formula without floors and ceilings. [152261]

Mr. McNulty: Grant floors are an integral part of the local government finance system. A damping mechanism is applied to police formula grant allocations to protect all police authorities against financial instability and to ensure they all receive an increase in grant at least equal to the 'floor' level on a like-for-like basis year-on-year.

Any movement towards full implementation of the funding formula will depend on the overall amount of grant available for distribution. Decisions on police grant for 2008-09 to 2010-11 will be taken in the autumn.

Police: Road Traffic Control

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of police resources in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each region was allocated to traffic policing in the last period for which figures are available. [151861]

Mr. McNulty: This is an operational matter for chief officers and the police authorities and the information is not held centrally.

Police: Stun Guns

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will increase the number of police forces in the UK which are trained and equipped to use Taser stun guns; and if she will make a statement. [152025]

Mr. McNulty: Taser has been available to all Authorised Firearms Officers in England and Wales since September 2004 as a less lethal alternative for use in situations where a firearms authority has been granted in accordance with criteria laid down in the Association of Chief Police Officers Manual of Guidance on Police Use of Firearms.

From 20 July 2007 Chief Officers throughout England and Wales have been able to deploy Taser for use by Authorised Firearms Officers in operations or incidents where the criteria for the authorisation to issue firearms does not apply, but where officers are facing violence or threats of violence of such severity that they would need to use force to protect the public, themselves and/or the subject(s) of their action.

In addition, a 12 month trial of the deployment of Taser by specially trained units who are not firearms officers in similarly violent circumstances requiring conflict management will commence on 1 September 2007 in the following 10 forces in England and Wales: Avon and Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, Gwent, Lincolnshire, Merseyside, Metropolitan Police Service, Northamptonshire, Northumbria, North Wales and West Yorkshire.

Pornography: Children

Dan Norris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government are taking to accelerate international co-operation to

ensure the swift closure of websites hosted overseas which contain child abuse images. [149905]

Mr. Coaker: The Government and law enforcement are working hard to build international co-operation and collaboration to improve all aspects of investigations into online child abuse.

This will cover not only investigations into websites hosting images of children being sexually abused; but, also, investigations to find the children who appear in these images and to identify those who are making, downloading, distributing and/or trading in images of children being sexually abused. A recent investigation led by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre led to the rescue of over 30 children from abuse and the identification of over 700 suspects worldwide.

The Government recognise the need to take action to shut down these sites and law enforcement are pro-actively seeking to build relationships in those parts of the world where it appears the majority of sites are hosted. We are also very supportive of CEOP's initiative to embed law enforcement officers from overseas into CEOP to improve co-operation and to facilitate investigations.

Stop and Search: Vehicles

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2007 to the hon. Member for Sheffield, Hallam, *Official Report*, column 1344W, on stop and search: vehicles, if she will provide the equivalent figures in relation to searches of *(a)* persons and *(b)* persons and vehicles. [149715]

Jacqui Smith: The available information is given in the following tables from 1998-99 to 2004-05 (latest available).

Table A: Resultant arrests following total searches[1] of persons[2] and searches of persons[2] under section 44(1) and 44(2) of the Terrorism Act 2000[3, 4], by police force area in England, from 1998-99 to 2004-05

	Resultant arrests following searches of persons[2]							
	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01		2001-02	
Police force area	Total	under s44(1) and s44(2) Terrorism Act[3, 4]	Total	under s44(1) and s44(2) Terrorism Act[3, 4]	Total	under s44(1) and s44(2) Terrorism Act[3, 4]	Total	under s44(1) and s44(2) Terrorism Act[3, 4]
Avon and Somerset	2,913	—	3,199	—	2,268	—	2,562	—
Bedfordshire	573	—	542	2	425	—	486	—
Cambridgeshire	1,142	—	1,191	—	819	—	630	—
Cheshire	1,356	—	1,244	2	1,085	1	1,245	4
Cleveland	3,137	—	2,841	—	2,349	—	2,333	—
Cumbria	1,487	—	1,206	—	848	—	576	—
Derbyshire	1,700	—	2,066	—	1,395	—	1,051	—
Devon and Cornwall	2,261	—	1,960	—	1,766	—	2,360	—
Dorset	537	—	1,006	—	930	—	1,029	—
Durham	987	—	1,056	—	1,219	—	1,351	—
Essex	948	—	998	—	1,043	—	904	—
Gloucestershire	679	—	909	—	837	—	881	—
Greater Manchester	6,602	—	5,722	—	4,983	—	4,153	1
Hampshire	2,273	—	2,910	—	2,350	—	2,211	—
Hertfordshire	761	—	1,008	—	1,087	—	801	—
Humberside	771	—	777	—	772	—	664	—
Kent	5,066	—	4,467	—	3,740	—	3,216	7
Lancashire	3,578	—	2,942	—	2,506	—	2,076	—
Leicestershire	2,077	—	1,697	—	984	—	1,463	—
Lincolnshire	1,141	—	814	—	668	—	831	—
London, City of	635	23	459	—	455	25	1,197	100
Merseyside	6,104	—	4,923	—	3,656	—	3,087	—
Metropolitan Police	37,613	9	28,973	12	27,664	15	31,565	74
Norfolk	1,571	—	1,377	—	977	—	767	—
Northamptonshire	783	—	899	—	831	—	760	—
Northumbria	3,572	—	3,206	2	2,936	1	3,386	—
North Yorkshire	1,438	—	1,185	—	974	—	987	—
Nottinghamshire	874	—	722	—	907	—	821	—
South Yorkshire	2,179	—	2,393	—	2,641	—	2,695	—
Staffordshire	1,240	—	1,176	—	985	—	1,228	—
Suffolk	865	—	749	—	439	—	497	—
Surrey	1,674	—	1,218	—	1,405	—	1,418	1
Sussex	1,307	—	1,556	—	1,533	—	2,037	2
Thames Valley	2,248	—	1,808	—	1,999	—	1,831	—

Table A: Resultant arrests following total searches[1] of persons[2] and searches of persons[2] under section 44(1) and 44(2) of the Terrorism Act 2000[3, 4], by police force area in England, from 1998-99 to 2004-05

	Resultant arrests following searches of persons[2]							
	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01		2001-02	
Police force area	Total	under s44(1) and s44(2) Terrorism Act[3, 4]	Total	under s44(1) and s44(2) Terrorism Act[3, 4]	Total	under s44(1) and s44(2) Terrorism Act[3, 4]	Total	under s44(1) and s44(2) Terrorism Act[3, 4]
Warwickshire	1,056	—	1,268	—	967	—	981	—
West Mercia	2,064	—	1,844	—	1,817	—	1,571	—
West Midlands	3,062	—	3,178	—	3,086	—	2,960	—
West Yorkshire	3,558	—	4,183	—	3,290	—	3,970	—
Wiltshire	615	—	574	—	657	—	722	—
England	112,447	32	100,246	18	89,293	42	93,303	189

	Resultant arrests following searches of persons[2]					
	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
Police force area	Total	under s44(1) and s44(2) Terrorism Act[3, 4]	Total	under s44(1) and s44(2) Terrorism Act[3, 4]	Total	under s44(1) and s44(2) Terrorism Act[3, 4]
Avon and Somerset	2,777	—	2,145	—	2,021	—
Bedfordshire	691	1	701	2	467	—
Cambridgeshire	587	—	550	6	578	—
Cheshire	1,394	7	1,238	—	1,492	—
Cleveland	2,543	—	1,582	—	2,679	—
Cumbria	593	—	647	—	736	—
Derbyshire	1,270	—	1,237	—	1,164	—
Devon and Cornwall	2,029	—	1,770	—	1,973	—
Dorset	1,115	—	996	5	937	—
Durham	1,189	—	831	—	1,049	—
Essex	875	—	768	5	922	20
Gloucestershire	862	3	766	3	730	—
Greater Manchester	5,278	12	4,247	4	5,014	18
Hampshire	2,337	8	2,602	30	2,904	33
Hertfordshire	763	—	834	—	1,341	—
Humberside	776	—	670	—	698	—
Kent	3,291	29	1,588	—	1,469	4
Lancashire	2,981	—	2,904	—	2,836	—
Leicestershire	1,434	—	1,428	2	1,302	—
Lincolnshire	765	—	910	—	1,230	—
London, City of	1,864	107	1,839	164	1,553	139
Merseyside	4,592	—	2,781	—	3,098	—
Metropolitan Police	38,067	199	27,993	244	24,211	167
Norfolk	978	—	854	—	786	—
Northamptonshire	778	—	792	—	921	—
Northumbria	3,476	—	2,316	—	2,668	9
North Yorkshire	997	—	583	—	457	2
Nottinghamshire	887	—	837	—	769	—
South Yorkshire	3,081	—	2,213	—	1,979	—
Staffordshire	1,695	—	2,743	—	2,741	—
Suffolk	540	—	546	—	524	—
Surrey	1,513	1	1,258	2	1,293	13
Sussex	1,924	3	1,581	3	1,337	34
Thames Valley	2,454	—	2,049	7	1,947	5
Warwickshire	908	—	853	—	707	—
West Mercia	1,512	—	1,168	—	1,619	—
West Midlands	4,858	7	4,147	5	3,490	—
West Yorkshire	6,189	1	6,978	2	8,580	2
Wiltshire	621	—	594	—	608	—

	Resultant arrests following searches of persons[2]					
	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
Police force area	Total	under s44(1) and s44(2) Terrorism Act[3, 4]	Total	under s44(1) and s44(2) Terrorism Act[3, 4]	Total	under s44(1) and s44(2) Terrorism Act[3, 4]
England	110,484	378	90,539	484	90,830	446

[1] Total searches includes searches: under s1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984; Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and the Firearms Act 1968; also included are other legislation which relates to searches under other powers, such as under the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989 s15 (which since 19 February 2001 has been replaced by section 43 of the Terrorism Act 2000); various poaching and wildlife conservation legislation; the Aviation Security Act 1982, s27(1); the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979, s163 and 164; and the Sporting Events (control of Alcohol, etc) Act 1985; s60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994; and s44(1) and 44(2) of the Terrorism Act 2000 (formerly s13A and 13B of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989.

[2] Data are included in the table where a vehicle and driver occupier are searched simultaneously as the search is recorded against the driver (occupant). Any other passengers searched are recorded as occupants. Data given in the table also include searches of pedestrians.

[3] S44(1) and S44(2) of the Terrorism Act 2000 (formerly s13A and s13B of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989.

[4] Some forces have recently advised that they have been recording s44(2) searches under s44(1) as they cannot separately identify.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Source:

Stops/Searches collection held by Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Table B: Resultant arrests following total searches[1] of persons and vehicles[2] and searches of persons and vehicles[2] under section 44(1) and 44(2) of the Terrorism Act 2000[3, 4], by police force area in England, from 1998-99 to 2004-05

	Resultant arrests following searches of persons and vehicles[3, 4]							
	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01		2001-02	
Police force area	Total	under s44(1) and s44(2) Terrorism Act[3, 4]	Total	under s44(1) and s44(2) Terrorism Act[3, 4]	Total	under s44(1) and s44(2) Terrorism Act[3, 4]	Total	under s44(1) and s44(2) Terrorism Act[3, 4]
Avon and Somerset	2,919	—	3,199	—	2,268	—	2,562	—
Bedfordshire	573	—	542	2	425	—	486	—
Cambridgeshire	1,142	—	1,191	—	819	—	630	—
Cheshire	1,356	—	1,244	2	1,087	1	1,245	4
Cleveland	3,137	—	2,841	—	2,349	—	2,333	—
Cumbria	1,487	—	1,206	—	848	—	576	—
Derbyshire	1,700	—	2,066	—	1,395	—	1,051	—
Devon and Cornwall	2,261	—	1,960	—	1,766	—	2,360	—
Dorset	537	—	1,006	—	930	—	1,029	—
Durham	988	1	1,056	—	1,219	—	1,351	—
Essex	948	—	998	—	1,043	—	904	—
Gloucestershire	679	—	909	—	837	—	881	—
Greater Manchester	6,602	—	5,722	—	4,983	—	4,154	1
Hampshire	2,273	—	2,910	—	2,350	—	2,211	—
Hertfordshire	761	—	1,008	—	1,089	—	801	—
Humberside	771	—	777	—	772	—	664	—
Kent	5,066	—	4,467	—	3,741	—	3,216	7
Lancashire	3,578	—	2,942	—	2,506	—	2,076	—
Leicestershire	2,077	—	1,697	—	984	—	1,463	—
Lincolnshire	1,141	—	814	—	668	—	831	—
London, City of	635	23	459	—	455	25	1,197	100
Merseyside	6,104	—	4,923	—	3,656	—	3,087	—
Metropolitan Police	37,613	9	28,974	12	27,664	15	31,565	74
Norfolk	1,571	—	1,377	—	977	—	767	—
Northamptonshire	783	—	899	—	831	—	760	—
Northumbria	3,572	—	3,206	2	2,936	1	3,386	—
North Yorkshire	1,438	—	1,185	—	977	3	987	—
Nottinghamshire	874	—	722	—	907	—	821	—
South Yorkshire	2,179	—	2,393	—	2,641	—	2,695	—
Staffordshire	1,240	—	1,176	—	985	—	1,228	—
Suffolk	865	—	749	—	439	—	497	—

Table B: Resultant arrests following total searches[1] of persons and vehicles[2] and searches of persons and vehicles[2] under section 44(1) and 44(2) of the Terrorism Act 2000[3, 4], by police force area in England, from 1998-99 to 2004-05

	Resultant arrests following searches of persons and vehicles[3, 4]							
	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01		2001-02	
Police force area	Total	under s44(1) and s44(2) Terrorism Act[3, 4]	Total	under s44(1) and s44(2) Terrorism Act[3, 4]	Total	under s44(1) and s44(2) Terrorism Act[3, 4]	Total	under s44(1) and s44(2) Terrorism Act[3, 4]
Surrey	1,674	—	1,218	—	1,405	—	1,418	1
Sussex	1,307	—	1,556	—	1,533	—	2,037	2
Thames Valley	2,248	—	1,808	—	1,999	—	1,831	—
Warwickshire	1,056	—	1,268	—	967	—	981	—
West Mercia	2,066	—	1,844	—	1,817	—	1,571	—
West Midlands	3,062	—	3,178	—	3,086	—	2,960	—
West Yorkshire	3,558	—	4,183	—	3,290	—	3,970	—
Wiltshire	617	—	574	—	657	—	722	—
England	112,458	33	100,247	18	89,301	45	93,304	189

	Resultant arrests following searches of persons and vehicles[3, 4]					
	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
Police force area	Total	under s44(1) and s44(2) Terrorism Act[3, 4]	Total	under s44(1) and s44(2) Terrorism Act[3, 4]	Total	under s44(1) and s44(2) Terrorism Act[3, 4]
Avon and Somerset	2,777	—	2,145	—	2,021	—
Bedfordshire	691	1	701	2	468	—
Cambridgeshire	587	—	550	6	579	1
Cheshire	1,394	7	1,238	—	1,664	—
Cleveland	2,543	—	1,582	—	2,679	—
Cumbria	593	—	647	—	736	—
Derbyshire	1,270	—	1,237	—	1,164	—
Devon and Cornwall	2,029	—	1,770	—	1,973	—
Dorset	1,115	—	996	5	937	—
Durham	1,189	—	831	—	1,049	—
Essex	875	—	768	5	922	20
Gloucestershire	862	3	818	3	730	—
Greater Manchester	5,278	12	4,322	4	5,030	18
Hampshire	2,337	8	2,602	30	2,904	33
Hertfordshire	763	—	834	—	1,341	—
Humberside	776	—	670	—	698	—
Kent	3,291	29	1,588	—	1,469	4
Lancashire	2,981	—	2,904	—	2,836	—
Leicestershire	1,434	—	1,428	2	1,302	—
Lincolnshire	765	—	910	—	1,230	—
London, City of	1,864	107	1,839	164	1,553	139
Merseyside	4,592	—	2,781	—	3,098	—
Metropolitan Police	38,067	199	27,993	244	24,211	167
Norfolk	978	—	854	—	786	—
Northamptonshire	778	—	792	—	921	—
Northumbria	3,476	—	2,316	—	2,668	9
North Yorkshire	997	—	584	—	457	2
Nottinghamshire	887	—	837	—	769	—
South Yorkshire	3,083	2	2,213	—	1,979	—
Staffordshire	1,695	—	2,753	—	2,741	—
Suffolk	540	—	546	—	524	—
Surrey	1,513	1	1,258	2	1,293	13
Sussex	1,924	3	1,581	3	1,338	35
Thames Valley	2,454	—	2,049	7	1,947	5
Warwickshire	908	—	853	—	707	—
West Mercia	1,512	—	1,168	—	1,619	—
West Midlands	4,858	7	4,147	5	3,490	—
West Yorkshire	6,191	1	6,984	2	8,580	2

	Resultant arrests following searches of persons and vehicles[3, 4]					
	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
Police force area	Total	under s44(1) and s44(2) Terrorism Act[3, 4]	Total	under s44(1) and s44(2) Terrorism Act[3, 4]	Total	under s44(1) and s44(2) Terrorism Act[3, 4]
Wiltshire	621	—	594	—	608	—
England	110,488	380	90,683	484	91,021	448

[1] Total searches includes searches: under s1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984; Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and the Firearms Act 1968; also included are other legislation which relates to searches under other powers, such as under the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989 s15 (which since 19 February 2001 has been replaced by section 43 of the Terrorism Act 2000); various poaching and wildlife conservation legislation; the Aviation Security Act 1982, s27(1); the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979, s163 and 164; and the Sporting Events (control of Alcohol, etc) Act 1985; s60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994; and s44(1) and 44(2) of the Terrorism Act 2000 (formerly s13A and 13B of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989.

[2] Searches may be conducted on vehicles only, occupants only or both may be searched. Where a vehicle and driver occupier are searched simultaneously the search is recorded against the driver (occupant). Any other passengers searched are recorded as occupants. Data given in the table include searches of pedestrians.

[3] S44(1) and S44(2) of the Terrorism Act 2000 (formerly s13A and s13B of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989.

[4] Some forces have recently advised that they have been recording s44(2) searches under s44(1) as they cannot separately identify.

Note: Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Source: Stops/Searches collection held by Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Terrorism: Detainees

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 979W, on Terrorism: detainees, if she will seek the information requested from each police force. [150787]

Mr. McNulty: As part of the consultation on forthcoming counter-terrorism legislation, we are looking, in conjunction with the police, at how the existing maximum period of pre-charge detention has operated in practice and whether there are any lessons to be learnt from that.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Asylum and Immigration Tribunal

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether HM High Commission Harare has received notification of the judgement of the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal in the case of Ms L.K., wife of Mr P.H. of Aylesbury (post reference 115884; AIT reference OA/44119/2006); and if he will make a statement. [152003]

Dr. Howells: Our embassy in Harare received their copy of the Immigration judge's determination in the case of Mrs. L. K., wife of Mr. P. H. of Aylesbury, on 19 July. Following her allowed appeal, the embassy will contact Mrs. L. K. to request her passport, so that her entry clearance can be issued as soon as possible.

Chile: Human Rights

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received on Chile's observance of human rights with regards to the Mapuche population; and if he will make a statement. [150494]

Dr. Howells: Our embassy in Santiago has not received any recent representations on the Mapuche.

However, the Government believe firmly that the individual rights of indigenous people should be recognised and protected. All indigenous people are entitled to full respect of their human rights, both within and without their communities. We continuously monitor all human rights in Chile, as we do in other countries. We also work with other EU members on human rights issues, such as minority rights, and in 2005 we co-drafted a report on the steps Chile had taken to implement the Stavenhagen report recommendations regarding indigenous people.

The Government have funded a number of projects to support and promote the rights of indigenous people. We have financed a Minority Rights Group project to help minority and indigenous groups participate effectively at the UN. We also provide support to the Inter-American Development Bank's Indigenous Strategy and fund programmes in Latin America that target indigenous groups. We will continue to monitor the situation of indigenous people, including the Mapuche, in Chile.

European Court of Justice

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which institutions of the European Union do not fall within the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice. [150843]

Mr. Jim Murphy: All the EU institutions, as defined in article 7 of the treaty Establishing the European Community, are subject to the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice.

India: Embassies

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of Indian citizens employed by his Department in India are Dalits. [149612]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not hold such records. In line with global FCO policy, all our recruitment and employment practices at our posts in India are competency based, and focused on valuing diversity. Discrimination in any form is unacceptable.

Iran: Foreign Relations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the outcome of the review of UK relations with Iran announced in April 2007. [147483]

David Miliband: The review of relations with Iran is continuing, but the principles underpinning our policy towards Iran have not changed.

Iran has every right to develop its own economy and society. We welcome dialogue and engagement with Iran as it does so, but it must also accept that it has responsibilities to the region and the wider international community. It cannot violate the terms of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty nor undermine regional stability.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in the multilateral enrichment of uranium for the production of nuclear power in Iran; and if he will make a statement. [151636]

Dr. Howells: The generous offer made by the E3+3 in June 2006, and annexed to UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1747, includes active support for the building of new light water power reactors in Iran and the provision of legally binding multi-layered fuel assurances to Iran. These would be based on: participation as a partner in an international facility in Russia to provide enrichment services; establishment on commercial terms of a buffer stock to hold a reserve of five years' supply of nuclear fuel dedicated to Iran; and development with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of a standing multilateral mechanism for reliable access to nuclear fuel, based on ideas currently being considered by the IAEA and Board of Governors.

But before negotiations can begin Iran needs to suspend all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, as required by three successive UNSCRs.

Iraq: Weapons

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the adjournment debate in Westminster Hall of 13 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 288WH, on the Iraq Dossier (September 2002), when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Billericay, dated 18 June, on John Williams's draft Iraq dossier. [151824]

Dr. Howells: I replied to the hon. Member on 19 July.

Israel: Arms Trade

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it Government policy to sell arms to Israel to assist that country in fighting terrorism; and if he will make a statement. [150950]

Dr. Howells: The UK recognises that all countries, including Israel, have a legitimate right to purchase conventional arms for their defence and security needs. However, UK policy dictates that all licences are assessed on a case by case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Export Licensing Criteria. This takes into account respect for human rights and the preservation of regional peace, security and stability. If there is a clear risk that the equipment will be used in a manner inconsistent with the Consolidated Criteria, a licence will not be approved.

Isreal: Non-Proliferation Treaty

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage Israel *(a)* to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and *(b)* to allow entry to International Atomic Energy Agency monitoring personnel. [151415]

Dr. Howells: The Government have on a number of occasions called on Israel to accede to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty as a non-nuclear weapon state, and to conclude a full scope safeguards agreement and additional protocol with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). We continue to take appropriate opportunities to discuss all aspects of non-proliferation with representatives of the Israeli government.

Israel has a site-specific safeguards agreement with the IAEA, which gives the IAEA access to the Soreq nuclear site for monitoring purposes. Details of this can be found on the IAEA website at:

www.iaea.ors.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to reply to the letter to his predecessor dated 7 June from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Ms L. Lavell. [152282]

Dr. Howells: I replied to my right hon. Friend on 19 July.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to reply to the letter to his predecessor dated 4 June from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr. Farooq Ahmed. [152283]

Dr. Howells: I replied to my right hon. Friend on 19 July.

Mercenaries

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans the Government have to introduce measures to control and regulate UK-based private military and security companies working abroad. [151756]

Dr. Howells: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 93W.

Mordechai Vanunu

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Israeli government on Mordechai Vanunu. [151414]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no such discussions with the Israeli government.

We are aware that Mr. Vanunu was re-convicted on 30 April of breaching an order barring him from contacts with the foreign press. The Government raised Mr. Vanunu's case with the Israeli government on a number of occasions during his detention. After Mr Vanunu was released, we then raised the conditions of his release with the Israeli government. We have made our concerns clear to the Israeli government.

Rizana Nafeek

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Saudi Arabia on the execution of Rizana Nafeek; and if he will make a statement. [151251]

Dr. Howells: No representations have been made by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary to the Government of Saudi Arabia on behalf of Rizana Nafeek, a Sri-Lankan national.

Representatives for Rizana Nafeek filed an appeal against the conviction on 15 July. The judicial process around the case is therefore ongoing. Our embassy in Riyadh will continue to monitor developments.

Russia: Diplomatic Service

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many diplomats Russia was authorised to have in the United Kingdom or accredited to the Court of St James on 13 July; and how many there will be following the decision, announced on 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 22, to expel diplomats. [151252]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Seventy-seven Russians are currently notified to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) as being posted to the UK with diplomatic rank and are registered on the FCO Protocol database. I refer my hon. Friend to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 27-22, in which he informed the House that four of these individuals have been asked to leave.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will undertake to make a written statement to the House should the number of authorised Russian diplomats in London vary from the levels permitted following the decision to expel four Russian diplomats which he announced on 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 22. [151253]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to him today (UIN 151252). I would also remind my hon. Friend that I provided an undertaking to the Foreign Affairs Select Committee that I would inform Parliament of any changes to the measures set out in my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's statement to the House on 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 21-22.

UN Resolutions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701; and if he will make a statement. [150947]

Dr. Howells: There has been significant progress towards the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1701. The UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has successfully helped to bring peace and stability to south Lebanon. Their efforts, in conjunction with the Lebanese army, have ensured that the cessation of hostilities has been maintained with few significant breaches. There has also been steady progress on the clearance of unexploded munitions from the conflict last year. With significant UK support, UN and Lebanese teams have cleared approximately 17.5 square kilometres of contaminated land. This amounts to half of the total contaminated land.

However, the ongoing political crisis in Lebanon is hindering progress towards full implementation of UNSCR 1701. In particular, we continue to be concerned by reports of arms smuggling across the Syria/Lebanon border. We are working with international partners and the Government of Lebanon to address this issue. As part of this we are supporting a German-led project aimed at strengthening the border.

We are also deeply concerned by the firing of three rockets from south Lebanon into Israel on 17 June and an attack on a UNIFIL vehicle on 24 June that killed six soldiers. Such attacks are unacceptable and serve only to destabilise Lebanon. The UK will continue to work for the full implementation of UNSCR 1701.

The UN Secretary-General's most recent report on the implementation of UNSCR 1701 was published on 28 June. I will arrange for copies of this report to be placed in the Library of the House.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Blackpool

8. **Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimates his Department has made of likely visitor numbers to Blackpool in the next five years. [151102]

Margaret Hodge: VisitBritain only makes forecasts of visitor numbers for the year ahead, and at a national level. No predictions have been made for visitors to Blackpool.

However, there were around 1.8 million overnight visits to Blackpool in 2006, making it the fifth most visited destination in England for domestic overnight visitors.

Playing Fields

11. **Mr. Bailey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to secure further provision of playing fields. [151105]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The most recent data from planning applications relating to playing fields show that for two consecutive years more playing fields have been created than lost.

We now have tough measures in place to protect playing fields and planning guidance is clear that no field needed by the community should be removed.

Since 2001, over £1 billion of Lottery and Exchequer funding has been invested in community sports facilities, including playing fields and outdoor all weather pitches. The active places database shows that 93 per cent. of the population is currently within 20 minutes travel time of a playing field.

Licensing Act

12. **Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 on live music; and if he will make a statement. [151106]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Current assessments suggest the Act has so far had a broadly neutral impact on the staging of live music.

The Live Music Forum published its report on 4 July. This found the Act had delivered many benefits, but the forum also highlighted some areas of concern.

The second stage of our own planned research into the provision of live music will be completed by the end of the year.

Tourism

13. **Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has allocated to the promotion of tourism for 2007-08. [151107]

Margaret Hodge: DCMS is investing over £55 million in tourism support at national and regional levels in 2007-08. Across the UK, the public sector now puts over £300 million a year into supporting the industry—more than ever before.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1709W, on tourism, when his Department plans to publish the tourism strategy for the London 2012 Olympic Games. [150903]

Margaret Hodge: We hope to publish the tourism strategy for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in September 2007.

Museums and Galleries: Free Admission

14. **Mr. Devine:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect of free admission to national museums and galleries on the number and range of visitors to such institutions. [151108]

Margaret Hodge: Free museum admission for children was introduced by this Government eight years ago in April 1999. Since then the number of child visits to former charging sponsored museums in England has increased by 76 per cent. This represents an extra 12 million visits over this period.

Since the introduction of universal free access to former charging sponsored museums in England in December 2001, there has been an 87 per cent. increase in visits. This represents an extra 6 million visits a year or 29 million visits over the five years since entry charges were abolished.

Over the same period, the proportion of visits by people from black and multi-ethnic backgrounds has increased by around 54 per cent. while trend data collected between 2002-03 and 2004-05 shows that visits by people from C2DE social groups rose by 21 per cent. or 1.2 million additional visits.

Community Football

16. **John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department has provided for community football projects in 2007-08. [151110]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Over £20 million of both Exchequer and National Lottery funding, channelled through Sport England and the Football Foundation, will support community football projects in 2007-08.

In addition the Football Association is receiving £4 million over the period 2005-09 to support core community football projects.

And we have provided a further £5 million of Exchequer funding between 2006-08 to the Football Foundation and the Football Association for specific football projects.

Bookmakers' Pitches

17. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what measures he plans to take with regard to the certification system for race course bookmakers' pitches. [151111]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Gambling Act replaces the certification system for racecourses with a new, streamlined licensing system. It is in both the racing and betting industries' interests to work together to ensure a smooth transition to the new system, and I plan to help them to reach agreement.

Sports Aid

18. **Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many young athletes in *(a)* England and *(b)* Tamworth constituency have received financial support from SportsAid. [151112]

Mr. Sutcliffe: SportsAid is a registered charity for sports people and focuses on giving grants to young people aged 12 to 16 from funds raised from the private sector. It would not, therefore, be appropriate for Government to answer on behalf of SportsAid.

However, SportsAid receives an annual Exchequer grant from Sport England, and for this financial year, will receive £199,270 to support its operational costs.

In addition, SportsAid is responsible for administering Government funding for the talented athlete scholarship scheme (TASS), which includes TASS 2012. The programme supports young sporting talent primarily in further and higher education. Since TASS and TASS 2012 were launched, 2,648 athletes in England and two in the Tamworth constituency have received financial support.

Artists with Disabilities

19. **Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what support his Department provides for artists with disabilities. [151113]

Margaret Hodge: In 2005-06 Arts Council England (ACE) provided £12,844,929 funding and since 2004 has provided £4,138,800 in capital grants for disability-led arts organisations. Last year ACE launched a Disability Equality Scheme and it is developing a new Disability Arts Strategy for 2008-09. The Cultural Leadership programme has also funded a network of disabled artists to develop leadership opportunities.

Decibel Penguin Prize

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make a statement on the future of the decibel Penguin prize. [151109]

Margaret Hodge: The second decibel Penguin anthology will be published in November. Writers from all backgrounds were invited to submit personal accounts of the experience of immigration to the United Kingdom and 16 authors were chosen. This volume has received about £3,500 from Arts Council England. There are plans for one further volume next year.

British Library: Business

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what action his Department is taking to promote the Business and Intellectual Property Centre at the British Library as a resource for the business community. [150537]

Margaret Hodge: DCMS operates an arm's length policy with regard to the bodies that it sponsors, and the promotion of the Business and Intellectual Property Centre is therefore a matter for the British Library Board. They are to be congratulated for their successful delivery of this new resource, which has welcomed over 25,000 users since it opened in March 2006. The Library continues to broaden its public offer, and to build its role underpinning the UK's knowledge economy.

Culture: Poole

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what events will be held in Poole as part of the Cultural Olympiad in 2012; and which of these events were planned before London secured the 2012 games. [151584]

Margaret Hodge: The intention of the Cultural Olympiad has always been for a UK wide programme that engages local communities. This remains the commitment.

The major projects set out in the London 2012 bid included Film and Video Nation, International Shakespeare Festival, Live Sites, International Exhibitions Programme, 2012 Sounds! Olympic Proms, Artists Taking the Lead, World Cultural Festival, World Festival of Youth Culture, 2012 Carnival and Celebration of Disability Arts and Sport. All these projects featured in LOCOG's briefing of 21 June. Most of these projects will offer the opportunity for people around the UK to become involved.

In addition to these programmes, there will be a four-year UK-wide Cultural Festival including grass-roots community projects starting in the summer of 2008. Supported and led by a network of Regional Creative Programmers, this Festival will encompass thousands of national, local and regional events as part of the nationwide celebrations to mark the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. The role of the Regional Creative Programmers will be to co-ordinate the delivery of cultural events in all the regions and will act as the first point of contact for people in the regions, giving information and advice on how to join in with the Cultural Olympiad. It is too early to say what events will be held in Poole but the Creative Programmer for the South West will work with regional partners and stakeholders to help produce joint events, projects and activities.

Departments: Catering

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of *(a)* beef, *(b)* sheep meat, *(c)* pork and *(d)* dairy products used in his Department in the most recent period for which figures are available were imported products. [150797]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 19 July 2007]:* The percentage of food products used in the Department that was imported is as follows:

(a) beef: 48 per cent. *(b)* sheep meat: 48 per cent. *(c)* 0 per cent. *(d)* 50 per cent.

Departments: Flint Bishop

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have made payment to Flint Bishop Solicitors since 1997. [151395]

Margaret Hodge: Neither the Department nor its agency the Royal Parks, have made any payments to Flint Bishop Solicitors since 1997.

Departments: Ministerial Red Boxes

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many ministerial red boxes his Department bought in each of the last five years; what the cost of each was; who the suppliers were: and what tendering process was used in selecting them. [150476]

Margaret Hodge: Ministerial boxes are used by successive Ministers over many years. There were two ministerial red boxes purchased in 2006, see following table. The ministerial boxes were ordered via Banner Business Supplies Ltd. contract, therefore no tendering process was used in selecting the supplier.

2006	*Cost (£)*
Minister of State—Department for Culture, Media and Sport	620.00 + 108.50 VAT
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State—Department for Culture, Media and Sport	740.00 + 129.50 VAT (incl. new Bramah lock and key)
Total cost	1,598.00

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many overseas visits were made by *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers within his responsibility, and at what cost, in each year since 1997. [151657]

Margaret Hodge: Departmental expenditure for overseas travel and subsistence by officials is shown in the table. Statistical information regarding number of visits is not routinely collected and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Regarding Ministers' visits overseas, since 1999 the Government have published, on an annual basis, a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2006-07 is currently being compiled and will be published before the summer recess. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Civil Service Management Code", the "Ministerial Code" and "Travel by Ministers".

	Overseas travel and subsistence costs by officials (£)
2006-07[1]	291,427.90
2005-06	287,546.56
2004-05	279,710.59
2003-04	235,210.16
2002-03	195,442.41
2001-02	129,164.75
2000-01	188,337.76
1999-2000	193,742.97
1998-99	151,307.28
1997-98	175,061.96

[1] Subject to finalisation of resource accounts.

Digital Broadcasting: Islwyn

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the percentage of homes in Islwyn constituency which have digital television. [151857]

James Purnell: No estimate has been made for the Islwyn constituency. However, according to the latest figures from the Ofcom/Digital UK Tracker Survey (Q1-2007), take up of digital television in Wales is currently estimated at 86 per cent. of households[1].

[1] Based on a sample of 319

English Heritage

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many English Heritage sites he and his predecessor visited *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* in Poole in each of the last five years. [151582]

Margaret Hodge: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not visited any English Heritage sites in his three weeks since taking office. His predecessor visited Stonehenge in September 2006, and last month she visited Torre Abbey in Torquay to see a project funded by English Heritage. I visited Castle Acre Priory on 8 July. My predecessor, my hon. Friend the Member for Tottenham (Mr. Lammy) visited seven properties managed by English Heritage during his term in office. There are no English Heritage sites in Poole; the nearest sites are Christchurch Castle and Norman House, Lulworth Castle, and Knowlton Church and Earthworks. These have not been visited by DCMS Ministers in recent years. English Heritage's remit in the UK only extends to England; the devolved administrations have their own equivalent heritage bodies.

Fashion Industry: Government Assistance

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to support the British fashion industry. [150717]

Margaret Hodge: Fashion is one of the brightest stars in the UK's creative economy, with world class standards in our colleges and cultural institutions producing some of the world's top designers.

DCMS gained responsibility for the fashion design sector in 2005. Since then we have been working with representatives from the industry to understand their issues and how Government policies and programmes can best respond to them.

The Department has ensured that the fashion design sector is an integral part of the Government's ongoing Creative Economy Programme, which aims to improve the growth and productivity of the creative industries.

DCMS works closely with industry and the other public bodies and supporting cultural and educational institutions. We are also closely monitoring the independent Model Health Inquiry and will respond to its final recommendations.

Libraries: Digital Technology

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to assist in the establishment of the European Digital Library. [150789]

Margaret Hodge: Earlier this year, DCMS and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) jointly ran a workshop on digitisation, cultural resources and the creative industries. The impetus behind the event was the European Commission's Conclusions on its European Digital Library (EDL) project. The workshop was attended by more than 100 key stakeholders from across the UK, representing museums, libraries, archives, academia, film, broadcasting, heritage, music, publishing and tourism, and other Government Departments. The Department is now considering how best to draw on the issues raised at the workshop to assist in the establishment of the EDL.

National Lottery: Grants

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what projects that received funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund were subsequently abandoned in each year since 1997; how much funding was received for each such project; and if he will make a statement. [148589]

Margaret Hodge: Since 1994, the Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded funding to over 26,000 projects. Of these projects, 17 have not been successfully completed having already drawn down an element of funding.

The table gives funding details for each of the 17 projects.

Project title	*Applicant*	*Year project closed (FY)*	*Grant awarded (£)*	*Grant drawdown (£)*
Blaenau Ffestiniog, Plas Tan Y Bwlch Historic Gardens	Plas Tan Y Bwlch Gardens Trust	1999-2000	313,700	16,913
Williton Workhouse Conservation	Somerset Buildings Preservation Trust	2000-01	70,000	8,376
Tower Environs Scheme—Approaching the Tower	Historic Royal Palaces	2001-02	405,000	24,904
Astley Castle—Acquisition and refurbishment	Landmark Trust	2002-03	152,625	10,737
Heritage Information Exchange	The Heritage Information Trust	2003-04	365,000	77,070
Brackenhill Tower, Longtown, Cumbria	Brackenhill Trust Ltd.	2004-05	50,000	4,446
Old Market Place CAPS	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council	2004-05	75,000	14,550
St. Peter, Church Knowle, Dorset	St. Peter's PCC	2005-06	20,500	1,993
Bradford City Centre CAPS	Bradford Metropolitan District Council	2005-06	300,000	70,591
Headstone Manor, Harrow Museum and Heritage Centre, Harrow	London Borough of Harrow	2005-06	1,003,400	177,585
Manningham CAPS	Bradford Metropolitan District Council	2005-06	180,000	33,546
Muswell Hill CAPS	London Borough of Haringey	2005-06	225,000	16,631
Terra 2000	University of Plymouth	2005-06	40,848	9,920
Congregational Church, Polesworth	Congregational Federation Ltd	2006-07	118,000	24,149
First Presbyterian Church, Newry—Restoration	First Presbyterian Church, Newry	2006-07	144,050	129,645
Food for Life!	Central Action	2006-07	31,600	15,800
Warwick Bar THI	British Waterways	2006-07	371,000	68,246

Radio: Digital Broadcasting

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will commission research into the use of digital radio mondiale compared to digital audio broadcasting. [150858]

James Purnell: We have no plans to do so. Ofcom are responsible for spectrum planning and have a duty to ensure the optimal use of spectrum. As such, they will need to consider whether DRM can be a platform for future radio broadcasting, in conjunction with broadcasters.

Sport England: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding was provided to Sports England East Sussex in each of the last five years; and what the projected funding allocation is for the 2008-09 financial year. [151436]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England operates at regional level through nine regional offices. Sport England South East covers the East Sussex area.

The table shows the Exchequer and Lottery funding which the Sport England South East Regional Office has awarded to East Sussex in the last five years to support and promote sporting activities and projects.

Lottery Awards are made on the basis of merit in response to applications so funding levels will fluctuate over time and depending on the quality of projects that come forward seeking funding.

Financial year	*Lottery (£)*	*Exchequer (£)*
2003-04	0	17,200
2004-05	1,710,039	173,875
2005-06	638,449	440,300
2006-07	0	253,392
Grand total	2,348,488	884,767

The total award budget for Sport England South East region 2007-08 is:

Exchequer: £1.9 million

Lottery: £12.4 million

Projected funding for the 2008-09 financial year will not be known until the outcome of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review.

Sports: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many community sports coaches there are in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex; and what steps he is taking to increase the number of such coaches. [151403]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sussex County Sports Partnership advise that there are 41 Community Sports Coach posts in East Sussex. Eight of these posts are in Eastbourne and a further eight of these posts operate on a county wide basis.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) also provide grants to School Sports Partnerships (SSPs) to enable them to employ Community Sports Coaches. Three SSPs in East Sussex have received grants in 2007-08—Beacon/North Wealdon, Dorothy Stringer and William Parker.

Confirmation of continued DCMS funding for Community Sports Coaches is subject to the Comprehensive Spending Review. Further DCSF funding for coaches will be available from 2008-09 to deliver the five hour offer of sport to children and young people.

Visual Arts: Elderly

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to promote art as a way of improving the wellbeing of elderly people. [151095]

Margaret Hodge: The arts can play an important role in supporting the health and wellbeing of older people. There are many examples of excellent work which promotes art for elderly people across the country. The Arts Council and the Department of Health have jointly published 'A prospectus for arts and health' and a 'Dance and health' folder, which highlights a range of examples. Copies of these will be placed in the Library of the House.

The Arts Council is also planning to have a specific focus on older people in their next corporate plan.

PRIME MINISTER

10 Downing Street: Official Hospitality

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister what the date was of each reception he and his predecessor have held since May 2005; what the *(a)* venue and *(b)* purpose was of each; who (i) hosted and (ii) paid for each; what the estimated attendance was at each; and what the cost to the public purse was of each. [151280]

The Prime Minister: Information on receptions hosted by my predecessor for the financial year 2006-07 will be published shortly. For information prior to this date I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my predecessor (the right hon. Tony Blair) on 11 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 788W.

Delivery Unit

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to his written ministerial statement of 28 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 39WS, on machinery of Government: departmental organisation, for what reasons the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit now reports jointly to him and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. [151819]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to my written statement on 28 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 39WS.

Departments: Correspondence

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Prime Minister when his Office sent to the Home Department the correspondence dated 4 April from Mr R.N.R. of Aylesbury HP22 5NL, about the registration of a child as a British citizen, which the Direct Communications Unit of his Office acknowledged on 16 April. [152004]

The Prime Minister: My office received the letter on Thursday 12 April 2007 and passed it to the Home Office for action on Monday 16 April 2007.

Departments: Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister if he will list the *(a)* responsibilities, *(b)* units and *(c)* personnel he is transferring to the Cabinet Office from his purview. [151689]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 2 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 945W.

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mrs. May: To ask the Prime Minister how many overseas visits were made by officials within his responsibility, and at what cost, in each year since 1997. [151644]

The Prime Minister: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis, a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2006-07 will be published in the normal way. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Civil Service Management Code" and the "Ministerial Code". As set out in the new "Ministerial Code", from next year, the list of overseas travel will cover all Ministers.

Dorneywood

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister on what date the Deputy Prime Minister vacated Dorneywood; and to what use the building is now being put. [151439]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my predecessor (the right hon. Tony Blair) on 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 883W,

and to the press briefing given by my spokesman on 18 July 2007. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website (http://pm.gov.uk/output/Page12547.asp) and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Former Ministers

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister if he will establish the practice of holding exit interviews with Ministers leaving the Government. [152055]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to him by my predecessor (Mr. Blair) on 8 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 248W.

Government Bills

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Prime Minister what procedures were followed in relation to informing HM the Queen about the announcement of the draft legislative programme; and if he will make a statement. [150801]

The Prime Minister: Discussions with Her Majesty the Queen are not disclosed.

Nuclear Weapons: Proliferation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister what *(a)* nuclear weapons reductions and *(b)* non-proliferation matters were discussed at his meeting with the United Nations Secretary-General on 11 July. [151250]

The Prime Minister: I discussed a wide range of issues with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon during his recent visit.

I also refer the hon. Member to the press conference I held with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on 11 July. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website

(http://www.pm.gov.uk/output/Page12446.asp)

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Official Residences

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister (1) if he will make a statement on his plans for the future use of *(a)* Chequers and *(b)* the official residential properties used by ministers; [151267]

(2) who the present occupants are of *(a)* Chevening, *(b)* the flat above number 11 Downing Street, *(c)* the flat in 1 Carlton Gardens, *(d)* Flat 1 in Admiralty House, *(e)* Flat 2 in Admiralty House, *(f)* Flat 3 in Admiralty House and *(g)* Government House in Pimlico. [152019]

Chris Grayling: To ask the Prime Minister (1) who lives in the flat above Number 10 Downing Street; [152249]

(2) which Ministers have been allocated official Ministerial accommodation. [152250]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Members to the press briefing given by my spokesman on 18 July 2007. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website (http://pm.gov.uk/output/Page12547.asp) and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Written Questions

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make it his policy when answering written questions by reference to a comment made by his official spokesman in a press briefing to include the full relevant extract in the *Official Report* rather than a direct reference to the appropriate URL to the press conference in question. [152381]

The Prime Minister: Where my answer refers to a specific document on the website, copies are made available to the hon. Member asking the question and are also placed in the Libraries of the House.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency: Debt Collection

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much Child Support Agency arrears have been contracted out for private sector collection in each month from January 2005 to June 2007; and if he will make a statement. [146147]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 20 July 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much Child Support Agency arrears have been contracted out for private sector collection in each month from January 2005 to June 2007; and if he will make a statement.

The Child Support Agency conducted a pilot between August 2005 and December 2005 with two private debt collection agencies to assess the feasibility of involving the private sector in recovering child support maintenance debt. The Agency referred cases with a debt value of £30 million to the debt collection agencies involved in the pilot.

Following the pilot and a procurement exercise, the Agency signed contracts with two debt collection agencies on 7 July 2006. The amount of child support maintenance debt exported to the debt collection agencies each month is included in the attached table.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Amount of child support maintenance debt referred to debt collection agencies

	Value (£)
2006	
July	112,951
August	2,314,650
September	13,340,556
October	12,845,655
November	16,910,770
December	22,708,701
2007	
January	12,914,223
February	30,748,063
March	29,439,756
April	42,983,965
May	36,948,660

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of *(a)* all parents with care and *(b)* all lone parents with care were receiving child support payments from the non resident parent in the latest period for which information is available. [146171]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 20 July 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what proportion of (a) all parents with care and (b) all lone parents with care were receiving child support payments from the non-resident parent in the latest period for which information is available.

The information requested in part (a) can be obtained from table 7.2 of the March 2007 Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary Statistics. A copy of this is available in the House of Commons Library, it is also available on the Internet via the following link: www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_mar07.asp.

Information on lone parents receiving child support cannot be provided, as the Agency does not hold information on whether a parent with care has a current partner.

The information is case based, and a parent with care may be involved in more than one case.

I hope you find this helpful.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish his Department's research on the effects of *(a)* curfews and *(b)* naming and shaming on child maintenance compliance; and if he will make a statement. [146437]

Mr. Plaskitt: In the case of curfews, it is intended that this form of enforcement is used where other lesser and direct attempts to recover the unpaid maintenance have been tried but some or all of the amount remains outstanding.

While research indicates that curfews do not tend to feature internationally, all major comparator countries that have a similar child maintenance system to the UK operate a range of enforcement options. Curfews will serve as an effective alternative to committal as such orders will create a strong incentive for the non-resident parent to pay, while not impeding his or her ability to do so by causing him or her to lose his job.

In the case of 'naming and shaming' (the publication of the names of non-resident parents who have been successfully prosecuted for information offences on the CSA website) the Department is aware that a similar approach is used in some other child maintenance systems internationally.

Both these policies need to be seen as part of the broader programme to build a stronger culture of compliance amongst non-resident parents. The intention is to promote the message that not paying for your children is unacceptable and brings consequences with it.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether it is his policy that under the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, a person whose maintenance assessment is based on last year's HM Revenue and Customs income data will have an entitlement to recovery of a child maintenance overpayment if in-year income falls by up to but not in excess of 25 per cent.; and if he will make a statement. [146690]

Mr. Plaskitt: There are no plans for the Commission to have an entitlement to recover a child maintenance overpayment if in-year income falls up to but not in excess of 25 per cent.

Current plans are to amend a calculation based on HMRC latest tax year gross income if the current income differs by 25 per cent. or more. At the annual review, the latest available HMRC gross income will be used to set a new fixed term award.

Children: Poverty

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy to introduce *(a)* a measure of severe poverty and *(b)* a severe child poverty action plan; and if he will make a statement. [148295]

Mrs. McGuire: The chapter on child poverty in last year's Opportunity for All strategy report outlined the breadth of work underway across Government to ensure that our targets to halve and ultimately eradicate child poverty are met. These commitments reflect our wider ambition to ensure that every child has the best start in life and has an equal opportunity to fulfil their potential. We are making good progress; there were 600,000 fewer children in poverty in the UK (as measured by relative low income) in 2005-06 than there were in 1998-99.

The Government's long-term measure for child poverty already includes three indicators developed following extensive consultation initiated by the DWP: absolute low income, relative low income, and material deprivation combined with relative low income. This long-term measure is also underpinned by the poverty and social exclusion indicators within Opportunity for All.

There are a number of ways that depth of poverty can be measured. Our Opportunity for All indicators includes a range of income thresholds. In addition, we have a lower income threshold implied by the absolute low income tier within our long-term measure. These indicators enable us to analyse different depths of poverty and respond accordingly.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Department spent on *(a)* management consultants and *(b)* other external consultants and advisers in each year since 2000; and which of these consultants undertook work for the Department with a total contractual value in excess of £10 million over that period. [146327]

Mrs. McGuire: DWP was formed in June 2001. The following table provides spend on external consultants in each year, broken down between management and IT consultancy and includes spend on legal consultancy for 2006-07. Totals prior to 2006-07 could be obtained only by incurring disproportionate costs.

						£ million[1]
Description	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Management consultancy	23.79	47.57	223.35	98.64	77.59	116.77
IT consultancy	70.67	93.47	83.37	69.73	52.70	45.85
Legal	—	—	—	—	—	16.40

[1] Costs inclusive of VAT

For the second part of this question management information records are only available since April 2004. Contracts for consultancy related services with a total value of over £10 million awarded since this date are in the following table.

	£ million
Supplier	*Contract value*
Booz Allen Hamilton	86.79
IBM UK Ltd	49.68
Capgemini UK plc	26.25
PA Consulting Services Limited	25.58
Deloitte MCS Limited	10.31

Departments: Fringe Benefits

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in his Department receive assistance from employee assistance programmes; and which firms provide the programmes. [151077]

Mrs. McGuire: All 120,487 staff employed by the Department for Work and Pensions, at all levels have access to the Department's employee assistance programme. This is provided by Right Corecare, a Manpower company.

In the year ending 30 June 2007, 5,402 members of staff contacted the counselling, advice and information helplines.

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which legislative provisions introduced by his Department since 1997 have not yet been brought into force. [149706]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is as follows.

Acts introduced by DWP since 1997	*Sections not yet in force*
Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999	Section 25
Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act 2000	Section 28
	Schedules 5 para. 12(2)-(4)
	Schedule 7 paras. 17 and 18(2)(b)
	Schedule 9 part III (1) and part V
Pensions Act 2004	Section 12(2)(c)
	Section 20(3)(c)
	Section 38(4)
	Section 38(7)(g)
	Section 41(10)(f)
	Section 42(2)(c)
	Section 43(7)(e)
	Section 47(4)(g)
	Section 50(10)(f)
	Section 95(1)(b)(ii)
	Section 96(6)(u)
	Section 101(2)(d)
	Section 108(3)
	Section 117(2)(b)
	Section 118
	Section 121(9)(b)
	Section 134(2)(d)
	Section 138(10)(a)
	Section 150(6)(d)
	Section 151(12)(a)
	Section 161(3)(b)
	Section 163(5)(b)
	Section 166(6) and (7)
	Section 169(2)(d)
	Section 173(1)(k)
	Section 177(6) and (7)
	Section 179(1)(b)
	Section 180(4)
	Section 181(2)(b)
	Section 187
	Section 188(3)(d)
	Section 189(3)(b)
	Section 209(4)(e)
	Section 209(5)
	Section 213(4)(e)
	Section 213(5)(e)
	Section 214(2)(k)
	Section 237 and 238
	Section 240
	Section 273
	Section 306(2)(i)
	Section 308
	Section 318(4)(b)
	Schedule 5 part 1 para. 13(3)(b)
	Schedule 12 para. 76(2)(e)
	Schedule 13 part 2
Disability Discrimination Act 2005	Section 6(1) and (2)
	Section 7 and 8
Welfare Reform Act 2007	Sections 1-30
	Section 31 (partly in force)
	Sections 32-39

Acts introduced by DWP since 1997	*Sections not yet in force*
	Section 40 (in force for certain purposes)
	Section 41 (partly in force)
	Sections 42 and 43
	Sections 46-53
	Section 56 and 57
	Section 58 (in force for certain purposes)
	Section 60
	Section 61 (partly in force)
	Section 63 (in force for certain purposes)
	Section 67 (in force for certain purposes)
	Schedule 1-4
	Schedule 5 (partly in force)
	Schedule 6 (in force for certain purposes)
	Schedule 7 (partly in force)

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which Bills introduced by his Department in the last five years have contained sunset clauses; and what plans he has for the future use of such clauses. [151839]

Mrs. McGuire: The only Bill introduced by the Department for Work and Pensions in the past five years which contained a sunset clause was the Bill for the Welfare Reform Act 2007 (see section 31(3) of that Act).

While the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has no current plans for the future use of such clauses, he will consider their use when appropriate.

Departments: Public Transport

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the number of its staff using public transport to commute. [147347]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department has 112,000 staff in 1,221 buildings. Due to the scale of our operations we do not collect information on the commuting choices of our staff, and have no plans to do so. It is not possible to estimate the number of staff using public transport to commute, as this would be different in every building. But a variety of information is provided to staff to help them make personal choices about their commuting journeys, via our intranet site and Sustainable Development staff magazine—such as links to 'Transport Direct' and suggestions on car-sharing schemes. Businesses are encouraged to operate a green travel plan at those sites where one would be beneficial.

Departments: Translation Services

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on *(a)* translation services and *(b)* translators in each of the last five years. [149959]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available in the categorisations requested. In 2006-07, the Department spent around £267,500 on translation services including translators. Information is not available for previous years, other than at disproportionate cost.

Financial Assistance Scheme: Insurance

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has held with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the use of with profits insurance funds in support of the Financial Assistance Scheme. [150723]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Secretary of State has not yet had discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer about this issue.

Financial Assistance Scheme: Pensions

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to make a statement on the findings of the Young review. [150725]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: On 16 July the interim report of the Financial Assistance Scheme Review of Scheme Assets was published and the House was informed via a written ministerial statement. At the same time, I welcomed the first findings of the review in a press notice issued by my Department.

Home Responsibilities Protection

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 8 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1226W, on home responsibilities protection (HRP), what estimate he has made of the number of women who began to receive state retirement pension who had any recorded HRP, including women for whom such HRP did not reduce the number of qualifying years needed for a full state pension, in each year between 1978-79 and 2004-05. [151449]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The available information is set out in the following table.

The second column of the table shows the number of women aged 60 in each financial year from 1985-86 to 2004-05 with some entitlement to basic state pension who had home responsibilities protection (HRP), including women for whom such HRP did not reduce the number of qualifying years required for a full basic state pension.

Number of women with HRP, including those for whom HRP did not reduce qualifying years needed for full BSP

	Number
1985-86	20,000
1986-87	30,000
1987-88	30,000
1988-89	40,000
1989-90	50,000
1990-91	60,000
1991-92	60,000
1992-93	60,000
1993-94	70,000
1994-95	70,000
1995-96	80,000

Number of women with HRP, including those for whom HRP did not reduce qualifying years needed for full BSP

	Number
1996-97	80,000
1997-98	100,000
1998-99	100,000
1999-2000	100,000
2000-01	110,000
2001-02	110,000
2002-03	130,000
2003-04	150,000
2004-05	170,000

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10,000 and are consistent with the information supplied in the answer of 8 February 2007.
2. Figures refer to women living in the UK and overseas.
3. Information at this level of detail is not reliable before 1985.
4. Some women who reach state pension age in a particular year with some entitlement to basic state pension may defer their entitlement and claim in a later year.
5. HRP does not reduce the number of qualifying years required for a full basic state pension when that year is already a qualifying year or is one for which a married woman's reduced rate election is in force.
6. Figures refer to those women with some entitlement to basic state pension based on their own contribution record. Entitlement to basic state pension requires satisfying the 'first contribution condition' and the '25 per cent. rule'. Some women who do not satisfy one or both of these conditions may, nevertheless, also have HRP recorded.
Source:
Lifetime Labour Market Database 2, 2003-04

Incapacity Benefit

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed incapacity benefit in each year since 1997. [150051]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance (IB/SDA) claimants: Great Britain

	Number of claimants
November 1997	2,837,400
November 1998	2,767,400
November 1999	2,738,130
November 2000	2,764,140
November 2001	2,787,710
November 2002	2,818,480
November 2003	2,822,270
November 2004	2,814,410
November 2005	2,752,900
November 2006	2,714,950

Notes:
1. Caseload figures from 1999 onwards are rounded to the nearest 10. Some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
2. Caseload figures for 1997 and 1998 are rounded to the nearest hundred.
3. Caseloads for 1997 and 1998 have been produced using 5 per cent. data and have been rated up in accordance with the Great Britain WPLS 100 per cent. IB/SDA totals.
4. 1997 and 1998 figures are from a 5 per cent. sample and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
5. From 6 April 2001, no new claims to SDA were accepted.
6. Figures include credits only cases.
Source:
1. DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, 1999 onwards.
2. Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample, 1997 and 1998.

Jobseekers Allowance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 477W, on jobseeker's allowance (JSA), what proportion of JSA claimants have partners in each category. [147788]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 5 July 2007]:* The information requested is not available except at disproportionate cost.

New Deal for Disabled People

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many participants on the New Deal for Disabled People were taking part in the scheme for the second time or more in each month since 2001. [148891]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 10 July 2007]:* The number of participants on new deal for disabled people in each month since the start of the programme who were taking part in the scheme for the second time or more is contained in the following table:

Month	Participants taking part for second time or more
July 2001	110
August 2001	130
September 2001	160
October 2001	190
November 2001	230
December 2001	240
January 2002	270
February 2002	340
March 2002	420
April 2002	490
May 2002	610
June 2002	700
July 2002	780
August 2002	940
September 2002	1,070
October 2002	1,190
November 2002	1,400
December 2002	1,500
January 2003	1,840
February 2003	1,830
March 2003	1,990
April 2003	2,150
May 2003	2,360
June 2003	2,550
July 2003	2,720
August 2003	2,890
September 2003	3,060
October 2003	3,240
November 2003	3,390
December 2003	3,450
January 2004	3,620
February 2004	3,810
April 2004	4,370
May 2004	4,740
June 2004	5,090
July 2004	5,590
August 2004	5,870
September 2004	6,220
October 2004	6,710
November 2004	7,080
December 2004	7,300
January 2005	7,630
February 2005	8,040
March 2005	8,510
April 2005	8,940

Month	Participants taking part for second time or more
May 2005	9,270
June 2005	9,610
July 2005	10,000
August 2005	10,310
September 2005	10,820
October 2005	11,200
November 2005	11,590
December 2005	11,840
January 2006	12,370
February 2006	12,900
March 2006	13,570
April 2006	14,110
May 2006	14,670
June 2006	15,230
July 2006	15,740
August 2006	16,260
September 2006	16,970
October 2006	17,520
November 2006	18,010

Notes:
1. Latest data are to November 2006.
2. Figures are rounded to nearest 10.
Source:
Information Directorate, DWP

New Deal Schemes: Employment

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many participants left the new deal *(a)* voluntary service, *(b)* environmental task force, *(c)* full-time education or training and *(d)* employment option for employment in Liverpool and Wirral district in November 2006. [148981]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 11 July 2007]:* The information is in the following table:

Stage of leaving new deal for young people	Number leaving to employment in Liverpool and Wirral in November 2006
Employment option	10
Full-time education/training	0
Voluntary sector	0
Environmental task force	0

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to nearest 10.
2. A total of 40 participants left new deal for young people at one of the four option stages in Liverpool and Wirral in November 2006 (not all of them left to employment).
Source:
Information Directorate, DWP

New Deal Schemes: Expenditure

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on the *(a)* new deal scheme, *(b)* new deal 25 plus scheme and *(c)* new deal for lone parents programme in each year since 1998. [150061]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 32W and to the Department for Work and Pensions Departmental Report 2007 (CM 7105).

Occupational Pensions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of private sector employers offered pensions to their employees in each year since 1997. [150045]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is presented in the following table:

	Percentage of firms with any pension provision
1998	34
2000	29
2003	52
2005	44

Notes:
1. All figures are estimates taken from the Employers' Pension Provision Survey. 2005 is the latest year published. The coverage of the survey is private sector employers in Great Britain.
2. Stakeholder pensions were introduced in April 2001, and from October 2001 employers with five or more employees and no other pension provision were required to provide access to stakeholder pensions. This is reflected in the increase in employer pension provision between 2000 and 2003.
3. Pension provision includes occupational schemes, group personal pensions, stakeholder pensions (including schemes with no members and/or no contributions) and firms that contribute to personal pensions.
Source:
DWP Employers' Pension Provision Survey

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average pension paid from occupational pension schemes was in each year since 1997, expressed in real terms. [150057]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not available. The closest information available is the average occupational pension received by pensioner benefit units, as recorded in the Department's Family Resources Survey and shown in the following table. Latest information relates to 2005-06, so average amounts are shown in 2005-06 prices.

Average amount of occupational pension income for those in receipt, before tax

£ per week, 2005-06 prices

	Pensioner couples	Single pensioners	All pensioner units
1997-98	154	80	118
1998-99	161	83	122
1999-2000	163	86	124
2000-01	178	89	134
2001-02	182	88	137
2002-03	178	93	137
2003-04	193	93	144
2004-05	196	99	150
2005-06	192	99	146

Notes:
1. Occupational pensions include widow's employee pensions and occupational pension from an overseas Government or company if paid in sterling. The average amount received by a pensioner benefit unit may include pensions paid from more than one occupational pension scheme.
2. Figures are for Great Britain.
3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £.
4. Based on survey data and as such subject to a degree of sampling and non sampling error. Users should not read too much into movements in data between single years.
5. Pensioner units are either pensioner couples or single pensioners.
6. Pensioner couples are couples where one or more of the adults are state pension age or over.
Source:
Pensioners' Income Series, 2005-06 (Revised)

Pathways to Work

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to enable voluntary and private sector providers to deliver Pathways to Work services at a sub-regional level. [150857]

Caroline Flint: Pathways to Work is currently being delivered to 40 per cent. of the country by Jobcentre Plus. We have invited private, voluntary and public sector providers to bid for contracts to deliver Pathways to Work in the remaining 60 per cent. of the country. Contract areas will be based on Jobcentre Plus Districts rather than regions. This is being tendered in two waves with the first 15 districts going live in December 2007 and the remaining 16 districts in April 2008.

Pensions: Financial Assistance Scheme

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the average payment will be under the Financial Assistance Scheme for a member of the Abingdon Carpets pension scheme; [147298]

(2) how many members of the Abingdon Carpets pension scheme are forecast to receive 80 per cent. of their core pension under the Financial Assistance Scheme. [147300]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Abingdon Carpets' pension scheme qualified for Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) on 25 October 2005. Five members of the scheme are currently in receipt of FAS initial payments, these are currently set at 60 per cent. of the expected core pension, but will rise to 80 per cent. once the scheme fully winds up.

The average yearly payment these members receive is 1194.58p (gross), 931.90p (net).

Under the changes to the FAS announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget Statement on 21 March 2007, all qualifying members of a qualifying pension scheme stand to receive 80 per cent. of their expected core pension (subject to the cap)

The changes require regulations which we hope will come into force before the end of the year.

State Retirement Pensions: Wansdyke

Dan Norris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients of the state retirement pension there are in Wansdyke constituency. [149901]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information as at November 2006 is in the following table.

	Number
Men	7,350
Women	12,050
Total	19,410

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. The constituency used for the state pension data is that used for the Westminster Parliament.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Taxation: Fringe Benefits

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with the Treasury on the taxation of employee assistance programmes as a benefit in kind. [151076]

Mrs. McGuire: There are regular meetings with Treasury officials on a wide range of matters affecting the Department.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aerials: Planning Permission

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new mobile telephone masts were erected in *(a)* Hampshire and *(b)* England in each year since 1997. [151048]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the level of anti-Semitism in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [151002]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not carry out assessments on the level of anti-Semitism in the UK. However, hate crime of this nature is a matter the police take seriously. There is good cooperation between the Community Security Trust and police forces in areas with a significant Jewish community.

Council Housing: Newcastle Upon Tyne

Mr. Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council houses are planned to be built *(a)* in the city of Newcastle upon Tyne and *(b)* in Newcastle upon Tyne North constituency in each of the next five years. [149852]

Mr. Iain Wright: Plans for new housing will be developed in the context of sub-regional housing strategies. The Housing Green Paper will set out ways to increase the supply of affordable housing, with a bigger role for local authorities.

Council Housing: Standards

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of council houses were classified as non-decent *(a)* in 2004 and *(b)* at the latest date for which figures are available; and how many and what proportion of the total stock of council houses are awaiting repair. [150086]

Mr. Iain Wright: In 2004 the English Housing Condition Survey estimated there were 800,000 non-decent council homes representing 35 per cent. of the total council stock. Latest figures from the survey for 2005 estimate a reduction to 730,000 non-decent homes, 34 per cent. of total stock.

The survey also indicates that, among those non-decent homes, 185,000 failed its repair criterion, representing 8 per cent. of total council stock in 2004. For 2005 the figures are 150,000 failing the repair criterion, representing 7 per cent. of total council stock.

In order to be decent, homes must be in a reasonable state of repair. Details of the repair criterion and the decent homes standard are published on the Communities and Local Government website at http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1152190.

Council Tax

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the reasons for the council tax collection rates of *(a)* Manchester, *(b)* Salford and *(c)* Hackney councils in 2006-07. [152408]

John Healey: The collection and enforcement of council tax is a matter for individual billing authorities. Communities and Local Government has made no assessment of the reasons for 2006-07 collection rates in Manchester, Salford or Hackney. Across England, in-year collection of council tax rose for the seventh successive year in 2006-07, to 96.9 per cent. of the total collectable.

Council Tax: Bankruptcy

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities pursue council tax arrears using petitions for bankruptcy; and if she will make a statement. [150885]

John Healey: The information requested is not held centrally.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will issue guidance to local authorities on the pursuance of council tax arrears using petitions for bankruptcy; and if she will make a statement. [150893]

John Healey: The Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1992 (SI 1992/613) provide billing authorities with a range of powers to enforce payment of council tax from those who refuse to pay. It is up to each billing authority to consider how best to use these powers in the interests of all their taxpayers who do pay their bills. The Department has no plans to issue guidance on using petitions for bankruptcy.

Departments: Berkeley Group

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the right hon. Member for Hull East met *(a)* directors, representatives or lawyers acting for and *(b)* employees of (i) Berkeley Group Holdings plc, (ii) St. George plc, (iii) Berkeley Homes plc, (iv) St. James Group Ltd, (v) Berkeley First Ltd, (vi) Berkeley Commercial Development Ltd and (vii) Berkeley Strategic Land Ltd in a ministerial capacity since June 1997; and whether any officials in her Department held such meetings. [147931]

Mr. Iain Wright: A precise answer to this question could be provided only at disproportionate cost, given the span of 10 years.

Departments: Ministerial Red Boxes

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many ministerial red boxes her Department bought in each of the last five years; what the cost of each was; who the suppliers were; and what tendering process was used in selecting them. [150438]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information for Communities and Local Government and its predecessor Department the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is as follows:

	Number of ministerial red boxes	*Total cost (£)*
2003	5	4,888
2004	0	—
2005	0	—
2006	3	2,532
2007	0	—

The supplier was Banner Business Supplies Ltd through a call-off contract arrangement.

Ministerial boxes are used by successive Ministers over many years.

Departments: Public Transport

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the number of its staff using public transport to commute. [147322]

Mr. Iain Wright: Based on our most recent sample survey of staff we estimate that 93 per cent. of staff working at London headquarters use public transport for the main part of their journey to work. The Department makes provision for those who wish to cycle to work but limited car parking is only provided for those with medically certified requirements. Loans are available for either season ticket or cycle purchase to encourage the use of these modes of transport.

Derelict Land: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications for housing developments in London on brownfield sites were rejected by the Planning Inspectorate in each of the last five years. [150250]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Planning Inspectorate does not record information centrally relating specifically to planning applications on brownfield sites being rejected. It cannot be retrieved without disproportionate cost.

First Time Buyers

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the average age of *(a)* males and *(b)* females, when they move out of the parental home; and what the average age of first time buyers in (i) Hampshire and (ii) England was in each year since 1997. [151039]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data at the Hampshire level are unavailable due to sample sizes. The information for first time buyers is provided for the UK rather than England.

Based on the Survey of English Housing for 2005-06, the average age of males when leaving the parental home in England was estimated at 25 years. The average age for females in England was estimated at 22 years.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) figures for median age of first time buyers are available on their website at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/filegrab/1ML2.xls?ref=4624

This is based on data from all mortgage completions in the UK and the data are presented in the following table:

Median age of first time buyer: UK

	Age
1997	29
1998	29
1999	30
2000	30
2001	30
2002	31
2003	31
2004	31
2005	30
2006	29

Source:
CML.

Floods: Finance

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 77W, on Floods: Milton Keynes, (1) why Milton Keynes Unitary Authority did not receive a payment from the Flood Recovery Grant Scheme; [151821]

(2) what criteria were used in assessing which local authorities received payments from the Flood Recovery Grant Scheme; [151822]

John Healey: As announced by the Prime Minister on 7 July, the £10 million Flood Recovery Grant Scheme was established to support the work being undertaken by local authorities in helping their communities to recover from the exceptional and widespread flooding which had occurred.

Our particular intention was that authorities should use it to help those in greatest and most immediate need, and on that basis we developed a methodology which balanced fairness with moving rapidly to announcing allocations. Informed by a brief and useful consultation with local government, I allocated grant on the basis of the relative numbers of households affected by flooding in lower-tier local authority areas. This was explained in the letters sent by officials notifying chief executives that grant had been allocated to their authorities. The allocations confirmed on both 13 and 20 July were based on the best available such information held at the time of decision.

Floods: Rescue Services

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to review the Fire and Rescue Service's capability to respond to incidents of flooding. [151589]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government is conducting a lessons learned exercise into the Fire and Rescue Service's response to the recent flooding, as a contribution to the wider Cabinet Office-led review of the wider flood management and response. Any identified issues relating to flood response capability will be addressed appropriately. A flooding workstream, led by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, as part of the cross-government Capabilities Programme, assesses whether local responders have what they need to address the flooding risks we face. This complements capability assessments made by responders at the local level.

Hazardous Substances: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* objections and *(b)* letters of support were received within the specified time limit in respect of the Calor Gas LNG applications *(a)* CPT/3/06/HAZ, *(b)* CPT/4/06/FUL and *(c)* CPT413/06/FUL. [150807]

Mr. Iain Wright: Officials will collate this information as soon as possible. I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Hazardous Substances: Planning Permission

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what advice her Department gives on the siting of control of major accident hazards sites to planning authorities and inspectors; [149733]

(2) how many control of major accident hazards site applications were *(a)* made and *(b)* appealed against in each of the last 10 years; [149734]

(3) what estimate she has made of the safe distance for separation for control of major accident hazards sites from *(a)* residential houses, *(b)* schools and *(c)* businesses; and if she will make a statement. [149735]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 16 May 2007]:* Decisions on proposals for development are taken by a local planning authority, or a Planning Inspector, in accordance with its development plan. Decisions are based upon the plans and policies contained within the regional spatial strategy prepared by the regional planning body and local development documents prepared by the local planning authority.

The Town and Country Planning (Regional Planning) (England) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 2203) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 2204) specify the form and content of regional spatial strategies and development plan documents. In preparing their plans, planning bodies are required to have regard to the objectives of preventing major accidents and of limiting the consequences of such accidents; and to the need, in the long term, to maintain appropriate distances between major accident hazards sites and residential areas and other locations frequented by the public.

Guidance issued in Planning Policy Statement 12 on Local Development Frameworks makes clear that, in preparing or reviewing local development documents, local planning authorities need to ensure that they include a policy or policies on the location of establishments where hazardous substances are used or stored, and on the development of land within the vicinity of such establishments. Article 10 of the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure Order) 1995 requires a local planning authority to consult the Health and Safety Executive and the Environment Agency before determining planning applications for new major accident hazard sites, or for modifications to existing sites. They must also consult with these bodies when residential and other specified types of development is proposed within an area that the Health and Safety Executive has notified to the local planning authority because of the presence of hazardous substances within the vicinity.

Applications for development of sites that fall within the scope of control of major accident hazards regulations are made to local planning authorities. Records of such applications are not held centrally and the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

With regard to appropriate separation distances, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, UIN 150808.

Homelessness

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were sleeping rough *(a)* three months ago, *(b)* six months ago, *(c)* 12 months ago and *(d)* at the most recent date for which figures are available. [150894]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government publishes an annual national rough sleeping estimate. The most recent estimate, published in September 2006, showed 502 people were sleeping rough in England on any single night.

Homelessness: Finance

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding *(a)* Leeds city council and *(b)* voluntary sector organisations in Leeds have received from the Homelessness Directorate under the Hostels Improvement Programme. [151447]

Mr. Iain Wright: Leeds city council has received £430,000 funding under the Hostels Capital Improvement Programme (HCIP) for Faith Lodge hostel run by St. George's Crypt . The HCIP will provide over £90 million in the period 2004-05 to 2007-08, to around 175 projects in 62 local authority areas in England to make hostels and other facilities for homeless people places of change. 14 projects have been allocated HCIP funding totalling over £8 million in Yorkshire and Humberside region.

Homelessness: Government Assistance

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Government spent on organisations to help the homeless in *(a)* Southampton, *(b)* Hampshire and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [151046]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are two grant programmes that specifically support organisations to help the homeless. The Supporting People programme, implemented in 2003 and the Homelessness Grant programme.

The following tables indicate the amount of funding.

Supporting People Programme

			£
Total	*Southampton*	*Hampshire*	*England*
2003-04	4,279,742	3,503,139	353,318,583
2004-05	4,249,000	3,485,000	350,677,000
2005-06	3,964,564	3,867,949	317,503,012

Homelessness Programme

			£
	Southampton	*Hampshire*	*England*
1997-98	0	0	15,800,000
Total	—	—	15,800,000
1998-99	0	0	19,600,000
Total	—	—	19,600,000
1999-2000	0	0	25,700,000
Total	0	0	25,700,000
2000-01	0	0	31,500,000
Total	—	—	31,500,000
2001-02	0	0	40,100,000
Total	—	—	40,100,000

Homelessness Programme

£

	Southampton	Hampshire	England
2002-03	562,000	1,280,000	71,358,000
Total	—	—	73,200,000
2003-04	474,000	1,300,000	69,726,000
Total	—	—	71,500,000
2004-05	590,000	1,350,000	75,260,000
Total	—	—	77,200,000
2005-06	630,000	1,440,000	100,043,000
Total	—	—	102,500,000
2006-07	1,407,000	2,346,000	86,247,000
Total	—	—	90,000,000

Housing: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes there were in Bournemouth in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2003 and *(c)* 2007. [149233]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 12 July 2007]:* The dwelling stock in Bournemouth local authority area in 2001, 2003 and 2006 was 76,485; 76,798 and 86,138 respectively. Figures are as reported by the local authority and represent the stock as at 31 March in each year. The Department does not yet have the equivalent figures for 2007.

Source:

Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix from local authorities

Housing: Combined Heat And Power

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on the opportunities for the installation of community and large-scale combined heat and power and their associated heat grids in the new housing development and eco-towns announced by the Prime Minister to the House on 11 July. [150398]

Yvette Cooper: I am today launching the Eco-towns Prospectus, which sets out the Government's vision for new towns of five to 20,000 homes which will be exemplar "green" developments, with the aim of achieving zero carbon across the whole development. Community and large scale combined heat and power could play an important role in meeting this objective and we are looking to each project to act as an exemplar for particular aspects of low and zero carbon technology. Alongside this and other sustainability objectives, we intend that eco-towns should play a key role in easing the affordability crisis by ensuring that between 30 and 50 per cent. of their new housing is affordable as well as meeting our other essential criteria on high quality design, good provision for jobs, sustainable travel, services and community development. The launch of the prospectus today will be accompanied by an invitation for local authorities and other stakeholders to respond with their views on potential sites.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many houses were built by *(a)* the private sector, *(b)* housing associations and *(c)* local authorities in each year since 1990. [150883]

Mr. Iain Wright: New build completions by tenure in each year since 1991-92 are tabulated as follows.

New build completions by tenure, England

	Total[1]	Private[2]	Local authority[3]	Registered social landlords[3]
1991-92	155,132	125,058	7,113	22,961
1992-93	142,461	98,880	2,579	41,002
1993-94	147,714	103,538	1,451	42,725
1994-95	157,966	110,947	853	46,166
1995-96	154,599	103,873	757	49,969
1996-97	146,246	112,188	451	33,607
1997-98	149,555	121,022	323	28,210
1998-99	140,708	113,992	178	26,538
1999-2000	142,046	119,667	58	22,321
2000-01	133,255	112,137	179	20,939
2001-02	129,866	108,064	63	21,739
2002-03	137,739	116,202	199	21,338
2003-04	143,958	119,819	191	23,948
2004-05	155,893	128,422	100	27,371
2005-06	163,398	130,072	299	33,027
2006-07	167,691	145,554	245	—

Sources:

[1] Total and local authority new build completions from P2 returns submitted local authorities and National House Building Council (NHBC)

[2] Private tenure is derived from the total "P2 completions" minus local authority and Housing Corporation registered social landlord figures. These figures will not match published live tables which are sourced from P2 only.

[3] Figures are total affordable new build as reported by the Housing Corporation and include social for rent and intermediate housing eg low cost home ownership.

New build registered social landlord and council dwellings only make up part of the affordable supply; the remainder being acquired by registered social landlords. In 2005-06, acquisitions by registered social landlords numbered 11,834, taking the total affordable housing provision to 44,861.

Housing: Energy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the national calculation methodology for delivering the energy performance of buildings to be made available; and when it will be included within the building regulations. [150928]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Notice of Approval of methodologies for calculating the energy performance of buildings (approved for the purposes of regulation 17A of the Building Regulations) was published on 11 May 2007. Methodologies are available or are in the process of being developed for different types of building and application. A complete set of calculation methodologies is expected to be available in the autumn.

Housing: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of *(a)* local authority, *(b)* housing association, *(c)* private sector and *(d)* all housing in (i) Castle Point and (ii) Essex was judged to be unfit in each year since 2002. [150066]

Mr. Iain Wright: The percentage of *(a)* local authority, *(b)* housing association, *(c)* private sector and *(d)* all housing in (i) Castle Point and (ii) Essex, judged to be unfit in each year since 2002 is given in the following table. The data are as reported by local authorities.

Table 1: Percentage of unfit dwellings within each tenure and all housing, as reported by local authorities

	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Castle Point	Essex	Castle Point	Essex	Castle Point	Essex	Castle Point	Essex	Castle Point	Essex
(a) LA	2.1	3.4	0	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.5	0	0.6
(b) HA	0	0.1	0	0.1	0	0.1	0	0.2	0	0.6
(c) Private Sector	5.5	3.2	5.2	3.2	4.1	2.7	4.5	2.1	2.0	2.8
(d) Total	5.3	2.6	4.9	2.3	—	1.4	4.2	1.7	1.9	2.4

Source:
Communities and Local Government Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return (HSSA).

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent estimate is of the average rent levels in Essex for *(a)* council, *(b)* housing association and *(c)* private rented accommodation. [150067]

Mr. Iain Wright: The average weekly rent in Essex as at 31 March 2006 for *(a)* council and *(b)* housing association is £62.29 and £75.01 respectively. Information on average rent in *(c)* private rented accommodation in Essex is not available, although at regional level, the average monthly rent in the East of England is £530 per month.

Average weekly rents by local authority district are published for *(a)* the local authority sector and *(b)* the registered social landlord sector on the Communities and Local Government website in tables 702 and 704 respectively. The links for these tables are given as follows:

Table 702: http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/266/Table702_id1156266.xls

Table 704: http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/268/Table704_id1156268.xls

Information on *(c)* average rent paid by private renters in Essex is not available. This information is available by region on the Communities and Local Government website in table 734. The link for this table is given as follows:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/282/Table734_id1156282.xls

Housing: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what land holdings disposals were made by each council district, unitary and county council area in Hampshire between 1997 and 2006 which have been built on for housing; and what percentage of housing was affordable. [149951]

Mr. Iain Wright: The depth of information requested by the hon. Member is not kept centrally by Government Departments. I would suggest that he direct this enquiry to the local planning authorities for the areas in which he is interested.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what land is planned to be disposed of by each council district, unitary and county council in Hampshire between 2007 and 2011; how many houses are expected to be built; and what percentage is expected to be affordable housing. [149952]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested by the hon. Member is not kept centrally by Government Departments. I would suggest that he direct this enquiry to the local planning authorities for the areas in which he is interested. Future figures on affordable housing are determined by local planning authorities who have a range of affordable housing policies in place with a variable threshold and percentage sought for affordable housing.

Housing: Hazardous Substances

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on separation distances between sites with potential for major accidents and residential areas in common usage among major international comparators; and if she will make a statement. [150808]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department has commissioned no research on separation distances between sites with the potential for major accident hazards and residential use.

It is for local planning authorities to determine whether development should be allowed in the vicinity of sites with the potential for major accident hazards.

Local planning authorities are notified by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) of a consultation distance around such sites and they must take account of the HSE's advice of the level of risk for any development proposed with this area.

HSE reviews consultation distances around these sites in the light of new information about the risks such sites present, including information obtained by evaluation of accidents in other countries.

Housing: Immigration

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent assessment is of the likely impact of net immigration on housing demand in England over the next 20 years; and what assessments have been made of this impact in each year since 1997. [142053]

Mr. Iain Wright: The 2004 based household projections show that the biggest factor contributing to household growth is an increasing tendency for people to live alone.

Since 1997, Communities and Local Government have released three sets of household projections that included an assessment of the impact of migration on household formation.

2004 based household projections: Released March 2007

These project the formation of 223,000 additional households each year between 2004 and 2026 of which 73,000 (33 per cent.) are attributable to net migration into England.

2003 based household projections: Released March 2006

These projected the formation of 209,000 additional households each year between 2003 and 2026 of which 65,000 (31 per cent.) were attributable to net migration into England.

1996 based household projections: Released October 1999

These projected the formation of 150,000 additional households each year between 2001 and 2021 of which 38,000 (26 per cent.) were attributable to net migration into England.

Housing: Low Incomes

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of all planning permissions granted *(a)* for part or full residential developments and *(b)* for all homes in each planning authority in the Government zone of the south-west in each of the last 10 years for which records are available were for affordable homes. [148368]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today, (UIN 148447).

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by what mechanism she monitors local planning authority decisions on affordable housing in Cornwall. [148447]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* The Secretary of State monitors housing projects where registered social landlords are or will be involved, through local housing authorities returns. This will include most projects which include affordable housing, but not necessarily all, because private sector developers may also plan to build units of affordable housing. She does not monitor planning decisions for affordable housing as such. Local authorities monitor the actual delivery of affordable housing in their annual monitoring reports which are published and submitted to the Secretary of State. In Penwith district 31 affordable houses were built in 2005-06, 10 per cent. of the total new houses built. In Kerrier district, 22 affordable houses were built in 2005-06, 9 per cent. of the new houses built.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 15 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1340W, on housing: low incomes, what the *(a)* estimated and *(b)* actual (i) costs and (ii) receipts of the Design for Manufacture competition have been to English Partnerships, broken down by type; and if she will make a statement. [149608]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1340W, on housing: low incomes, how many affordable homes are being built across the 10 new mixed communities developments, broken down by *(a)* development site and *(b)* type of tenure; and if she will make a statement. [149609]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Pontefract and Castleford (Yvette Cooper) on 26 June 2007 to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) *Official Report*, column 628W. Each of the 10 sites included in the Design for Manufacture competition will include a high proportion of affordable homes of different tenures, such as social rent or homes available for share equity purchase.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new social housing units were built in the last *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* five years. [149654]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* The numbers of homes built for social rent, in England, in the last one, two and five years are tabulated in the following table. Not all social rent housing supply is through new build completions; supply can also come from the acquisition and refurbishment of private sector homes. For completeness the numbers of social rent homes provided through the acquisition and refurbishment of market properties are also shown.

Social rent housing supply: England

1 April to 31 March	*New build*	*Acquisitions*	*Total supply*
2005-06 (one year)	20,912	2,437	23,349
2004-06 (two years)	39,315	5,051	44,366
2001-06 (five years)	93,785	23,944	117,729

Source:
Statistical returns from local authorities. Housing Corporation

Mr. Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements her Department makes of local authorities wishing to renegotiate section 106 agreements. [149851]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning obligations (also known as section 106 agreements), may be discharged or modified by agreement between the local planning authority and all the persons against whom they are enforceable, or by application to the local planning authority after five years.

The powers for modifying and discharging planning obligations are contained in sections 106A and 106B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Requirements placed on local planning authorities for the handling of applications are set out in the Town and Country Planning (Modification and Discharge of Planning Obligations) Regulations 1992 (SI 1992/ 2832).

These regulations require that local planning authorities publicise applications, including making available for inspection the relevant part of the instrument which created the obligation; invite and consider representations from the public; give clear and precise reasons for their decision; and inform applicants of their right of appeal.

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the sites being considered by the Government for release for development of affordable homes include sites owned by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. [152020]

Yvette Cooper: The recent review of surplus sites owned by central Government Departments and their agencies identified over 550 new sites, in addition to those which were not already on the register of surplus public sector sites. The review of central Government surplus sites is continuing and English Partnerships is undertaking an immediate evaluation of the potential for additional housing on these sites, including one site owned by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

The Ministry of Defence will release seven major sites immediately to English Partnerships with potential for 7,000 new and affordable homes, including sites at Aldershot and Chichester. A review is being undertaken to identify further sites.

A portfolio of Highways Agency and the British Rail Residuary Body surplus sites is being identified and transferred to English Partnerships and brought forward for new and affordable housing.

The Department of Health will transfer 13 new sites into the programme for new and affordable homes. In addition, NHS Trusts are identifying the surplus land they hold with potential for further new housing.

Housing: Sales

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of houses were sold by the Government in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the south west and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [147702]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information is available on numbers of local authority dwellings sold through the right to buy scheme. The numbers of right to buy sales and local authority stock figures for each year since 1998-99 are tabulated as follows. Figures for these areas prior to 1998-99 are not readily available.

Sales and stock of local authority social rent housing

	1998-99	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Cornwall								
Council stock at beginning of period	15,745	15,524	11,701	11,471	11,250	11,008	10,819	10,733
Right to buy sales during period	205	305	232	218	245	187	80	27
Proportion of stock sold during period (percentage)	1.3	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.2	1.7	0.7	0.3
South West								
Council stock at beginning of period	214,187	184,284	170,190	155,920	152,558	145,689	139,737	136,153
Right to buy sales during period	3,276	3,708	3,157	2,739	3,035	2,521	1,443	818
Proportion of stock sold during period (percentage)	1.5	2.0	1.9	1.8	2.0	1.7	1.0	0.6
England								
Council stock at beginning of period	3,309,244	3,177,507	3,011,995	2,811,931	2,706,036	2,456,917	2,334,631	2,165,526
Right to buy sales during period	40,272	54,251	52,380	51,968	63,394	69,577	49,983	26,654
Proportion of stock sold during period (percentage)	1.2	1.7	1.7	1.8	2.3	2.8	2.1	1.2

Notes:
1. Figures shown are as reported by local authorities.
2. Cornwall has been defined to include the local authority areas of Caradon, Carrick, Kerrier, North Cornwall, Penwith and Restormel.

Source:
Statistical returns from local authorities (HSSA. P1B)

Housing: Standards

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to ensure that the Planning Inspectorate make clear to developers and local authorities that low quality in the design of housing schemes is a legitimate basis upon which planning applications may be refused; and if she will make a statement. [149980]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* Planning policy statement (PPS) 1: Delivering Sustainable Development emphasises the importance of good design in new development and PPS3: Housing seeks to achieve high quality housing. Planning inspectors are aware of the heightened importance of good design in new housing development, of the need for housing schemes to be appropriate to their context and locally distinctive, and to take opportunities for improving an area's character and quality. The Department is aware that inspectors, in applying the policies in these PPSs and related Government documents, are refusing housing appeals on grounds of failure to meet these policies.

Housing: Sutton

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she received the Sutton Housing Partnership's decent homes funding bid; when she expects to acknowledge its receipt; and when she expects to make a decision about the bid. [146678]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government received the funding bid from Sutton Housing Partnership on 31 July 2006 under Round 6 of the Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO) decent homes programme, and acknowledged receipt on that date. We have received many bids in Round 6 from local authorities who are seeking to secure additional funding and join those already on the ALMO programme. We are continuing to consider these bids very carefully, paying particular attention to overall costs and value for money, in the context of the current Comprehensive Spending Review.

Housing: Thames Gateway

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what response she has made to the recommendations made by the Williams Commission in its report, Quality First: The Commission on Design of Affordable Housing in the Thames Gateway; and if she will make a statement. [149979]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* The Housing Corporation will launch its full prospectus for the next Affordable Housing Programme in September. The Corporation is proposing to include a substantial section on the Thames Gateway covering the approach and response to the Williams report. We will consider these proposals prior to publication of the prospectus.

Industrial Development: Planning Permission

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what planning guidelines she plans to issue to local authorities on the effect of the climate change targets for 2010 on planning applications for industrial development. [148023]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government published a draft planning policy statement (PPS) on climate change for consultation at the end of 2006. This makes clear that planning should be a positive force for change and help secure progress against the UK's emissions targets, both by direct influence on energy use and emissions, and in bringing together and encouraging action by others. The PPS will apply to all development; it expects all planning authorities, in enabling the provision of new homes, jobs, services and infrastructure and shaping the places where people live and work, to secure the highest viable standards of resource and energy efficiency and reduction in carbon emissions. The final PPS will be published later this year.

Local Government Finance

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to assist local authorities in implementing their obligations under the single status agreement. [152390]

John Healey: Local authorities are responsible for meeting their statutory requirements as employers, and for implementing any agreements which they may make.

We are considering requests for equal pay capitalisation in the current financial year.

Local Government: Cumbria

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will ensure that a current Minister in her Department meets representatives from Cumbrian district councils before any decision is made on the bid for unitary status from Cumbria county council. [151443]

John Healey: During our stakeholder consultation there was the opportunity for all local authorities to meet Ministers and to make written representations. The consultation period ended on the 22 June. In the interests of fairness and impartiality, during this stage of the process, it would not be appropriate for me to have meetings with any affected councils to discuss unitary proposals.

Multiple Occupation: Tyne and Wear

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many houses in multiple occupation there were in each local authority in Tyne and Wear in each year since 2001 as recorded in the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix. [148075]

Mr. Iain Wright: The number of houses in multiple occupation in each local authority within the metropolitan county of Tyne and Wear in each year since 2001, as recorded in the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix, is given in the following table:

Number of houses in multiple occupation (whether registered or not) as at 1 April by region, as reported by local authorities

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Gateshead	30	30	100	100	86	51
Newcastle upon Tyne	1,000	—	3,262	1,000	4,000	—
North Tyneside	150	141	141	141	149	152
South Tyneside	130	52	38	36	31	
Sunderland	1,546	1,000	800	640	742	1,419
Tyne and Wear (metropolitan county)	2,856	1,223	4,341	1,917	5,008	1,622

Source:
Communities and Local Government Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return (HSSA)

Planning Reform Bill

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to be in a position to publish the Planning Reform Bill. [152377]

John Healey: The Planning Reform Bill is among the proposed Bills for the third session set out in the draft legislative programme in "The Governance of Britain—The Government's Draft Legislative Programme" (CM 7175). It will not be published before the Queen's Speech.

Regional Government

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what administrative support her Department is providing to the new Ministers for the Regions. [152376]

John Healey: On the 28 June 2007 the Prime Minister appointed my hon. Friend the Member for Exeter (Mr. Bradshaw) to be Minister for the South West. The role of Regional Ministers is set out in paragraphs 115 to 118 in 'The Governance of Britain'.

Regional Government: South West Region

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the duties and responsibilities of the Minister for the south-west region; what the budget is for that position; how many staff are employed in relation to those duties; and if she will make a statement. [151715]

John Healey: On the 28 June 2007 the Prime Minister appointed my hon. Friend the Member for Exeter (Mr. Bradshaw) to be Minister for the south-west. The role of Regional Ministers is set out in paragraphs 115 to 118 in 'The Governance of Britain'.

Right To Buy Scheme

Mr. Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to restrict tenants' right to buy council and housing association properties in England. [150222]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are no plans for any restrictions on the right of social tenants to buy the homes that they rent from local authority or housing association landlords in England.

Rights of Way

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the independent Planning Commission proposed in the White Paper Planning for a Sustainable Future will have the power to close and divert public rights of way; and if she will make a statement. [149510]

Mr. Iain Wright: As explained in chapter 5 of "Planning for a Sustainable Future" (cm 7120), we propose that within the new single unified consent regime the infrastructure planning commission would have the power to close and divert public rights of way where they are considered necessary for the development of a nationally significant infrastructure project. Consistent with existing legislation, the power would only be exercised where the commission is satisfied that alternative rights of way are being provided or the current rights of way are not needed.

Second Homes

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many second homes there were in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the south west and *(c)* England in each year since 1997; and what percentage of all homes this represented. [147700]

Mr. Iain Wright: The number of second homes in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the south west and *(c)* England in each year since 1997; and what percentage of all homes this represented is shown in the following table:

Period	*Cornwall*		*South West*		*England*	
	Number	*Percentage of all homes*	*Number*	*Percentage of all homes*	*Number*	*Percentage of all homes*
1997-98[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	203,000	1.0
1998-99[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	224,000	1.1
1999-2000[1]	n/a	n/a	41,000	1.9	234,000	1.1
2000-01[1]	n/a	n/a	41,000	2.0	241,000	1.2
2001-02[1]	n/a	n/a	39,000	1.9	226,000	1.1
2002-03[1]	n/a	n/a	49,000	2.3	235,000	1.1
2003-04[1]	n/a	n/a	60,000	2.8	253,000	1.2

Period	Cornwall		South West		England	
	Number	Percentage of all homes	Number	Percentage of all homes	Number	Percentage of all homes
2004[2]	13,509	5.7	50,397	2.2	228,896	1.0
2005[2]	13,221	5.6	50,250	2.2	236,331	1.1
2006[2]	13,040	5.4	51,459	2.2	240,047	1.1

Sources:
[1] Survey of English Housing (three-year moving averages).
[2] Council Tax Base returns
Note:
n/a = not available.

For 1997-98 to 2003-04, the data shown are estimates from the Survey of English Housing. Estimates for Cornwall are not available because it is only a sample survey and reliable estimates can only be derived down to regional level.

For 2004 to 2006, the data are based on Council Tax Base returns that are completed by local authorities. These figures are only available from 2004 onwards.

Social Policy: Australia

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will hold discussions with her Australian counterpart on lessons which can be drawn from public policy on matters of social cohesion in Australia. [150732]

Mr. Dhanda: Officials in the Department have regular dialogue with counterparts in Australia working on social cohesion, and regularly engage with delegations from Australia and other countries to consider international comparisons.

Travelling People

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what provision is planned for traveller sites within the proposed eco-towns. [151417]

Mr. Iain Wright: Eco-towns, as announced in the Government statement of 7 March 2007, will be sustainable communities supporting a mix of housing types and tenure. Subject to the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review, decisions about the detailed criteria and housing mix for eco-towns will be taken following further assessment work, and we hope to announce these later this year.

Travelling People: Regional Government

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the potential impact of the Government's announcement of the abolition of regional assemblies on the Government's plans to create additional Gypsy and Traveller sites; what plans she has for the consultation process on Gypsy and Traveller sites being undertaken by the East of England Regional Assembly due to end on 31 July; and if she will make a statement on the future of the Government's plans to create additional Gypsy and Traveller sites in Hertfordshire. [151697]

Mr. Iain Wright: The announcement on the outcome of the Sub-National Review made it clear that we will consult on the move to single regional strategies. In the meantime, we expect the current round of revisions to Regional Spatial Strategies, including those on provision for Gypsies and Travellers, to be completed at the earliest opportunity.

As the hon. Member notes, the consultation in the East of England is being run by the East of England Regional Assembly, and its results will inform the review of the Regional Spatial Strategy. With regards to Hertfordshire, plans for future sites should reflect the needs identified by Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments and by the proposed revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy, which is itself informed by the results of those assessments.

Tree Preservation Orders

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a tree preservation order may be placed on a tree or series of trees, subsequent to a planning application being granted; and whether such an order overrides the application. [148411]

Mr. Iain Wright: Section 197 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 places a duty on planning authorities to make adequate provision for the protection and planting of trees when granting planning permission. The planning authority should therefore take the presence of trees into account when determining planning applications.

Tree preservation orders cannot be used to prevent development for which full planning permission has already been granted. They may be used, however, to protect trees which do not have to be removed in order to implement the approved development, or where only outline permission has been granted.

Valuation Office: Databases

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the Valuation Office Agency requested access to the Home Condition Report register in its submissions to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Department for Communities and Local Government. [150667]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) by my right hon. Friend the Member for Bristol, South (Dawn Primarolo) on 26 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 724W.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Degrees

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time students who (i) applied and (ii) were accepted for (A) honours degrees, (B) foundation degrees and (C) HNDs were aged (1) 18, (2) 19, (3) 20, (4) 21 to 24, (5) 25 to 30 and (6) over 30 years of age in each year since 1997, broken down by socioeconomic group. [148117]

Bill Rammell: The available information is shown in the tables. The figures are taken from data collected by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) which are limited to students who apply to full-time undergraduate courses via the UCAS application system. The figures do not therefore cover part-time students, nor those full-time students who apply directly to Higher Education Institutions.

UCAS do not allocate applicants to specific course types because students can submit up to six applications to one or more of First Degree, Foundation Degree, HMD or other courses. For acceptances, the figures for Degrees include both First Degrees and Foundation Degrees.

From 2002 entry, the information is only available by four broad age bands. A new classification of social background, the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC), was introduced in 2002, which replaced the classification based on Social Class. The two classifications are not directly comparable.

UK domiciled applicants by age and social class, UK Higher Education Institutions

Year of entry: 1997

	Age						
Social class	*Under 18*	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21 to 24*	*25 to 29*	*30 and over*	*Total*
I Professional	1,862	28,479	10,552	3,046	2,283	944	1,257	48,423
II Intermediate	4,456	78,534	30,878	9,776	9,843	6,391	10,416	150,294
IIIM Skilled Manual	1,569	28,710	13,491	5,138	5,142	2,773	3,912	60,735
IIIN Skilled Non-Manual	1,063	19,947	8,810	3,243	6,724	4,079	5,701	49,567
IV Partly Skilled	662	12,637	6,157	2,493	4,512	2,540	3,199	32,200
V Unskilled	151	3,133	1,859	789	959	451	562	7,904
X Unknown	716	11,283	7,550	3,942	11,537	5,791	8,385	49,204
Total	10,479	182,723	79,297	28,427	41,000	22,969	33,432	398,327

Year of entry: 1998

	Age						
Social class	*Under 18*	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21 to 24*	*25 to 29*	*30 and over*	*Total*
I Professional	1,745	28,001	10,362	2,880	2,171	768	1,097	47,024
II Intermediate	4,411	79,181	31,223	9,299	9,039	5,239	8,917	147,309
IIIM Skilled Manual	1,630	29,225	13,321	4,693	4,411	2,317	3,297	58,894
IIIN Skilled Non-Manual	1,077	20,458	8,734	2,904	5,846	3,365	4,673	47,057
IV Partly Skilled	751	12,833	6,177	2,347	4,021	2,064	2,819	31,012
V Unskilled	118	2,996	1,833	713	842	352	451	7,305
X Unknown	813	13,053	8,573	4,378	10,957	5,351	7,862	50,987
Total	10,545	185,747	80,223	27,214	37,287	19,456	29,116	389,588

Year of entry: 1999

	Age						
Social class	*Under 18*	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21 to 24*	*25 to 29*	*30 and over*	*Total*
I Professional	1,821	27,567	10,958	3,091	1,563	560	973	46,533
II Intermediate	4,254	77,611	32,944	9,981	7,399	4,346	8,269	144,804
IIIM Skilled Manual	1,642	28,829	14,203	5,067	3,857	2,006	2,936	58,540
IIIN Skilled Non-Manual	1,042	20,134	9,528	3,231	5,829	3,064	4,274	47,102
IV Partly Skilled	700	12,567	6,535	2,499	3,763	1,959	2,782	30,805
V Unskilled	127	2,974	1,972	849	752	305	472	7,451
X Unknown	804	12,100	9,070	4,709	13,198	5,538	8,037	53,456
Total	10,390	181,782	85,210	29,427	36,361	17,778	27,743	388,691

Year of entry: 2000

	Age						
Social class	*Under 18*	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21 to 24*	*25 to 29*	*30 and over*	*Total*
I Professional	1,688	27,197	10,895	3,095	1,513	480	893	45,761
II Intermediate	4,161	76,341	33,229	10,574	7,800	4,245	8,339	144,689
IIIM Skilled Manual	1,568	27,974	13,943	5,097	3,794	1,837	2,998	57,211
IIIN Skilled Non-Manual	1,095	20,309	9,683	3,564	6,247	2,912	4,278	48,088

Year of entry: 2000

Social class	Age: Under 18	18	19	20	21 to 24	25 to 29	30 and over	Total
IV Partly Skilled	765	12,826	6,628	2,705	3,843	1,965	2,957	31,689
V Unskilled	137	3,100	1,897	834	701	273	397	7,339
X Unknown	940	12,638	9,174	4,974	13,264	5,343	7,981	54,314
Total	10,354	180,385	85,449	30,843	37,162	17,055	27,843	389,091

Year of entry: 2001

Social class	Age: Under 18	18	19	20	21 to 24	25 to 29	30 and over	Total
I Professional	1,666	27,263	10,800	3,177	1,516	467	954	45,843
II Intermediate	4,182	77,689	32,187	10,388	7,963	3,951	8,472	144,832
IIIM Skilled Manual	1,755	30,348	14,185	5,074	4,161	1,876	3,166	60,565
IIIN Skilled Non-Manual	1,008	20,021	9,175	3,453	7,045	2,935	4,416	48,053
IV Partly Skilled	658	11,727	5,993	2,373	3,964	1,862	3,029	29,606
V Unskilled	135	3,246	1,796	784	592	228	356	7,137
X Unknown	1,032	16,070	11,075	5,918	15,367	5,631	8,516	63,609
Total	10,436	186,364	85,211	31,167	40,608	16,950	28,909	399,645

UK domiciled applicants by age and Socio Economic Classification

Year of entry 2002

Socio-Economic Classification	Age: 20 and under	21 to 24	25 to 39	40 and over	Total
1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	66,022	2,390	1,966	676	71,054
2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	85,392	5,790	6,175	2,047	99,404
3. Intermediate occupations	38,163	5,603	5,875	1,361	51,002
4. Small employers and own account workers	21,694	1,307	1,203	331	24,535
5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	13,913	866	632	148	15,559
6. Semi-routine occupations	30,355	6,504	5,512	1,114	43,485
7. Routine occupations	15,514	2,352	1,733	306	19,905
8. Unknown	41,404	18,082	14,018	3,406	76,910
Total	312,457	42,894	37,114	9,389	401,854

Year of entry: 2003

Socio-Economic Classification	Age: 20 and under	21 to 24	25 to 39	40 and over	Total
1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	64,143	2,367	2,413	777	69,700
2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	85,627	5,928	6,749	2,161	100,465
3. Intermediate occupations	37,114	5,378	5,866	1,445	49,803
4. Small employers and own account workers	21,774	1,271	1,197	374	24,616
5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	14,923	830	616	171	16,540
6. Semi-routine occupations	30,857	6,801	5,909	1,267	44,834
7. Routine occupations	14,914	2,443	1,602	284	19,243
8. Unknown	47,438	18,998	14,760	3,571	84,767
Total	316,790	44,016	39,112	10,050	409,968

Year of entry: 2004

Socio-Economic Classification	Age: 20 and under	21 to 24	25 to 39	40 and over	Total
1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	64,652	2,238	2,401	768	70,059
2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	87,243	6,040	7,103	2,351	102,737
3. Intermediate occupations	37,795	5,322	5,949	1,434	50,500
4. Small employers and own account workers	21,981	1,257	1,113	312	24,663
5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	14,550	768	570	166	16,054
6. Semi-routine occupations	31,228	6,857	6,337	1,367	45,789
7. Routine occupations	15,065	2,499	1,549	245	19,358
8. Unknown	46,234	19,427	14,879	3,634	84,174
Total	318,748	44,408	39,901	10,277	413,334

Year of entry: 2005

Socio-Economic Classification	Age: 20 and under	21 to 24	25 to 39	40 and over	Total
1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	63,796	2,433	2,630	772	69,631
2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	88,307	6,661	8,098	2,632	105,698
3. Intermediate occupations	38,636	5,743	6,499	1,545	52,423
4. Small employers and own account workers	22,403	1,339	1,280	372	25,394
5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	14,870	792	538	148	16,348
6. Semi-routine occupations	33,888	7,867	7,159	1,649	50,563
7. Routine occupations	15,616	2,737	1,723	316	20,392
8. Unknown	62,953	20,536	16,518	4,174	104,181
Total	340,469	48,108	44,445	11,608	444,630

Year of Entry 2006

Socio-Economic Classification	Age: 20 and under	21 to 24	25 to 39	40 and over	Total
1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	62,602	2,128	1,955	565	67,250
2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	84,387	5,704	5,856	1,721	97,668
3. Intermediate occupations	36,453	4,533	4,530	1,002	46,518
4. Small employers and own account workers	22,232	1,200	864	228	24,524
5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	13,939	717	377	80	15,113
6. Semi-routine occupations	32,143	6,833	5,455	1,230	45,661
7. Routine occupations	15,336	2,593	1,361	200	19,490
8. Unknown	62,817	24,002	22,524	6,629	115,972
Total	329,909	47,710	42,922	11,655	432,196

Source:
Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

UK domiciled acceptances by qualification aim, age and social class, UK Higher Education Institutions

Year of entry: 1997

Degree

Social class	Under 18	18	19	20	21 to 24	25 to 29	30 and over	Total
I Professional	1,494	23,088	8,325	2,119	1,428	528	776	37,758
II Intermediate	3,302	60,740	22,491	6,411	5,934	3,734	6,408	109,020
IIIM Skilled Manual	1,065	19,986	8,618	3,045	2,921	1,619	2,442	39,696
IIIN Skilled Non-Manual	764	14,911	6,136	2,028	4,028	2,508	3,713	34,088
IV Partly Skilled	466	8,920	3,985	1,491	2,616	1,439	1,934	20,851
V Unskilled	110	2,121	1,122	414	522	270	336	4,895
X Unknown	482	7,394	4,477	2,212	6,768	3,467	5,395	30,195
Total	7,683	137,160	55,154	17,720	24,217	13,565	21,004	276,503

HND

Social class	Under 18	18	19	20	21 to 24	25 to 29	30 and over	Total
I Professional	34	874	513	221	150	46	48	1,886
II Intermediate	145	3,552	2,278	881	718	323	443	8,340
IIIM Skilled Manual	65	1,984	1,392	619	518	242	288	5,108
IIIN Skilled Non-Manual	31	1,054	767	318	562	226	287	3,245
IV Partly Skilled	21	896	643	318	428	174	176	2,656
V Unskilled	3	227	201	101	120	38	35	725
X Unknown	26	1,009	1,039	590	1,100	464	627	4,855
Total	325	9,596	6,833	3,048	3,596	1,513	1,904	26,815

Year of entry: 1998

Degree

Social class	Under 18	18	19	20	21 to 24	25 to 29	30 and over	Total
I Professional	1399	22621	8250	2077	1411	433	657	36848
II Intermediate	3,238	61,077	23,067	6,208	5,607	3,069	5,429	107,695
IIIM Skilled Manual	1,083	20,756	8,749	2,859	2,648	1,355	2,053	39,503
IIIN Skilled Non-Manual	748	15,166	6,064	1,874	3,592	2,076	2,956	32,476
IV Partly Skilled	510	9,041	4,066	1,430	2,384	1,225	1,687	20,343
V Unskilled	74	2,033	1,131	410	468	209	279	4,604
X Unknown	451	8,316	5,051	2,511	6,486	3,181	4,875	30,871
Total	7,503	139,010	56,378	17,369	22,596	11,548	17,936	272,340

HND

Social class	Under 18	18	19	20	21 to 24	25 to 29	30 and over	Total
I Professional	34	874	513	221	150	46	48	1,886
II Intermediate	145	3,552	2,278	881	718	323	443	8,340
IIIM Skilled Manual	65	1,984	1,392	619	518	242	288	5,108
IIIN Skilled Non-Manual	31	1,054	767	318	562	226	287	3,245
IV Partly Skilled	21	896	643	318	428	174	176	2,656
V Unskilled	3	227	201	101	120	38	35	725
X Unknown	26	1,009	1,039	590	1,100	464	627	4,855
Total	325	9,596	6,833	3,048	3,596	1,513	1,904	26,815

Year of entry: 1999

Degree

Social class	Under 18	18	19	20	21 to 24	25 to 29	30 and over	Total
I Professional	1,467	22,599	8,856	2,319	1,066	317	628	37,252
II Intermediate	3,172	60,422	24,944	6,856	4,786	2,606	5,244	108,030
IIIM Skilled Manual	1,157	20,572	9,618	3,189	2,337	1,210	1,837	39,920
IIIN Skilled Non-Manual	734	15,267	6,787	2,148	3,656	1,899	2,722	33,213
IV Partly Skilled	458	9,013	4,420	1,561	2,270	1,173	1,688	20,583
V Unskilled	78	2,028	1,239	523	436	176	291	4,771
X Unknown	477	7,851	5,685	2,860	8,072	3,402	5,224	33,571
Total	7,543	137,752	61,549	19,456	22,623	10,783	17,634	277,340

HND

Social class	Under 18	18	19	20	21 to 24	25 to 29	30 and over	Total
I Professional	32	707	524	175	108	24	42	1,612
II Intermediate	157	3,181	2,191	929	534	242	403	7,637
IIIM Skilled Manual	80	1,792	1,376	538	377	177	214	4,554
IIIN Skilled Non-Manual	36	968	799	319	468	216	267	3,073
IV Partly Skilled	45	839	673	287	355	145	170	2,514
V Unskilled	7	231	238	117	101	40	33	767
X Unknown	67	1,200	1,168	650	1,238	523	722	5,568
Total	424	8,918	6,969	3,015	3,181	1,367	1,851	25,725

Year of entry: 2000

Degree

Social class	Under 18	18	19	20	21 to 24	25 to 29	30 and over	Total
I Professional	1,396	22,695	9,015	2,361	1,046	263	529	37,305
II Intermediate	3,237	60,561	25,762	7,480	5,095	2,502	5,185	109,822
IIIM Skilled Manual	1,098	20,361	9,654	3,307	2,339	1,131	1,892	39,782
IIIN Skilled Non-Manual	836	15,525	7,162	2,382	3,939	1,856	2,813	34,513
IV Partly Skilled	523	9,381	4,609	1,706	2,381	1,155	1,834	21,589
V Unskilled	98	2,156	1,199	526	428	167	231	4,805
X Unknown	537	8,436	5,884	3,001	8,142	3,201	4,792	33,993
Total	7,725	139,115	63,285	20,763	23,370	10,275	17,276	281,809

HND

Social class	Under 18	18	19	20	21 to 24	25 to 29	30 and over	Total
I Professional	28	643	485	201	97	28	54	1,536
II Intermediate	149	3,132	2,227	968	597	265	515	7,853
IIIM Skilled Manual	88	1,736	1,414	555	404	171	265	4,633
IIIN Skilled Non-Manual	48	1,051	729	342	601	210	284	3,265
IV Partly Skilled	54	820	677	311	376	146	179	2,563
V Unskilled	9	226	240	99	88	27	41	730
X Unknown	175	1,263	1,203	788	1,352	592	956	6,329
Total	551	8,871	6,975	3,264	3,515	1,439	2,294	26,909

Year of entry: 2001

Degree

Social class	Under 18	18	19	20	21 to 24	25 to 29	30 and Over	Total
I Professional	1,415	23,183	9,171	2,481	1,063	291	592	38,196
II Intermediate	3,256	63,344	25,625	7,594	5,406	2,477	5,585	113,287

Year of entry: 2001

Degree

Social class	*Under 18*	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21 to 24*	*25 to 29*	*30 and Over*	*Total*
IIIM Skilled Manual	1,229	23,000	10,101	3,407	2,676	1,183	1,972	43,568
IIIN Skilled Non-Manual	734	15,828	6,982	2,413	4,701	1,880	2,988	35,526
IV Partly Skilled	444	8,811	4,325	1,626	2,530	1,134	1,926	20,796
V Unskilled	89	2,339	1,238	482	366	150	222	4,886
X Unknown	640	11,066	7,289	3,831	9,982	3,454	5,536	41,798
Total	7,807	147,571	64,731	21,834	26,724	10,569	18,821	298,057

HND

Social class	*Under 18*	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21 to 24*	*25 to 29*	*30 and over*	*Total*
I Professional	26	691	442	211	97	24	61	1,552
II Intermediate	116	3,030	2,117	903	609	249	520	7,544
IIIM Skilled Manual	94	1,874	1,372	562	422	197	323	4,844
IIIN Skilled Non-Manual	42	993	732	334	630	232	285	3,248
IV Partly Skilled	43	745	557	255	360	152	206	2,318
V Unskilled	11	242	218	98	87	23	39	718
X Unknown	95	1,644	1,505	870	1,614	604	859	7,191
Total	427	9,219	6,943	3,233	3,819	1,481	2,293	27,415

UK domiciled acceptances by qualification aim, age and socio economic classification, UK Higher Education Institutions

Year of entry: 2002

Degree

Socio-Economic Classification	*20 and under*	*21 to 24*	*25 to 39*	*40 and over*	*Total*
1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	55,987	1,715	1,272	453	59,427
2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	70,128	4,064	4,087	1,383	79,662
3. Intermediate occupations	31,125	3,895	3,889	924	39,833
4. Small employers and own account workers	16,675	846	782	222	18,525
5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	10,707	586	438	102	11,833
6. Semi-routine occupations	23,245	4,323	3,591	737	31,896
7. Routine occupations	11,426	1,565	1,129	192	14,312
8. Unknown	29,764	12,439	9,384	2,385	53,972
Total	249,057	29,433	24,572	6,398	309,460

HND

Socio-Economic Classification	*20 and under*	*21 to 24*	*25 to 39*	*40 and over*	*Total*
1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	1,752	114	79	47	1,992
2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	3,054	360	272	128	3,814
3. Intermediate occupations	1,549	374	284	72	2,279
4. Small employers and own account workers	1,305	122	70	34	1,531
5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	830	91	67	9	997
6. Semi-routine occupations	1,890	475	314	72	2,751
7. Routine occupations	1,123	232	158	30	1,543
8. Unknown	4,154	1,666	1,210	328	7,358
Total	15,657	3,434	2,454	720	22,265

Year of entry: 2003

Degree

Socio-Economic Classification	*20 and under*	*21 to 24*	*25 to 39*	*40 and over*	*Total*
1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	54,398	1,660	1,448	528	58,034
2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	70,356	4,109	4,299	1,417	80,181
3. Intermediate occupations	30,311	3,688	3,920	1,012	38,931
4. Small employers and own account workers	16,956	873	775	241	18,845
5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	11,574	600	406	113	12,693
6. Semi-routine occupations	23,815	4,593	3,815	842	33,065
7. Routine occupations	11,161	1,602	1,059	193	14,015
8. Unknown	35,061	12,903	9,967	2,547	60,478
Total	253,632	30,028	25,689	6,893	316,242

HND

Socio-Economic Classification	20 and under	21 to 24	25 to 39	40 and over	Total
1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	1,261	91	59	27	1,438
2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	2,340	266	229	97	2,932
3. Intermediate occupations	1,088	282	227	48	1,645
4. Small employers and own account workers	973	85	64	25	1,147
5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	670	45	34	15	764
6. Semi-routine occupations	1,545	395	197	52	2,189
7. Routine occupations	881	168	106	13	1,168
8. Unknown	3,763	1,389	1,007	258	6,417
Total	12,521	2,721	1,923	535	17,700

Year of entry: 2004

Degree

Socio-Economic Classification	20 and under	21 to 24	25 to 39	40 and over	Total
1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	55,231	1,535	1,351	476	58,593
2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	72,360	4,063	4,411	1,476	82,310
3. Intermediate occupations	31,111	3,554	3,873	963	39,501
4. Small employers and own account workers	17,186	867	707	192	18,952
5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	11,515	529	380	117	12,541
6. Semi-routine occupations	24,593	4,549	3,926	863	33,931
7. Routine occupations	11,494	1,660	1,013	167	14,334
8. Unknown	34,768	13,142	9,969	2,496	60,375
Total	258,258	29,899	25,630	6,750	320,537

HND

Socio-Economic Classification	20 and under	21 to 24	25 to 39	40 and over	Total
1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	951	64	43	28	1,086
2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	1,846	204	183	85	2,318
3. Intermediate occupations	879	207	155	48	1,289
4. Small employers and own account workers	803	53	57	16	929
5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	487	41	36	9	573
6. Semi-routine occupations	1,082	270	186	47	1,585
7. Routine occupations	646	134	75	10	865
8. Unknown	2,906	1,112	837	258	5,113
Total	9,600	2,085	1,572	501	13,758

Year of entry: 2005

Degree

Socio-Economic Classification	20 and under	21 to 24	25 to 39	40 and over	Total
1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	55,143	1,633	1,448	469	58,693
2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	74,286	4,449	4,783	1,612	85,130
3. Intermediate occupations	32,267	3,843	4,067	1,012	41,189
4. Small employers and own account workers	18,006	906	813	238	19,963
5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	12,005	564	354	86	13,009
6. Semi-routine occupations	27,109	5,125	4,248	1,024	37,506
7. Routine occupations	12,118	1,851	1,117	194	15,280
8. Unknown	50,189	14,089	10,900	2,900	78,078
Total	281,123	32,460	27,730	7,535	348,848

HND

Socio-Economic Classification	20 and under	21 to 24	25 to 39	40 and over	Total
1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	872	55	36	14	977
2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	1,607	183	131	56	1,977
3. Intermediate occupations	731	136	127	39	1,033
4. Small employers and own account workers	614	46	27	18	705
5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	380	29	23	13	445
6. Semi-routine occupations	988	232	118	22	1,360
7. Routine occupations	564	131	66	21	782
8. Unknown	2,348	882	704	183	4,117
Total	8,104	1,694	1,232	366	11,396

Year of entry: 2006

Degree

Socio-Economic Classification	*20 and under*	*21 to 24*	*25 to 39*	*40 and over*	*Total*
1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	53,615	1,419	1,029	333	56,401
2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	70,163	3,809	3,386	1,025	78,383
3. Intermediate occupations	30,133	2,988	2,755	667	36,543
4. Small employers and own account workers	17,736	801	558	155	19,250
5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	11,108	515	264	53	11,940
6. Semi-routine occupations	25,557	4,453	3,224	780	34,014
7. Routine occupations	11,900	1,796	887	128	14,711
8. Unknown	49,682	16,447	15,031	4,536	85,696
Total	269,894	32,228	27,134	7,682	336,938

HND

Socio-Economic Classification	*20 and under*	*21 to 24*	*25 to 39*	*40 and over*	*Total*
1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	537	45	19	8	609
2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	1,159	130	82	23	1,394
3. Intermediate occupations	476	94	65	12	647
4. Small employers and own account workers	454	40	23	4	521
5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	275	20	18	5	318
6. Semi-routine occupations	695	157	69	14	935
7. Routine occupations	429	85	36	6	556
8. Unknown	1,990	806	666	184	3,646
Total	6,015	1,377	978	256	8,626

Source:
Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

NORTHERN IRELAND

Historical Inquiries

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the historical inquiries which *(a)* are being undertaken and *(b)* are about to be commenced in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [151718]

Paul Goggins: The Historic Enquiry Team (HET) is tasked with re-examining all 3,268 murders related to the security situation during the period from 1968 until the signing of the Belfast Agreement. The HET generally examines cases in chronological order and is currently working on cases from 1972.

The Bloody Sunday Inquiry was set up following a resolution of the House on 29 January 1998 to inquire into the events on 30 January 1972 which led to loss of life in connection with a procession in Londonderry.

The Robert Hamill Inquiry, the Rosemary Nelson Inquiry and the Billy Wright Inquiry were established to inquire into the deaths of these individuals. The inquiries' terms of reference were announced by my right hon. Friend the Member for Torfaen (Mr. Murphy) in a written statement on 16 November 2004, *Official Report*, columns 83-84WS. My right hon. Friend the Member for Torfaen announced on 23 September 2004 that steps would be taken to enable the establishment of an inquiry into the murder of Patrick Finucane, which would be held on the basis of new legislation.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent by *(a)* the police and *(b)* other agencies on historical inquiries in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [151719]

Paul Goggins: The Historic Enquires Team project has been allocated £34 million over six years, this is a significant sum. Estimated expenditure to 31 March 2007 is £9.9 million. This project involves the PSNI, Police Ombudsman, Forensic Science Agency and PPS. Government are committed to ensuring that this work is adequately resourced.

The expenditure by the Bloody Sunday Inquiry, the Robert Hamill Inquiry, the Rosemary Nelson Inquiry and the Billy Wright Inquiry is set out in the following table:

	Rounded expenditure to end April 2007 (£ million)
Bloody Sunday Inquiry	[1]178.264
Robert Hamill Inquiry	10.41
Billy Wright Inquiry	7.21
Rosemary Nelson Inquiry	15.17

[1] Of this total cost (rounded) £143.1 million falls to the NIO, the remaining £35.2 million falls to the MOD

The estimated cost to PSNI of providing information to historic inquires other than investigations being carried out by HET is £7.17 million. This includes £1.9 million to investigate 'cold' non-terrorist murder cases, as well as £1-1.5 million for legal cost in respect of all historic inquires work.

Missing Persons

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are being taken by the Police Service of Northern Ireland to locate the remains of those considered disappeared; and if he will make a statement. [150930]

Mr. Woodward: The Police Service of Northern Ireland seconded one officer to a small project team set up by the Independent Commission for the Location of

Victims Remains (ICLVR) for a period of six months. The Garda Siochana also seconded a member of their force to the ICLVR on a part-time basis.

The PSNI continue to offer every assistance to the ICLVR it can provide. However, of the nine remaining sets of remains to be found, all are suspected to be in the Republic of Ireland with the exception of one which the ICLVR believe to be in France. This limits the steps which can be taken by the PSNI to assist in locating remains.

Missing Persons: Religion

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland are classed as disappeared; what percentage are *(a)* Catholic and *(b)* Protestant; and if he will make a statement. [150929]

Mr. Woodward: 'The disappeared' is the term used in respect of those individuals widely believed to have been murdered by paramilitaries during 'the troubles' in Northern Ireland, and whose bodies were secretly buried. Only those who disappeared prior to the signing of the Good Friday agreement (10 April 1998) fall within the remit of the Independent Commission for the Location of Victims' Remains.

14 people fell into this category. To date, five bodies have been recovered, but the burial sites of the remaining nine are unknown. PIRA admitted responsibility for 10 of the 14, while one was admitted by the INLA. No attribution has been given to the remaining three, but it is largely the view of the families that they were victims of PIRA.

100 per cent. of those referred to as 'the disappeared' were from the Catholic community.

Police: Inquiries

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of the Police Service of Northern Ireland's budget has been spent on historical inquiries in the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [150933]

Paul Goggins: The Historic Enquires Team (HET) project is a NIO funded project which the PSNI Historic Enquires Team are undertaking. The total funding for this project is £34 million over six years. This funding is divided between all the participants; PSNI Historic Enquiries Team, Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland, Forensic Science Northern Ireland, and Public Prosecution Service. The overall budget for PSNI HET work is £24.2 million over six years.

The actual spend for PSNI HET work for 2005-06 was £3.95 million and for 2006-07 £4.18 million.

Rape

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many rapes have been committed by individuals under the age of 17 years in Northern Ireland in the last 10 years. [148058]

Paul Goggins: It is not possible to determine the number of rapes committed by individuals under the age of 17 in each of the last 10 years. However, information is available as to:

(a) the number of offences recorded by PSNI and cleared by issuing at least one person a charge or summons; and

(b) the number of prosecutions and convictions in the criminal courts in Northern Ireland.

Age-related data on rapes recorded and cleared by issuing a charge or summons are only available from 1 April 2001 until 31 March 2007. During this period, 34 rape offences were recorded and also cleared by a charge or summons in which the accused person was under the age of 17[1].

Between 1996 and 2005, the latest years for which data are available for prosecutions and convictions, there were seven prosecutions[2] and no convictions for rape where the defendants were under the age of 17[3].

[1]PSNI follow Home Office counting rules which means that only one accused person is required to clear a crime, even in cases where there are multiple offenders. In this respect the figure noted may not include all persons under 17, if they were not the first person noted as clearing the crime.

[2]Data for prosecutions and convictions are collated on the principal offence rule; thus only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

[3]It is not possible routinely to compare data relating to the number charged or summoned for rape offences from recorded crime figures and data relating to the number of prosecutions and convictions, as these figures are collected on a different basis. PSNI recorded crime figures relate to the number of notifiable crimes reported and/or subsequently cleared; whereas figures for prosecutions and convictions refer to the number of offenders who have been subsequently brought before the criminal courts in Northern Ireland. In addition, PSNI recorded crime figures denote each offence as it has been initially recorded and this may differ from the offence for which a suspect or suspects are subsequently proceeded against in the courts.

Sexual Offences

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1175W, on sexual offences, how many and what percentage of allegations of rape made to the police in each of the last three years were later withdrawn by the individual; how many and what percentage of cases referred to the Public Prosecution Service subsequently failed to result in a prosecution for lack of evidence; and how many and what percentage of cases brought to prosecution resulted in conviction. [149029]

Paul Goggins: Figures relating to the percentage of rape allegations which are withdrawn by the individual are not recorded in the format requested.

The Public Prosecution Service have advised that the number of persons reported for an offence of rape who were not prosecuted because the available evidence was not sufficient to pass the test for prosecution is as follows:

2004: 29 (35 per cent.) out of 83 persons;

2005: 90 (66 per cent.) out of 136 persons;

2006: 136 (79 per cent.) out of 172 persons.

The number of persons directed for prosecution for rape or some other related offence and whose trial concluded with a conviction for at least one offence (whether of rape or of some other related offence) is as follows:

2004: 27 (61 per cent.) out of 44 persons;

2005: 17 (63 per cent.) out of 27 persons;

2006: five (50 per cent.) out of 10 persons.

These figures represent only those cases which have been concluded at court. A number of cases are still awaiting trial, or are currently passing through the courts. These cases are not included in the totals above. For example, in 2006, 36 cases were directed for prosecution, of which five have so far resulted in conviction, five have not, and the remaining 26 either await trial or are in the process of being tried.

The Government are committed to improving the rates of successful prosecution in rape cases. PSNI's CARE units deal with the investigation of serious adult sexual offences and sexual and physical abuse of children and are staffed by highly skilled and trained personnel. The PSNI CARE teams are dedicated to enhancing the service to victims of rape and sexual assault and are seeking to enhance the investigative process so that more offenders are brought before the courts.

We have made significant progress towards establishing a sexual assault referral centre in Northern Ireland and are working in partnership with colleagues in DHSSPS, PSNI, the medical profession and the voluntary sector to develop an appropriate range of services. In addition, PSNI and the Public Prosecution Service have recently begun to analyse a number of rape investigations, in order that they continue to develop models of best investigative practice. In particular, attention will focus upon case building and the significant number of cases that currently do not make the threshold for prosecution.

JUSTICE

Asylum and Immigration Tribunal

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal notified *(a)* the Home Office and *(b)* HM High Commission, Harare of its decision in the case of Ms L.K., wife of Mr. P.H. of Aylesbury (reference AIT OA/44119/2006). [152001]

Bridget Prentice: Information shows that the Immigration Judge determination for appeal reference OA/44119/2006 was served upon the Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) on 3 July 2007.

In Entry Clearance and Family Visitor appeals the determination is served upon the BIA (formerly the Immigration and Nationality Directorate) who will arrange for the forwarding of the determination to the entry clearance post that made the original refusal.

Aylesbury Prison: Prisoners Release

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have been released from HMP Aylesbury under the end of custody licence scheme since 27 June 2007; how many of those released have since been returned to *(a)* HMP Aylesbury and *(b)* other prisons; and to which other prisons such prisoners have been returned. [150710]

Mr. Hanson: One prisoner from HMP Aylesbury was released under end of custody licence between 29 June and 5 July. 12 prisoners overall were returned to prison during this period out of a total released of 1,701. Information on the numbers of prisoners returned to each prison by individual establishment is not available.

These figures are based on statistics published on 16 July and updates will be published monthly.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Bailiffs

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that local authorities, magistrates courts and bailiffs *(a)* are aware of and *(b)* comply with the 2002 National Standards for Enforcement Agents, with particular reference to page 9, covering vulnerable situations. [150925]

Maria Eagle: The leaflet "Effective Enforcement—National Standards for Enforcement Agents" was produced with the assistance of and endorsed by industry and Government, including local authorities. The guidance is not legally binding; rather it sets out what the Department, those in the industry and some major users including creditor groups regard as a benchmark for professional standards within enforcement.

Much of the content within the national standards leaflet will now be reflected in the underpinning regulations arising from provisions in the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Bill, which finished its parliamentary passage on 17 July. This will include training requirements for bailiffs for an enhanced and extended certification regime. Agents will be required to have a working knowledge of all the relevant areas of enforcement law and of the national standards in particular how to deal with vulnerable and potentially vulnerable debtors and others present at the premises. This will provide considerable protection for genuinely impoverished and vulnerable debtors.

As part of the development of the underpinning rules and regulations and implementation of the provisions in the Bill HMCS will now be re-engaging with all interested parties. We will use this opportunity to remind the industry including local authorities, magistrates courts and bailiffs themselves of the contents and purpose of the national standards. The outcome of this consultation process will inform the implementation timetable.

Care Proceedings

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the average number of court hearings per child care case was in each of the last five years; [150644]

(2) how many child care cases have come to court *(a)* within a month, *(b)* between one and three months, *(c)* between three and six months, *(d)* between six and 12 months, *(e)* in over a year and *(f)* in over 18 months in the last 10 years; [150647]

(3) how many care cases involving a child came to court in each of the last five years. [150648]

Bridget Prentice: Information on the number of court hearings per child care case is not held centrally.

Table 1 shows the length of time from receipt of application to final order for care cases in England and Wales grouped as requested. The data are presented separately by family proceedings courts and county courts as more complex cases are transferred to the county courts. These data are only available from 2005 for the family proceedings courts and 2003 for the county courts.

Table 2 shows the number of care applications to the courts in England and Wales in each of the last four years. Application data for all jurisdictions prior to 2003 are not available.

Table 1: Completed care cases by time between date of application and final order and by court jurisdiction, 2003 to 2006, England and Wales

	2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Family proceedings courts								
Within a month	—	—	—	—	35	1	16	0
Between one and three months	—	—	—	—	52	2	48	1
Between three and six months	—	—	—	—	554	16	429	12
Between six and 12 months	—	—	—	—	1,953	57	2,074	58
Between one year and 18 months	—	—	—	—	567	16	767	22
Over 18 months	—	—	—	—	279	8	215	6
Total	—	—	—	—	3,440	100	3,549	100
County courts								
Within a month	16	1	8	0	6	0	6	0
Between one and three months	41	1	43	1	35	1	42	1
Between three and six months	292	10	272	8	281	9	222	8
Between six and 12 months	1,454	48	1,536	48	1,651	53	1,594	54
Between one year and 18 months	764	25	762	24	702	23	687	23
Over 18 months	463	15	585	18	431	14	403	14
Total	3,030	100	3,206	100	3,106	100	2,954	100

Notes:
1. Cases transferred from the family proceedings court to the county court are counted solely in the latter, but are measured from date of initial application to the family proceedings court.
2. Family proceedings court data are measured by child, county court data by case. One case may involve more than one child.

Table 2: Care applications, 2003 to 2006, England and Wales

	2003	2004	2005	2006[1]
Care applications	11,046	12,099	14,389	13,446

[1] Figures for 2006 are provisional and subject to change.
Note:
Figures relate to the number of children who were the subject of each care application. An application relating to two children will be counted twice.

Care Proceedings: Legal Aid Scheme

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost per case of providing legal aid to those involved in childcare cases was in each of the last 10 years. [150649]

Maria Eagle: The information is not available in the format requested. The Legal Services Commission record bills on its systems and two or more bills can relate to the same case where more than one person is assisted in that case. The average gross cost of a bill in public law child care cases between 1999-2000 and 2006-07 is set out in the following table. Prior to 1999-2000 the information is not available as bills were analysed by court venue rather than the type of assistance provided.

	Average gross cost (£)
1999-2000	3,999
2000-01	4,066
2001-02	4,687
2002-03	5,439
2003-04	5,895
2004-05	5,827
2005-06	6,425
2006-07	7,691

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received legal aid for the costs of representation in care cases involving children in each of the last five years. [150650]

Maria Eagle: The number of people who applied for and received representation in public law child care cases in each of the last five years is as follows:

	Applications	*Certificates issued*[1]
2002-03	27,556	27,084
2003-04	25,692	25,390
2004-05	27,048	26,822
2005-06	28,109	27,898
2006-07	28,744	28,497

[1]Applications granted.

Constituencies

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will review the Boundary Commission's mechanisms for co-ordinating its work on parliamentary constituencies and local government boundaries. [151690]

Bridget Prentice: Reviews of parliamentary constituency and local government boundaries in England are currently conducted by separate bodies: respectively the Boundary Commission for England, and the Boundary Committee for England (part of the Electoral Commission).

The Eleventh Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life has recommended that the Boundary Committee for England be removed from the Electoral Commission and re-established as a separate organisation. It has also recommended that a single secretariat be established to support jointly both organisations, in large part to improve the co-ordination of their work.

The Government will be responding to the CSPL recommendations shortly.

Coroners

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how the proposed non-statutory Chief Coroner would enforce decisions; whether such decisions would be subject to judicial review; and if he will make a statement. [151692]

Bridget Prentice: I am currently considering what the role and responsibilities of a non-statutory Chief Coroner might be, and whether such a post would provide a helpful addition to current arrangements at this time.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice who is responsible for providing coroners' court facilities; and who will be responsible under his Department's proposals for reform. [151693]

Bridget Prentice: Coroners have a statutory duty to undertake inquests and order post-mortem examinations, and the relevant local authority is responsible for meeting the costs. A number of coroners have dedicated courts provided by their local authority. Where this is not the case coroners liaise with their local authorities and local HMCS court managers to secure the use of suitable court accommodation. In a reformed system these basic arrangements will not change. Where difficulties with court provision are identified we will continue to work with coroners and other stakeholders to help find local solutions.

Coroners: Armed Forces

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many coroner's inquests arising from *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan have been completed; and how many were completed by coroners other than the Oxfordshire and Wiltshire coroner. [151638]

Bridget Prentice: 109 inquests arising from Iraq since 2003 have been completed. Four of these have been held by coroners other than the Oxfordshire or Wiltshire and Swindon coroners.

Eight inquests arising from Afghanistan since 2001 have been completed. Four of these have been completed by coroners other than the Oxfordshire and Wiltshire and Swindon coroners.

Departments: Crime

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criminal offences have been introduced by his Department in primary legislation since October 2006. [149720]

Maria Eagle: For my Department during the period in question, the only primary legislation that introduced criminal offences was the Fraud Act 2006. That Act, owned by the Home Office until the creation of the Ministry of Justice, created a mixture of new offences and those that replaced earlier existing criminal offences. However counting all offences created by the Fraud Act including those replacing existing offences the Act created five new offences:

These are as follows:

Section 1 Fraud. This replaced various deception offences in the Theft Acts 1968 and 1978, the Theft Act (Northern Ireland) 1969 and the Theft (Northern Ireland) Order 1978.

Section 6 Possession etc. of articles for use in frauds: This is a new offence but it replaced the "cheat" elements of section 25 of the Theft Act 1968 and section 24 of the Theft Act (Northern Ireland) 1969. The new offence in section 6 is broader than the cheat element of section 24 and section 25 had been.

Section 7 Making or supplying articles for use in frauds.

Section 9 Participating in a fraudulent business carried on by a sole trader etc.

Section 11 Obtaining services dishonestly: This replaced section 1 of the Theft Act 1978 and Article 3 of the Theft (Northern Ireland) Order 1978.

Departments: Departmental Responsibilities

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to make a statement on discussions with the working group of the judiciary on creation of his Department. [150505]

Mr. Straw: I have met with the Lord Chief Justice on a number of occasions since my appointment to discuss a variety of issues, including those raised in the judicial working group.

I will keep Parliament informed of any significant developments.

Departments: Early Retirement

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of his staff took early retirement in the last five years; at what cost; what grades of staff took early retirement; and what percentage of each grade took early retirement. [148813]

Maria Eagle: The following table sets out the proportion of staff who took early retirement between 1 April 2002 and 31 March 2007, broken down by grade.

A breakdown of cost would be provided by the civil service pension payroll provider (Capita Hartshead) but could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Financial year	*Leaving reason*	*Government grade*	*Number of staff taking retirement*
1 April 2002-31 March 2003	Approved early retirement	EO	1
		SEO	1
	Approved early retirement total		2
	Flexible early retirement limited postability	SEO	1
	Flexible early retirement limited postability total		1
Total			3
1 April 2003-31 March 2004	Approved early retirement	AO	2
		SCS	1
		SEO	1
	Approved early retirement total		4
	Flexible early retirement limited efficiency	G7	2
	Flexible early retirement limited efficiency total		2
	Flexible early retirement limited postability	G6	1
		SCS	4
	Flexible early retirement limited postability total		5
	Flexible early retirement structural grounds	SCS	1
	Flexible early retirement structural grounds total		1
Total			12
1 April 2004-31 March 2005	Approved early retirement	EO	1
		SEO	1
	Approved early retirement total		2
	Compulsory early retirement structural grounds	SCS	3
	Compulsory early retirement structural grounds total		3
	Flexible early retirement limited postability	SCS	1
	Flexible early retirement limited postability total		1
	Flexible early retirement structural grounds	G7	1
	Flexible early retirement structural grounds total		1
Total			7
1 April 2005-31 March 2006	Flexible early retirement structural grounds	G6	1
	Flexible early retirement structural grounds total		1
Total			1
1 April 2006-31 March 2007	Approved early retirement	AO	1
		Unknown grade	5
	Approved early retirement total		6
	Early retirement compulsory redundancy	G6	3
		Unknown grade	1
		SCS	4
		SEO	1

Financial year	Leaving reason	Government grade	Number of staff taking retirement
	Early retirement compulsory redundancy total		9
	Early retirement compulsory structural grounds	AO	1
		HEO	1
		Unknown grade	7
		SEO	3
	Early retirement compulsory structural grounds total		12
	Flexible early retirement structural grounds	AO	3
		EO	2
		G7	1
		HEO	8
		Unknown grade	7
		SEO	2
	Flexible early retirement structural grounds total		23
Total			50
Grand total			73

Financial year early retirement period	Headcount early retirement total	Staff in post total	Taken from published stats, headcount, on-strength perm. and temp. snap shot date	Proportion (percentage)
1 April 2006-31 March 2007	50	27,720	31 March 2007 Q ONS PSES	0.180
1 April 2005-31 March 2006	1	26,596	31 March 2006 Q ONS PSES	0.003
1 April 2004-31 March 2005	7	14,113	31 March 2005 Q ONS PSES	0.049
1 April 2003-31 March 2004	12	13,250	1 April 2004 Mandate	0.090
1 April 2002-31 March 2003	3	13,000	1 April 2003 Mandate	0.023

Dispute Resolution Procedures

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment his Department has made of the Joint Industry Board for the Electrical Contracting Industry's dispute resolution procedures; and if he will make a statement. [150038]

Bridget Prentice: My Department has made no assessment. However, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs on 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 284-85W.

Electronic Tagging

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases of tagged offenders *(a)* disarming their tags and *(b)* breaking curfews while tagged have been reported to police in each of the last three years; and how many resulted in prosecution. [150339]

Mr. Hanson: The electronic monitoring contractors are only required to report to the police breaches of curfew for those subject to court bail conditions under the Bail Act 1976. According to data provided by the contactors the number of breaches reported to the police in such cases, in the previous two financial years, is as follows:

Financial year	Deliberate tag tampers (including removals)	Other breaches
2005-06	1,073	11,435
2006-07	1,942	43,843

The large increase in the number of reported breaches in 2006-07 reflects the increase in the number of people made subject to bail conditions with a curfew requirement compared to the previous year.

The figures include multiple breaches/tag tampers committed by tagged persons on bail and reported to the police. Data for the year 2004-05 are not available as they relate to the previous contract, and could be provided only through a manual trawl of records at disproportionate cost.

The system is designed to ensure that any attempt to remove a tag within the curfew address automatically registers as a tamper at the electronic monitoring service provider's control centre.

Data on the number of cases resulting in prosecution are not available centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost, through collating information from each police force.

Electronic Tagging: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offences were committed by tagged offenders in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each year since 2003. [151360]

Mr. Hanson: Data on reoffending by offenders wearing electronic tags are collated centrally only in respect of offenders released on to the Home Detention Curfew Scheme. The data are not broken down by areas in which subsequent offences are committed. To provide such information would involve a manual trawl of all reoffending data since 2003; such an exercise would incur disproportionate cost.

General Commissioners of Income Tax

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of Clerks to the General Commissioner who will be involved in the final year scheme. [150921]

Bridget Prentice: The final year scheme will involve all of the Clerks who are in office when the year begins. There are currently 234 Clerks.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse of the Clerks to the General Commissioner of Taxes was in 2006-07. [150922]

Bridget Prentice: The total cost of the Clerks to the General Commissioners in 2006-07 was £2,393,000.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of the remuneration will be under the proposed final year scheme for Clerks to General Commissioners. [150931]

Bridget Prentice: It is not possible to say at this stage what the costs of remuneration will be in the final year. This is because the final package of remuneration will be based on the work the Clerks do in the preceding year. Some of the details of the scheme are also still to be finalised. Officials are currently drawing up draft proposals for discussion with the Association of Clerks. These will be ready by the end of the summer.

Legal Aid Scheme: Children

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of the legal aid budget dedicated to public law Children Act matters was spent on expert witnesses in each year from 2001-02 to 2005-06. [150919]

Maria Eagle: The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The Legal Services Commission does not keep records to that level of detail and records only solicitor disbursements generally.

Legal Aid Scheme: Expert Evidence

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of the legal aid budget was spent on expert witnesses in each year from 2001-02 to 2005-06. [150926]

Maria Eagle: The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The Legal Services Commission does not keep records to that level of detail and records only solicitor disbursements generally.

Mediation

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions the Legal Services Commission used sanctions against solicitors for not providing advice to clients on mediation in family disputes in each of the last three years. [150037]

Maria Eagle: None. Under the Law Society's Family Law Protocol, family solicitors are required to advise clients on the benefits of mediation where it is appropriate for the client. Legally aided clients are required to consider mediation before proceedings are issued.

There are no specific contract sanctions available at present. The discussions that the solicitor has with the client on the potential use of mediation are evidenced by the completion of a 'Suitability of Mediation' form. If this form is not completed and submitted when the solicitor applies for funding to issue proceedings, the application will be rejected and not processed until the solicitor has completed the form and resubmitted the application for funding.

The LSC will be monitoring the number of referrals made by individual firms to mediation. An improved monitoring system, to be implemented in October 2007, will extract information from LSC databases on the reasons used by individual firms for exemption from mediation. Where it is shown that solicitors' firms do not make appropriate and timely referrals, the LSC Relationship Manager will have discussions with the firm about this. Funding to continue with proceedings will be refused until the solicitor has demonstrated that mediation has been assessed as not appropriate, or has been attempted and broken down.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he intends to answer the letter to his predecessor of 29 May from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr Paul Southworth. [150490]

Bridget Prentice: The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor will write to the right hon. Member soon and apologises for the unacceptable delay which was due to an administrative error.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he will reply to the letter of 12th June 2007 (Ministry of Justice Reference: 162453/13868) from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire. [150764]

Bridget Prentice: My right hon. Friend the Member for Delyn (Mr. Hanson) will write to the hon. Member soon and apologises for the unacceptable delay, which was due to an administrative error.

Oakhill Secure Training Centre

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 12 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 69WS, on Oakhill Secure Training Centre, what recent assessment he has made of staff levels at secure training centres. [150621]

Mr. Hanson: The contracts with the operating companies specify minimum staffing levels. These assume that the centre is operating at full capacity.

Hassockfield, Medway and Rainsbrook met minimum staffing levels throughout the period 1 June to 8 July. During this period, there were three days on which staffing levels at Oakhill fell below the minimum staffing level. However, on each of these days there was a sufficient number of staff to care for and work with the number of young people who were placed at the centre at that time.

The issue of staffing shortfalls is being addressed by the Oakhill contractor, Group 4 Securicor. The contractor has drawn up a recovery plan which the Youth Justice Board is monitoring. The Board is working with the contractor on the implementation of the action plan.

Prison Service: Corruption

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent assessment is of levels of corruption within the Prison Service; and if he will make a statement. [150736]

Mr. Hanson: I refer to my noble friend the Lord Falconer of Thoroton's statement in the other place on 10 May 2007. We recognise that there are small pockets of corruption in Her Majesty's Prison Service. We are focusing on five steps: properly identifying the extent of the threat; working to improve our intelligence on matters of corruption; working to implement common standards across the prison estate; ensuring we reinforce a culture where corruption is not tolerated; and working closely with police and other interested agencies.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) on what date Michael Spurr was interviewed as part of the Tasker investigation; and if he will make a statement; [150961]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 390W, on the Tasker inquiry, who the previous commissioning authority referred to in the answer was; and if he will make a statement; [150962]

(3) on what date *(a)* Keith Munns and *(b)* Nick Pascoe received a copy of the partial report of the Tasker inquiry; and if he will make a statement; [150963]

(4) on what date Keith Munns was interviewed as part of the Tasker inquiry; on what date he relinquished responsibility as commissioning authority for the inquiry; to whom he relinquished it; and if he will make a statement; [150964]

(5) on what date Nick Pascoe took over the commissioning authority role for the Tasker inquiry; who the commissioning authority was immediately before that; and if he will make a statement; [150965]

(6) who was responsible as commissioning authority for the Tasker inquiry after Keith Munns was interviewed as part of the investigation; and if he will make a statement; [150974]

(7) whether the Deputy Director General of HM Prison Service had access to the partial report of the Tasker inquiry prior to *(a)* agreeing to be interviewed and *(b)* being interviewed as part of the investigation; and if he will make a statement; [150975]

(8) who acted as commissioning authority for the Tasker inquiry between the retirement of Keith Munns and the transfer to Nick Pascoe; and if he will make a statement; [150976]

(9) on what date Ron Tasker was informed that *(a)* Keith Munns had ceased to be the commissioning authority for his investigation and *(b)* Nick Pascoe had assumed responsibility; whether a draft of his interim report had been submitted to the commissioning authority previous to either of these dates; to whom the draft of the interim report was submitted and on what date; and if he will make a statement; [150977]

(10) what representations were received by *(a)* Helen Edwards and *(b)* Phil Wheatley on Keith Munns' role as commissioning authority for the Tasker inquiry (i) while area manager for London, (ii) at the point of his retirement and (iii) subsequent to his retirement; and if he will make a statement; [150978]

(11) whether the Deputy Director General of HM Prison Service had access to the interim report of the Tasker inquiry before being interviewed as part of the inquiry on 10 May 2007; and if he will make a statement; [150981]

(12) pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2057W, on the Prison Service: public appointments, to whom Keith Munns was reporting when he was supporting the completion of the Tasker inquiry report; whether he was supporting Nick Pascoe or Michael Spurr in the preparation of the interim report of the Tasker inquiry; whether Michael Spurr was acting as the commissioning authority at the time of the appointment of Keith Munns for that role; on what date that appointment took place; and if he will make a statement; [151041]

(13) pursuant to the answer of 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1684W, on the Tasker inquiry, what the change in the terms of reference for the Tasker investigation was; and if he will make a statement; [151050]

(14) on what date the Deputy Director General of HM Prison Service first asked Nick Pascoe to assume responsibility as commissioning authority for the Tasker inquiry; on what date he became commissioning authority; and if he will make a statement; [151051]

(15) whether the Deputy Director General of HM Prison Service has held responsibility as commissioning authority for the Tasker inquiry; and if he will make a statement; [151053]

(16) pursuant to the answers of 31 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 201W, on the Tasker investigation, 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1941W, on the Prison Service: disclosure of information and 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 980W, on Wandsworth Prison, what the cause is of the delay in the completion of the report of the Tasker inquiry; what estimate he has made of the additional cost incurred as a consequence of these delays; when he expects the Tasker report to be *(a)* completed and *(b)* submitted; and if he will make a statement. [151075]

Maria Eagle: Due to the number and detail of the linked questions it has not been possible to provide a full response. I will write to the hon. Member once I have considered fully.

Prison Service: Manpower

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers were working in the Prison Service in each year since 1997; what the average prison officer to prisoner ratio was at each *(a)* adult prison, *(b)* young offender institution and *(c)* secure training centre in each year; what plans he has to increase the number of prison officers; and if he will make a statement. [150709]

Mr. Hanson: The available information (we do not have complete information for private sector prisons or secure training units STCs) is set out in the tables.

There are no figures available for STCs but the supervision level is typically one member of staff to between 2.5 - 3.5 young offenders.

In the public sector Prison Service a Business Change Team will work alongside the HR Directorate to plan and co-ordinate recruitment activity for new prisoner places and the transfer of experienced staff to enable new prisoner places to operate effectively. Normal recruitment activity continues to be largely managed at area level to ensure that staffing continues within agreed operating margins.

Officer grade staff in public sector Prison Service and contracted prisons[1,2,3,4]

Date as at 31 March:	*Officers*
1997	23,058
1998	23,602
1999	24,113
2000	24,346
2001[5]	24,023
2002[5]	23,581
2003	24,527
2004[5]	25,461
2005[5]	26,246
2006	26,747
2007	27,053

[1] Figures include both publicly and privately managed prison establishments but not secure training centres.
[2] Figures are provided on a headcount basis ie part-time officers count as one.
[3] Figures relate to prison officers, senior officers and principal officers within the public sector Prison Service and prison custody officers within contracted prisons
[4] Officers employed within public sector Prison Service Headquarters are included
[5] The data for private sector prisons are incomplete.

Prisoner to officer ratio at adult establishments—1997-08 to 2006-07[1,2]

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Acklington	3.6	3.6	3.2	3.4	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.8
Albany	2.4	2.6	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5
Aldington	1.7	3.2	1.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ashwell	4.5	4.4	4.1	3.9	3.9	4.9	4.7	4.9	5.0	5.2
Askham Grange	4.2	4.5	4.4	4.0	4.4	4.4	4.0	3.4	3.3	3.7
Bedford	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.8	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.3	3.4
Belmarsh	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.8
Birmingham	2.7	3.1	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.9	2.5	2.8	2.8	2.7
Blakenhurst[3]	—	—	—	—	7.8	5.5	4.9	3.6	4.1	4.1
Blantyre House	4.0	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.8	3.7	3.9
Blundeston	2.5	2.1	2.3	2.5	2.6	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.1
Bristol	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.9	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.5
Brixton	1.7	2.1	2.4	2.5	2.8	3.1	3.5	3.6	3.4	3.6
Brockhill	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.6
Buckley Hall[3]	—	—	—	3.9	3.1	2.3	2.7	2.8	2.0	3.6
Bullingdon	2.7	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.6	4.0	4.3	4.2	4.0	3.9
Bullwood Hall	1.9	1.9	1.7	2.1	2.3	2.2	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8
Camp Hill	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.5	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.7
Canterbury	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.9	2.7
Cardiff	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.3	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.0
Channings Wood	3.8	4.2	3.8	3.7	3.9	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.9	3.9
Chelmsford	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.4	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.0
Coldingley	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.5	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.2
Cookham Wood	2.5	2.9	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.5	2.3	2.5	2.0	2.0
Dartmoor	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.6	3.0	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.7
Dorchester	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.9	3.0	2.8	2.4	2.3	2.3
Dover	—	—	—	—	1.8	1.7	2.6	2.4	2.6	2.4
Downview	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.7	1.9	2.5	2.1	1.8	2.0	2.6
Drake Hall	4.4	4.2	3.1	2.6	3.3	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.1
Durham	2.3	2.1	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	2.4	2.8
East Sutton Park	4.2	4.1	3.6	3.3	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.7	4.2	4.3
Eastwood Park	2.5	2.9	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.0	2.3
Edmunds Hill	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.1	1.1	2.0	2.8
Elmley	3.2	3.5	3.3	3.1	3.4	3.5	3.8	3.8	3.8	4.2
Erlestoke	3.0	3.3	3.1	3.1	3.3	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.7
Everthorpe	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.1	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.8
Exeter	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.7
Featherstone	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.9	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2

Prisoner to officer ratio at adult establishments—1997-98 to 2006-07[1,2]

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Ford	7.5	6.8	5.9	5.7	6.8	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.2	6.9
Foston Hall	1.8	2.5	2.5	2.0	2.4	2.5	2.3	2.1	2.1	1.8
Frankland	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2
Full Sutton	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Garth	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.5
Gartree	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.3	2.8	2.7	2.7
Gloucester	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.6
Grendon	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.7	3.1	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.6
Guys Marsh	—	—	—	3.9	4.0	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.1	4.1
Haslar	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.2	3.0	2.7	2.4	2.6	2.7
Haverigg	3.9	3.5	2.8	3.0	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.2
Hewell Grange	6.4	6.8	6.5	6.1	5.8	6.4	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.8
High Down	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.5	2.7	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.3
Highpoint	3.6	3.1	3.2	3.2	4.9	5.6	4.0	4.3	4.2	4.2
Hollesley Bay	2.6	2.4	2.2	—	2.1	2.8	6.7	5.7	5.5	5.3
Holloway	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.9	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.7
Holme House	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.8	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.2
Hull	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.4	2.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1
Kingston	1.6	2.1	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.2	2.0	2.6	2.6
Kirkham	7.8	7.0	5.4	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.8	5.2	5.0	4.8
Kirklevington Grange	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9
Lancaster	2.4	2.5	2.1	1.6	2.5	2.8	2.9	2.5	2.8	2.6
Latchmere House	5.0	4.6	4.5	4.7	4.4	4.8	5.1	5.6	5.4	5.3
Leeds	2.5	2.7	2.8	2.8	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.7
Leicester	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.4	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.6
Lewes	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.6	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.2
Leyhill	5.4	5.2	5.4	5.2	5.8	6.7	7.3	7.1	6.2	5.1
Lincoln	2.6	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.4
Lindholme	3.5	3.8	3.3	2.9	3.5	3.8	3.6	3.4	3.8	4.1
Littlehey	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.8	4.0	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4
Liverpool	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.5	2.8	3.0	3.2	3.1	3.0
Long Lartin	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1
Low Newton	—	—	—	1.2	1.8	2.3	2.3	2.0	2.0	1.7	1.7
Maidstone	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.0	2.6	3.1	3.6	3.6	3.8
Manchester	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.6	3.0	3.0	2.7	2.5	2.5
Moorland	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Morton Hall	6.2	6.2	6.1	2.5	2.6	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.5	3.0
New Hall	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.5	2.4	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.6	1.6
North Sea Camp	6.2	5.8	6.0	6.1	5.7	7.1	7.0	5.9	5.4	5.0
Northallerton	—	—	—	2.6	2.6	2.9	—	—	—	—
Norwich	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.6	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.1
Nottingham	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.8	3.1	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.4
Onley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.7	2.8	3.2
Parkhurst	1.4	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.7
Pentonville	2.5	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.0	2.8
Preston	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.0	2.2	2.6	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.7
Ranby	3.8	4.3	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.1	3.6	3.8
Risley	2.4	2.4	2.6	2.7	2.9	3.2	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.7
Rochester	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.1	1.6	1.2	—	—	—	—
Send	4.3	1.4	2.1	2.9	3.1	3.5	3.2	3.1	2.6	2.6
Shepton Mallet	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.2	2.6	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0
Shrewsbury	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.9	3.1	3.1	2.8	2.6	3.0
Stafford	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.4	3.7	3.8	4.0	4.1	4.2
Standford Hill	4.8	4.6	3.8	3.9	4.3	4.8	4.6	4.9	5.5	5.6
Stocken	3.7	4.3	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
Styal	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.1	2.1	2.3
Sudbury	7.0	7.4	7.4	7.5	8.0	8.0	7.9	8.0	8.1	7.9
Swaleside	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.0	3.1	3.4
Swansea	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.8	2.6	2.4	2.6	2.8
The Mount	4.3	4.5	4.0	4.6	4.8	5.2	5.1	5.0	4.8	4.6
The Verne	4.2	4.4	4.3	4.5	4.6	4.9	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.3
Usk/Prescoed	3.1	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.8	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.2
Wakefield	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.8
Wandsworth	2.2	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.4	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.7
Wayland	4.4	4.3	4.0	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.6

Prisoner to officer ratio at adult establishments—1997-08 to 2006-07[1,2]

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Wealstun	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.2	3.9	3.6	3.5	4.0	4.0
Weare	—	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.2	5.5	—
Wellingborough	2.8	3.0	2.8	3.2	3.5	3.7	3.4	3.0	3.2	3.6
Whatton	3.1	3.4	3.7	3.7	3.3	3.2	3.4	2.7	1.8	3.4
Whitemoor	1.0	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0
Winchester	2.2	2.4	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.2
Woodhill	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.8
Wormwood Scrubs	3.0	2.8	2.0	2.5	3.3	4.0	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9
Wymott	3.3	3.5	3.7	3.8	4.0	3.7	3.3	4.0	4.1	4.0
GSL Prisons[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.8
Bronzefield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.6	2.8	2.7
Dovegate	—	—	—	—	—	3.8	4.3	3.5	3.6	3.7
Doncaster	—	—	—	—	9.2	6.1	4.5	4.3	4.1	4.4
Forest Bank	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.7	5.7	5.4	5.4
Lowdham Grange	—	—	—	—	3.9	4.2	4.3	4.0	3.7	3.6
Peterborough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.7	3.3
Parc	—	3.9	3.2	3.2	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.6

[1] The ratio is the average prisoner population against the average number of officer grade staff except for the 1997-98 and 1998-99 officer figures where a snapshot at the start of the year is used. This is the standard form of ratio that is captured.
[2] A blank entry means that the establishment was either not open during the year, not that category during the year or, for contracted establishments, officer numbers were not available for the period. An establishment can therefore appear in more than one table.
[4] Staff numbers for Blakenhurst and Buckley Hall are not available for the period when they were privately managed.
[4] GSL reported staff numbers together for the three prisons they manage—Altcourse, Rye Hill and Wolds.

Prisoner to officer ratios at young offender establishments—1997-08 to 2006-07[1,2]

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Aylesbury	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.4
Brinsford	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Castington	2.4	2.6	1.7	1.1	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.7	1.6	1.8
Deerbolt	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.3
Dover	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Feltham	2.7	2.6	2.3	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.5
Glen Parva	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.0	2.8	2.9	3.0
Guys Marsh	3.8	4.0	3.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hindley	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.8	2.0
Hollesley Bay	—	—	—	1.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Huntercombe	2.9	3.0	1.9	2.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lancaster Farms	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
Low Newton	2.6	1.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Moorland	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	—	—	—	—
Northallerton	2.6	2.9	3.1	—	—	—	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.6
Onley	3.3	3.0	2.6	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.1	—	—	—
Portland	3.2	3.5	3.3	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.7
Reading	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.9	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.3
Rochester	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.5	2.4	2.7	2.7
Stoke Heath	3.5	3.3	3.0	2.3	2.3	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.8
Swinfen Hall	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.1	2.9	2.9
Thorn Cross	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.4	2.1	1.9
Usk/Prescoed	3.1	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.8	—	—	—	—
Werrington	3.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wetherby	2.8	2.2	2.1	1.7	—	—	—	—	—	—

[1] The ratio is the average prisoner population against the average number of officer grade staff except for the 1997-98 and 1998-99 officer figures where a snapshot at the start of the year is used. This is the standard form of ratio that is captured.
[2] A blank entry means that the establishment was either not open during the year, not that category during the year or, for contracted establishments, officer numbers were not available for the period. An establishment can therefore appear in more than one table.

Prison Service: Overtime

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on staff overtime in *(a)* the Prison Service and *(b)* the Probation Service in the last five years for which figures are available. [150133]

Mr. Hanson: Expenditure on overtime in HM Prison Service is as follows.

	£
2006-07	10,610,045.39
2005-06	11,290,807.25
2004-05	11,845,928.68
2003-04	12,253,706.70
2002-03	12,074,887.73

In addition, the prison service has operated in some establishments a Coptracted Supplementary Hours (CSH) scheme to meet specific operational needs, by which it

pays for agreed volumes of additional hours from individual staff for specific periods at a standardised hourly rate. In some localised circumstances it is also possible for staff to work additional hours, for which they receive time off in lieu of payment. The expenditure on CSH (to nearest thousand pounds) is as follows:

	£
2006-07	19,684,000
2005-06	15,226,000
2004-05	17,183,000
2003-04	18,341,000
2002-03	[1]

[1] Not separately recorded.

Expenditure on overtime in the contracted out prisons is not collected by the Ministry of Justice.

The Ministry of Justice does not currently collect information on overtime expenditure from the 42 probation boards.

Prison Service: Professional Standards Unit

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 951W, on the Prison Service: Professional Standards Unit, who has the responsibility for the *(a)* monitoring and *(b)* checking of formal investigations within HM Prison Service; what the role of the Professional Standards Unit is in this regard; and if he will make a statement. [151042]

Mr. Hanson: The Investigation Support Section of the Professional Standards Unit registers, tracks the progress of and logs all formal investigations. The Commissioning Authority, not the Professional Standards Unit, is responsible for checking the quality of the report and ensuring that terms of reference have been met.

Prisoners

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what projection he has made of *(a)* the operational prison capacity and *(b)* the certified nominal accommodation of the prison estate in England and Wales on (a) 1 October, (b) 1 January, (c) 1 April and (d) 1 July in each year to April 2012. [150504]

Mr. Hanson: NOMS undertakes a rolling programme of refurbishment on the prison estate. As schemes come back into use following refurbishment, other schemes are taken forward and the accommodation is taken out of use.

8,000 new prison places were announced by the Home Secretary in July 2006 and a further 1,500 places by the Lord Chancellor on 19 June. The programme is still in the planning stages and the number of places to be provided beyond 2007 has not been finalised.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice from which prisons prisoners have been released under the End of Custody Licence Scheme; and how many prisoners have been released under the scheme, broken down by offence for which they were imprisoned. [150749]

Mr. Hanson: Figures showing the numbers of prisoners who were released under End of Custody Licence between 29 June and 5 July from prison establishments within England and Wales, showing from which prison they were released and the offence group for which they were serving sentences, can be found in the following table. These figures are based on statistics published on 16 July and updates will be published monthly.

The End of Custody Licence was introduced on 29 June 2007. Eligible prisoners serving between four weeks and less than four years may be released under licence from prison up to 18 days before their automatic release date.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Table 1: ECL releases: by offence, sentence length, age, ethnic group and sex

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
All ECL releases between 29 June 2007 and 5 July 2007	1,552	149	1,701
By offence			
Violence against the person[1]	317	27	344
Robbery	22	2	24
Burglary	148	1	149
Theft and Handling	354	50	404
Fraud and Forgery	31	6	37
Drug offences	57	8	65
Motoring offences	213	6	219
Other offences	379	48	427
Offence not recorded	31	1	32

[1] Excludes serious violent offences such as murder, manslaughter, wounding with intent to commit grievous bodily harm, possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life, child cruelty and serious explosives offences. A full list of exclusions can be found in Prison Service Instruction 27/2007.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. See Data Sources and Quality section of report for more information.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were released under the End of Custody Licence Scheme on each day since 27 June 2007; and how many of those released have since been re-arrested for further suspected offences. [150794]

Mr. Hanson: Figures showing the daily number of releases of prisoners released on End of Custody Licence up to the end of the period for which published material is available, and the numbers returned to prison, are in the following tables:

Date	*Number of releases*
Friday 29 June 2007	884
Monday 2 July 2007	506
Tuesday 3 July 2007	124
Wednesday 4 July 2007	87
Thursday 5 July 2007	100

	Number
Decisions to recall as notified to NOMS	30
By reason for recall:	
Re-offended1	6
Failed to reside2	6
Out of touch3	11
Poor behaviour4	7
Number of offenders unlawfully at large on 5 July 2007	18

Information on the number of arrests for suspected offences is not held centrally.

These figures are based on statistics published on 16 July and updates will be published monthly. The End of Custody Licence was introduced on 29 June 2007.

Eligible prisoners serving between four weeks and less than four years may be released under licence from prison up to 18 days before their automatic release date. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Dorset

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* certified normal capacity and *(b)* current prison population for prisons is in Dorset. [151594]

Mr. Hanson: The data requested are provided in the following table. These figures are for 20 July 2007.

Prison	*Certified normal accommodation*[1]	*Operational capacity*[2]	*Population*
Dorchester	147	260	235
Guys Marsh	520	578	561
Portland	519	557	543
Verne	558	593	586

[1] The Certified normal accommodation (CNA) of a prison measures its capacity to accommodate prisoners in uncrowded conditions.
[2] Operational capacity for establishments is the total number of prisoners that an establishment can hold taking into account control, security and the proper operation of the planned regime.

Probation

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders were being monitored by each local probation service in each of the last 10 years. [150792]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the number of persons supervised by each probation service area in England and Wales at 31 December in each year from 2002 to 2005 is shown in the following table. Data for 2006 are due to be published on 31 July 2007. The data at local area level were not sufficiently robust for publication prior to 2002.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Total persons supervised by each probation service area at 31 December, 2002 to 2005

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Avon and Somerset	3,587	3,751	3,989	4,120
Bedfordshire	1,983	2,306	2,509	2,303
Cambridgeshire	1,974	2,148	2,269	2,635
Cheshire	2,548	2,605	2,763	3,256
Cumbria	1,805	1,837	1,924	1,881
Derbyshire	3,560	3,616	3,715	3,864
Devon and Cornwall	3,980	3,991	3,767	3,910
Dorset	1,680	1,567	1,647	1,781
Durham	2,175	2,247	2,255	2,371
Dyfed-Powys	1,241	1,293	1,290	1,341
East and West Sussex	4,159	4,473	4,798	4,515
Essex	3,905	4,169	4,691	5,098
Gloucestershire	1,435	1,470	1,605	1,723
Greater Manchester	12,896	13,514	14,386	14,988
Gwent	2,458	2,369	2,486	2,445
Hampshire	5,164	5,085	5,458	5,896
Hertfordshire	2,311	1,767	2,837	2,983
Humberside	3,498	2,512	3,785	3,979
Kent	4,633	4,719	4,619	4,685
Lancashire	6,029	5,995	6,083	6,421
Leicestershire	3,340	3,505	3,462	3,709
Lincolnshire	1,662	1,976	2,032	1,882
London	31,992	30,690	34,011	41,665
Merseyside	7,912	8,704	9,249	10,297
Norfolk	2,273	2,270	2,290	2,430
North Wales	2,060	2,104	2,242	2,398
North Yorkshire	1,697	1,876	1,984	2,237
Northamptonshire	1,998	2,133	2,205	2,303
Northumbria	5,686	5,848	5,742	5,944
Nottinghamshire	4,869	5,361	5,540	5,581
South Wales	5,525	5,657	6,197	6,394
South Yorkshire	5,830	6,108	6,299	6,403
Staffordshire	3,559	3,646	3,753	3,865
Suffolk	1,393	1,563	1,684	1,879
Surrey	1,535	1,663	1,726	1,799
Teesside	3,071	3,347	3,489	3,402
Thames Valley	5,408	5,011	5,394	5,883
Warwickshire	1,368	1,387	1,428	1,412
West Mercia	3,184	3,277	3,356	3,747
West Midlands	16,336	16,697	18,225	18,124
West Yorkshire	9,590	9,992	10,768	11,042
Wiltshire	1,555	1,690	1,509	1,503

Probation: Finance

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget was of each local probation service in each of the last 10 years. [150791]

Mr. Hanson: The resource budget allocations to probation boards from 2001-02 are given in the table. Prior to 2001-02, probation services were delivered through local Probation Committees which were partly funded by local authorities and were organised on a slightly different basis.

During the six year period from 2001-02 there have been changes to the budget allocation methodology and to accounting treatment, which will affect the comparability of the figures.

Probation boards end-year budgets

Boards	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*Revenue (£000) 2001-02*
Avon and Somerset	19,771	18,273	16,851	15,612	14,891	15,856
Bedfordshire	8,499	8,180	7,182	6,517	6,196	5,526
Cambridgeshire	9,273	8,895	7,375	6,835	6,168	6,365
Cheshire	15,688	15,393	13,427	11,692	10,012	8,984
Cumbria	7,897	7,466	6,241	6,279	5,710	5,288
Derbyshire	12,891	12,166	11,088	10,335	9,516	8,534
Devon and Cornwall	19,638	18,184	15,686	15,667	13,967	12,740
Dorset	8,277	7,989	7,338	7,307	6,876	5,761
Durham	10,245	9,513	8,697	7,820	7,431	5,975
Essex	18,922	17,839	16,220	14,849	14,502	13,700
Gloucestershire	6,959	6,524	5,975	5,874	5,102	4,943
Hampshire	23,057	21,872	20,026	18,427	18,079	13,841
Hertfordshire	10,569	9,618	8,691	8,409	8,654	7,034
Humberside	16,130	14,964	13,010	12,422	11,090	9,414
Kent	20,340	19,052	16,760	16,322	15,116	13,673
Lancashire	21,394	20,251	18,837	18,600	16,859	14,307
Leicestershire	13,805	13,071	11,778	11,086	9,911	8,774
Lincolnshire	9,038	8,446	7,469	7,134	6,127	5,606
Norfolk	10,608	10,205	8,477	7,927	7,171	6,543
Northamptonshire	8,816	8,149	7,158	6,920	6,018	5,131
North Yorkshire	9,478	8,998	7,937	7,486	6,877	5,701
Nottinghamshire	18,117	17,190	14,861	14,232	13,220	11,658
Staffordshire	15,913	14,361	12,319	11,769	10,930	9,586
Suffolk	9,445	8,771	7,583	7,361	6,889	6,268
Surrey	10,081	9,421	7,779	7,784	7,523	6,881
Sussex	16,991	15,677	14,033	12,789	11,367	10,396
Teeside	13,052	12,178	10,954	10,613	9,523	9,805
Thames Valley	24,373	23,421	20,795	19,787	18,463	20,831
Warwickshire	6,743	6,492	5,698	5,452	4,749	4,368
West Mercia	13,642	13,197	11,774	11,188	10,057	9,251
Wiltshire	7,720	7,224	5,964	5,510	4,874	4,606
Greater Manchester	47,532	45,645	40,985	38,521	34,479	31,731
Merseyside	28,820	28,643	25,798	24,621	22,410	23,062
Northumbria	26,964	26,005	22,999	22,113	18,459	16,641
South Yorkshire	24,058	23,041	20,858	20,381	18,191	16,153
West Midlands	53,377	50,140	44,076	41,932	38,581	37,865
West Yorkshire	38,193	36,226	33,366	30,986	28,062	26,931
London	137,416	132,637	107,888	110,390	106,612	94,328
Dyfed-Powys	8,058	7,541	6,478	5,784	5,162	4,579
Gwent	10,930	10,018	8,938	8,029	7,197	5,215
North Wales	11,696	11,027	10,067	9,044	8,223	6,774
South Wales	24,402	23,098	20,917	19,328	18,104	17,062
Total	828,817	786,995	690,312	661,130	609,348	557,686

Note:
The 2002-03 figures for Warwickshire and North Yorkshire are estimated.

Probation: Manpower

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* members of staff and *(b)* probation officers were employed by each local probation service in each of the last 10 years. [150790]

Mr. Hanson: Information is not available for the full period requested. Data collected prior to 1 April 2003 are unreliable, and are not directly comparable with the more accurate figures collected since that time. The figures presented in the following table show full time equivalent (FTE) figures for the period 2003-2006. The figures for each year are as at 31 December.

Staff in post in the NFS by area 2003-06

Area	*PO*	*NPS*	*PO*	*NPS*	*PO*	*NPS*	*PO*	*NPS*
Avon and Somerset	112.90	499.13	153.70	493.79	166.20	525.00	185.30	527.60
Bedfordshire	61.10	189.02	61.00	182.05	65.30	192.30	64.40	203.80

Staff in post in the NFS by area 2003-06

Area	*PO*	*NPS*	*PO*	*NPS*	*PO*	*NPS*	*PO*	*NPS*
Cambridgeshire	85.35	225.32	78.27	223.12	79.30	242.18	83.40	251.03
Cheshire	112.30	354.69	113.90	345.00	124.30	375.04	128.95	377.53
Cumbria	59.90	173.69	57.50	171.84	63.30	189.06	70.30	197.35
Derbyshire	106.70	337.90	109.20	345.60	119.50	364.00	120.30	348.00
Devon and Cornwall	149.35	465.12	149.10	447.90	165.40	492.00	163.02	510.17
Dorset	68.00	200.50	66.79	212.09	75.60	225.87	72.03	222.76
Durham	86.50	261.80	96.70	290.47	99.50	297.10	101.90	297.61
Dyfed Powys	46.30	144.10	49.10	148.18	55.70	165.86	48.80	193.44
Essex	111.20	393.10	120.11	432.60	120.80	475.80	122.60	473.80
Gloucestershire	56.40	170.23	59.69	177.44	59.80	183.70	52.78	192.18
Gwent	68.10	236.10	67.30	235.50	65.30	256.60	92.10	280.10
Hampshire	173.59	515.74	190.40	518.50	197.40	582.60	187.20	601.70
Hertfordshire	65.90	212.70	71.70	220.30	73.20	228.20	62.40	246.86
Humberside	139.78	433.56	147.91	446.72	161.80	477.56	167.25	467.24
Kent	148.55	454.85	146.20	456.97	154.10	475.37	153.27	504.85
Lancashire	243.60	594.80	253.20	600.70	253.70	577.40	255.80	564.00
Leicestershire	125.00	393.30	138.20	442.00	153.20	466.80	154.00	477.80
Lincolnshire	61.60	230.95	63.60	228.06	67.10	228.91	71.03	252.84
London	840.50	2,510.00	835.41	2,398.30	821.40	2,557.54	830.17	2,856.73
Greater Manchester	399.80	1,204.20	404.40	1,305.27	385.80	1,340.16	455.79	1,409.83
Merseyside	241.50	723.10	268.43	776.18	281.20	783.03	267.95	753.13
Norfolk	76.88	239.72	79.85	238.27	86.40	283.67	78.35	303.33
North Yorkshire	75.80	208.00	88.60	228.40	89.60	222.55	86.50	229.99
North Wales	67.10	230.30	84.20	237.30	87.30	243.30	90.10	256.80
Northamptonshire	65.00	235.90	66.63	211.86	68.30	230.49	87.10	263.13
Northumbria	252.26	665.56	267.95	674.88	283.30	670.11	277.95	660.67
Nottinghamshire	171.50	488.70	166.11	492.12	168.20	545.20	177.00	570.70
South Wales	157.60	530.28	195.90	561.10	215.10	618.30	200.10	620.63
South Yorkshire	203.00	641.40	212.70	654.00	226.80	662.70	221.40	643.42
Staffordshire	147.10	390.80	152.30	415.30	160.60	421.40	163.30	418.70
Suffolk	81.75	209.36	83.00	207.56	86.10	222.70	86.04	236.10
Surrey	63.90	232.80	68.30	245.18	70.00	262.91	69.20	264.17
Sussex	123.30	330.48	128.74	363.35	147.10	402.04	151.62	427.21
Teeside	76.60	314.70	87.65	312.15	104.10	330.38	104.80	332.42
Thames Valley	176.70	594.30	176.40	610.70	180.20	622.20	180.40	649.00
Warwickshire	55.00	160.80	51.33	162.97	59.30	174.42	52.53	172.40
West Mercia	125.46	370.47	141.30	372.69	148.90	374.09	150.99	396.54
West Midlands	429.20	1223.70	444.50	1235.80	493.50	1339.97	497.42	1420.44
West Yorkshire	310.48	1,027.05	343.37	1,051.73	361.00	1,041.55	370.06	1,064.68
Wiltshire	48.90	145.60	44.30	149.00	54.20	172.00	61.60	188.30
Total	6,271.45	19,163.82	6,584.94	19,522.94	6,894.50	20,542.06	7,017.20	21,328.98

Public Defender Service: Liverpool

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was of establishing the Public Defender Service Office in St. John's Street, Liverpool; and what its running costs have been since establishment. [151776]

Maria Eagle: The set up costs and annual running costs of the Liverpool Public Defender Service Office are as follows:

	Amount (£)
2001-02	[1]164,348
2001-02	[2]385,332
2002-03	[2]488,927
2003-04	[2]564,784
2004-05	[2]682,617
2005-06	[2]639,983

[1] Set up costs. [2] Running costs.

These figures were published in the PDS Annual Reports which are available on the Legal Services Commission's website (www.legalservices.gov.uk).

Public Defender Service: Pilot Schemes

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the expected completion dates are of the public defence pilots in *(a)* Swansea, *(b)* Middlesbrough, *(c)* Birmingham, *(d)* Cheltenham and *(e)* other locations. [151778]

Maria Eagle: The Public Defender Service pilot, running in Birmingham, Cheltenham, Liverpool, Middlesbrough, Pontypridd, Swansea, Chester and Darlington, concluded on 31 March 2005. The Middlesbrough office closed during 2006, and in February 2007 the Legal Services Commission proposed to close the Birmingham, Chester and Liverpool offices. All operated in areas with ample

alternative Criminal Defence Service supply. The Cheltenham, Darlington, Pontypridd and Swansea offices continue to operate.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment the Government have made of the Public Defence Office pilots. [151779]

Maria Eagle: The Government commissioned an independent team of leading academics, lead by Professor Lee Bridges of the University of Warwick, to undertake a full evaluation of the PDS pilot. The final report entitled "Evaluation of the Public Defender Service in England and Wales" was published in January 2007 and can be found on the Legal Services Commission's website at:

www.legalservices.gov.uk/docs/pds/Public_Defenders_Report_PDFVersion6.pdf.

A copy of the final report can also be found in the Libraries of the House.

Public Defender Service: Standards

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the comparative *(a)* cost and *(b)* quality of service of the Public Defender Service Office and private sector criminal defence lawyers. [151777]

Maria Eagle: The Independent Evaluation of the Public Defender Service (PDS) in England and Wales, which was published in January 2007, includes an assessment of the comparative cost and quality provided by the PDS. The final report entitled "Evaluation of the Public Defender Service in England and Wales" was published in January 2007 and can be found on the Legal Services Commission's website at:

www.legalservices.gov.uk/docs/pds/Public_Defenders_Report_PDFVersion6.pdf.

A copy of the final report can also be found in the Libraries of the House.

Repossession Orders: Greater London

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many court orders were issued for the repossession of homes by each London county court in each of the last three years. [150562]

Bridget Prentice: The table shows the number of mortgage possession orders made in each London county court since 2004.

The civil procedure rules provide that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, these county courts cover areas that are not necessarily consistent with other administrative or constituency boundaries, and therefore for example, possession orders made at Croydon county court may relate to properties in other London boroughs besides Croydon.

These figures do not indicate how many houses have been repossessed through the courts, since not all orders result in the properties actually being repossessed.

Number of mortgage possession orders made in the county courts in London, 2004-06

	Possession orders made[1]		
	2004	*2005*	*2006*
Barnet	287	552	580
Bow	897	1,423	1,702
Brentford	372	602	779
Bromley	585	1,037	1,121
Central London	265	506	409
Clerkenwell and Shoreditch	406	661	804
Croydon	895	1,474	1,856
Edmonton	644	1,121	1,249
Ilford	392	562	650
Kingston-upon-Thames	209	356	420
Lambeth	553	920	1,089
Mayors and City	3	1	9
Romford	486	900	981
Uxbridge	347	515	595
Wandsworth	340	555	582
West London	141	287	293
Willesden	497	893	1,080
Woolwich	343	524	903
London total	7,662	12,990	15,102

[1] Includes suspended orders. The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.

Road Traffic Offences: Prisoners Release

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for convictions in relation to which types of motoring offence prisoners are eligible for early release under the early release scheme. [150992]

Mr. Hanson: The End of Custody Licence came into use on 29 June 2007. Eligible prisoners serving four weeks or more but less than four years may be released under licence from prison up to 18 days before their automatic release date. Full details of the eligibility criteria are set out in Prison Service Instruction 27/2007. Prisoners convicted of motoring offences are eligible for release on End of Custody Licence.

Theft: Bicycles

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* sentenced for bicycle thefts in (i) Eastbourne and (ii) East Sussex in each of the last five years. [151381]

Maria Eagle: One person was prosecuted and one sentenced in the Eastbourne and Hailsham court area in 2001 for bicycle theft. In the same year, 10 people were prosecuted and six sentenced in the Eastern Sussex court area for the same offence.

From 1 January 2002 it was not possible to separately identify people prosecuted and sentenced in the Eastbourne and Hailsham court from those in other courts within the Eastern Sussex court area. The following table shows the number of people prosecuted and sentenced in the Eastern Sussex court area from 2002 to 2005, the latest year for which data are available.

Number of people proceeded against at magistrates courts and sentenced at all courts, for bicycle thefts in the Eastern Sussex court area: 2001 to 2005[1, 2]

	Proceeded against	*Sentenced*
2002	1	1
2003	3	3
2004	3	3
2005	3	2

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Note:

In 2001 it was possible to give the number of people proceeded against and sentenced for bicycle theft within the Eastbourne and Hailsham court area. However, from 1 January 2002 it is not possible to separate data in relation to the individual courts within the Eastern Sussex court area.

Thorn Cross Young Offender Institution: Vocational Education

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many inmates of Thorn Cross Young Offenders Institute have acquired vocational qualifications whilst detained at the institute. [150870]

Mr. Hanson: In the periods 2005-06 and 2006-07, 104 and 145 prisoners respectively acquired vocational qualifications at HMYOI Thorn Cross. In the first three months of the current business year 2007-08, 91 prisoners have so far gained a vocational qualification at the establishment.

Tribunals

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the cost of setting up the new tribunals service under the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Bill if enacted. [150918]

Bridget Prentice: The Tribunals Service has been operating as a government agency since April 2006. The net running costs in 2006-07 were £286.8 million. The Regulatory Impact Assessment for the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Bill was published on the 16 November 2006. That identified the estimated additional cost of implementation as £50,000. This was for establishing the Tribunal Procedure Committee as set out in The Regulatory Impact Assessment. These estimates will be updated as required by the Cabinet Office guidance on Impact Assessments.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 23 July 2007

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what change there has been in the number of patients seeking advice and treatment for alcohol related illnesses since 2004. [150480]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the format requested. Estimates of the proportion of adults (aged 16 and over) in Great Britain, who have discussed drinking with their general practitioner or another medical person, are available from the Office for National Statistics Omnibus Survey. Estimated proportions are based on all drinkers. Questions on alcohol are included in the Omnibus Survey biennially and the data is provided in table 1 for 2004 and 2006.

The number of alcohol related illnesses is not available in the format requested. Data are available providing the number of adults, aged 16 and over, admitted to national health service hospitals in England with a primary or secondary diagnosis that is specifically related to alcohol consumption. These figures are presented in table 2 and are published in "Statistics on Alcohol: England 2007" produced by The Information Centre for health and social care, available at: www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/alcohol07. Numbers of those admitted with a diagnosis of an accident, illness or disease that does not specifically relate to alcohol but can be attributed to alcohol consumption are not currently available.

Table 1 Discussion of drinking in the last year, by gender, 2004 and 2006—Great Britain

		Percentage[1]
Discussed drinking with:	*2004*	*2006*
Men[2]		
GP	8	11
Someone else at the surgery	1	2
Doctor elsewhere	1	1
Other medical person elsewhere	1	2
Not discussed drinking	89	86
Women[2]		
GP	5	5
Someone else at the surgery	1	1
Doctor elsewhere	1	1
Other medical person elsewhere	1	1
Not discussed drinking	92	92
Bases		
Men	1,384	1,017
Women	1,645	1,156

[1] Percentages may sum to more than 100 per cent. as respondents could give more than one answer
[2] Aged 16 and over
[3] Percentages are based on respondents who drink alcohol
Source:
Drinking: Adults' behaviour and knowledge in 2006. Office for National Statistics

Table 2 NHS[1] hospital admissions[2] for adults[3] where there was either a primary[4] or secondary—England

		Number
	2004-05	*2005-06*
Primary diagnosis	48,082	52,271
Primary or secondary diagnosis	164,787	187,643

[1] The data include private patients in NHS hospitals (but not private patients in private hospitals)
[2] A finished in-year admission is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider, excluding admissions beginning before 1 April at the start of the data year. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year
[3] Aged 16 and over
[4] The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital
[5] The figures for primary or secondary diagnosis represent a count of all finished in-year admissions where the diagnosis was mentioned in any of the 14 diagnosis fields in a HES record
[6] Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data
[7] Figures do not include hospital admissions for accidents, illnesses or diseases that do not directly relate to alcohol consumption but can be attributed to alcohol consumption
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics. The Information Centre, 2007

Barnet Primary Care Trust: Pay

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to improve payroll arrangements at Barnet primary care trust, with particular reference to the time taken to correct errors; and if he will make a statement; [150376]

(2) how many employees of Barnet primary care trust experienced payroll errors in each of the last six months; and if he will make a statement. [150450]

Ann Keen: This is a local matter and is the responsibility of Barnet primary care trust.

Cancer: Medical Treatments

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department has undertaken a cost-benefit analysis of the use of photodynamic therapy cancer treatments compared with other cancer treatments in respect of *(a)* patient care and *(b)* NHS finances; [151341]

(2) whether his Department plans to extend the use and availability of photodynamic therapy cancer treatments; [151342]

(3) what the median cost per patient was of photodynamic therapy cancer treatment in comparison to other cancer treatments in the latest period for which figures are available; [151343]

(4) what obstacles exist to widening the use and availability of photodynamic therapy cancer treatments within the NHS; [151344]

(5) what representations he has received from *(a)* medical bodies and *(b)* cancer charities on photodynamic therapy cancer treatment; [151345]

(6) how many NHS patients with relevant conditions were offered photodynamic therapy cancer treatments in the latest period for which figures are available; [151346]

(7) what assessment his Department has made of the impact of photodynamic therapy cancer treatments within the NHS on *(a)* patient throughput, *(b)* bed use and *(c)* patient recovery times. [151348]

Ann Keen: The Department has made no assessment of the impact of photodynamic therapy (PDT) cancer treatments within the national health service on patient throughput, bed use and patient recovery times. The department has not made a cost-benefit analysis of the use of photodynamic therapy cancer treatments compared with other cancer treatments in respect of patient care and NHS finances.

Information on the number of patients offered photodynamic therapy cancer treatment or the cost per patient of photodynamic therapy cancer treatment is not collected by the Department.

As part of its programme of work on interventional procedures, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has issued guidance on the use of PDT in the treatment of several cancers.

NICE has stated that PDT for the treatment of Barrett's oesophagus, advanced bronchial carcinoma, endobronchial carcinoma, bile duct cancer and skin tumours is safe and works well enough for use in the NHS, provided normal arrangements are in place for consent, audit and clinical governance.

NICE has also issued guidance on the use of PDT for early stage oesophageal cancer, stating that current evidence on PDT for the treatment of this disease is not adequate to support its use without special arrangements for consent, audit and clinical governance.

It will be for the NHS locally to decide whether to offer this treatment to patients. Where a local decision is made to do so, it will be for the relevant primary care trust to plan how to make PDT available to patients and identify any obstacles which might need to be overcome.

The Department has received a number of written representations about photodynamic therapy cancer treatment from the charity Killing Cancer.

Chemicals: Health Hazards

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research his Department has conducted into the impact on *(a)* indoor air quality and *(b)* human health of the use of air fresheners. [151749]

Dawn Primarolo: In 1997, the Department together with the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) commissioned a joint research programme on the effects on health of exposure to air pollutants and damp in the home. This programme focused on indoor air pollution and its effects on health. In particular, the health effects on sensitive individuals within the population and the interactions between indoor air pollutants and health effects of damp in the domestic environment. There were 13 projects in total, seven of which were funded directly by the Department. Further details of these projects can be found at table three of "Air Pollution Research Funded" which is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/07/06/08/04070608.pdf.

Copies are available in the Library.

Air freshening products contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and in 1997, the Department's Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP) was asked to consider the health effects of exposure to VOCs in the home. As part of this, COMEAP considered data collected by the Buildings Research Establishment on behalf of the DETR and had published a statement in their 1997-98 annual report which is available at

www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/comeap/pdfs/comeap9798.pdf.

Copies are available in the Library.

COMEAP has published a document "Guidance on the Effects on Health of Indoor Air Pollutants" on its website

www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/comeap/pdfs/guidanceindoorairqualityDec04.pdf.

Copies have been placed in the Library.

This contains a brief section on volatile organic compounds and on household products. It advises that ensuring good ventilation in homes is the best way to reduce exposure.

Clostridium: Disease Control

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent advice his Department has given to hospitals on the *(a)* prevention and *(b)* treatment of clostridium difficile. [151451]

Ann Keen: In addition to the answer given to the hon. Member on 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 725W, we issued a revised version of "Saving Lives: a delivery programme to reduce healthcare associated infections including MRSA" on 21 June 2007. This includes an updated high impact intervention on *Clostridium difficile* (C.difficile) and "Antimicrobial prescribing—A summary of good practice". The latter is relevant because improved prescribing helps to prevent C.difficile infection.

Dehydration

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effect of mild dehydration on mental performance in *(a)* children and *(b)* adults. [151141]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government have not assessed the effect of mild dehydration on mental performance.

The Government do, however, advise that 6-8 glasses (about 1.2 litres) of water, or other fluids, should be consumed every day to prevent dehydration. This is based on physiological studies and this amount should be increased when the weather is warm or when exercising.

Dental Services: Gloucestershire

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists practised in Gloucestershire in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available, broken down by constituency. [151716]

Ann Keen: Numbers of national health service dentists in England as at 31 March 1997 to 2006 are available in the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006". Information at parliamentary constituency area is available in Annex G. Annex E also contains information at strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT) area. This information is based on the old contractual arrangements. This report is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-March-2006

Numbers of NHS dentists in England as at 30 June, 30 September, 31 December 2006 and 31 March 2007 are available in Table G of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England Q4: 31 March 2007 report. These data are not provided at constituency level.

This report is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalq4

The figures for quarter 4 and the earlier quarters in the year are provisional and are subject to revision. The final work force figure for 2006-07 will not be available until August 2007 when the information centre for health and social care will publish an end year report on the first 12 months of the new contractual arrangements.

This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements and is not directly comparable with earlier information.

In both sets of figures, no account is taken of the level of service, if any, that each dentist provides.

Dental Services: Lancashire

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of people in *(a)* Morecambe Bay Primary Care Trust and *(b)* North Lancashire NHS Trust are registered with an NHS dentist. [152015]

Ann Keen: Registration data no longer forms part of the data available under the new national health service dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. The new measure is patients seen in the previous 24 months and is not comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

The numbers of patients seen as a percentage of the population in the previous 24 months are available in table F2 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England Q4: 31 March 2007" report. Information is for the previous 24 months ending 31 March, 30 June, 30 September, 31 December 2006 and 31 March 2007 and is available at strategic health authority and primary care trust (PCT) area in England.

This report is available in the Library. It is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalq4.

As from 1 October 2006, Morecambe Bay PCT has been integrated into Cumbria PCT and North Lancashire PCT. Information for Cumbria PCT and North Lancashire PCT is included in the report.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists in *(a)* North Lancashire NHS Trust and *(b)* Morecambe Bay have NHS patients. [152016]

Ann Keen: Information on private dentists is not collected centrally.

The numbers of dentists on open national health service contracts are available in Table G of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England Q4: 31 March 2007 report. Information is as at 30 June, 30 September, 31 December 2006 and 31 March 2007 and is available at strategic health authority and primary care trust (PCT) area in England.

This report is available in the Library. It is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalq4.

The figures for quarter 4 and the earlier quarters in the year are provisional and are subject to revision. The final workforce figure for 2006-07 will not be available until August 2007 when the Information Centre for health and social care will publish an end year report on the first 12 months of the new contractual arrangements.

In the figures in the report, no account is taken of the level of service, if any, that each dentist provides.

As from 1 October 2006, Morecambe Bay PCT has been integrated into Cumbria PCT and North Lancashire PCT. Information for Cumbria PCT and North Lancashire PCT is included in the above report.

Departments: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the final settlement letter his Department received from HM Treasury as part of the 2002 Spending Review process. [148902]

Mr. Bradshaw: No. Publishing Spending Review papers would be prejudicial to the conduct of public affairs.

Departments: Flint Bishop Solicitors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have made payments to Flint Bishop Solicitors since 1997. [151399]

Dawn Primarolo: After looking into both of our financial databases which cover financial years 2001-02 to date, we can find no evidence that the firm in question was ever entered on to our systems to received payments from the Department.

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many overseas visits were made by *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers within his responsibility, and at what cost, in each year since 1997. [151658]

Dawn Primarolo: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis, a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Library. Information for 2006-07 is currently being compiled and will be published before the summer recess. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Civil Service Management Code" and the "Ministerial Code".

Doctors: Training

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many representations his Department has received from doctors on problems with *(a)* Modernising Medical Careers and *(b)* the Medical Training Application Service. [148310]

Ann Keen: The Department has received representations concerning the Modernising Medical Careers (MMC) programme.

The Department has also met with many stakeholders. In the light of the widespread concern an independent review of the MMC recruitment and selection process was set up; led by Professor Neil Douglas, vice chair of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and president of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. Members of the review group included representatives of the Royal Colleges, the British Medical Association, the four United Kingdom Health Departments and NHS Employers.

Epilepsy

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Welsh Assembly Health Minister on the Commissioning Directive on Epilepsy Services developed in response to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Sentinel Clinical Audit of Epilepsy. [151510]

Ann Keen: We have had no discussions with the Welsh Assembly Health Minister on this matter.

Exercise: Children

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on promoting physical activity among children in each of the last 10 years; and which projects have been funded. [150356]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department and the national health service promote the benefits of physical activity in many ways to professionals, the public and other stakeholders. This complements investment across government to encourage and enable healthy active lifestyles, for example through the physical educations, schools sport and club links programme.

In particular, primary care trusts are required to have systematic and managed health promotion programmes, including action on exercise, that are responsive to local needs. Spending on the promotion of sport and physical recreation by the NHS is not recorded centrally.

Alongside spending by the NHS to support local delivery of physical activity programmes for adults and children, the Department has funded pilot work to inform interventions. This has included:

the local exercise action pilot scheme (LEAP), which has been jointly funded by the Department, Sport England and the Countryside Agency with an overall cost of £2.5 million between 2003 and 2006. The LEAP pilots included interventions targeted towards children, adults and older people.

a joint Department of Health, Department for Education and Skills, and Youth Sport Trust pilot programme Schools on the Move, which includes resource materials for schools, teachers and young people to help integrate pedometers into the life of the school. The Department has invested £100,000 in the pilot during 2005 and 2006.

National programmes to promote physical activity arising out of this pilot work include a £494,000 school pedometer programme, distributing 40,000 pedometers to 250 schools in deprived areas to encourage children to become more active, and enabling all schools to access resources to support increased physical activity.

The Public Health White Paper "Choosing Health" included a commitment to develop continuing professional programmes for schools to support physical activity and we have invested £160,000 in a schools physical activity guide as part of the healthy schools toolkit.

The Secretary of State for Health, through the Section 64 General Scheme of Grants (S64 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968), has power to make grants to voluntary organisations in England whose activities support the Department of Health's policy priorities.

The Department has provided funding to physical activity based programmes under the Section 64 Scheme to the following organisations:

Sustrans;

Amateur Swimming Association;

English Federation of Disability Sport;

National Heart Forum; and

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers.

Delivery of programmes to encourage children and young people to lead healthy active lifestyles extends beyond the remit of any single government department.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport share a public service agreement (PSA) target to increase the percentage of 5 to 16-year-olds spending at least two hours a week on high quality PE and school sport.

The Government are investing £1.5 billion, including lottery funding, in the five years to 2008 in support of this target and on 13 July the Prime Minister announced a £100 million campaign to give every child the chance of five hours of sport every week in the run up to 2012.

The Government are also investing in walking and cycling to school. DCSF and the Department for

Transport are providing £7.5 million to fund a network of school travel advisers to develop and implement school travel plans. By March 2005 more than 10,000 schools had developed approved travel plans, and £55 million in capital grants has been given to schools to spend on items such as secure bike shelters and new entrances.

In March 2006 the BIG Lottery fund launched the £155 million Children's Play initiative in England.

Family Planning

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of provision of family planning services by primary care trusts; [150968]

(2) what steps he plans to take to implement the recommendations of the baseline review of contraceptive services. [151057]

Dawn Primarolo: We have undertaken a Baseline Review of Contraceptive Services 2005 (Contraceptive Services Audit) and published the findings on the 17 May 2007. We are developing best practice guidance on reproductive health care which will address the key issues arising from the review later this year.

A copy of the findings of the review has been placed in the Library. The findings are also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_074794.pdf

Fluoride: Drinking Water

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in the promotion of fluoridated water supplies following the passing of the Water Act 2003. [151918]

Ann Keen: The fluoridation of water has the potential to reduce inequalities in oral health. We are aware of three strategic health authorities that are undertaking feasibility studies on fluoridation schemes. They will make formal announcements if they decide to proceed with local consultations.

Genito-urinary Medicine: Finance

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts reduced their spending on community sexual health services from the amounts initially allocated in the 2006-07 financial year. [150666]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected centrally.

Genito-urinary Medicine: Waiting Lists

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting times are for community sexual health clinics. [150664]

Dawn Primarolo: Sexual health services are provided in a variety of settings including acute national health service trusts, community services and general practice.

Currently data on waiting times are only collected from genito-urinary medicine clinics. Data from the genito-urinary medicine monthly monitoring return showed that in May 2007 85 per cent. of first attendances were offered an appointment to be seen within 48 hours of contacting a service.

Health: Schools

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of school children spent at least two hours a week on high quality PE and school sport within and beyond the curriculum; and whether the target of 75 per cent. for such performance set in the Choosing Health paper has been achieved. [150287]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The 2005/06 School Sport Survey found that overall, 80 per cent. of pupils in schools within a school sport partnership took part in at least two hours of high quality PE and school sport in a typical week—exceeding the 2006 PSA target of 75 per cent.

Hepatitis

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* hepatitis A, *(b)* typhoid and *(c)* hepatitis B were diagnosed in each month since January 2001. [150945]

Dawn Primarolo: The latest available information, which is by quarter and calendar year, is shown in the tables.

Laboratory reports of hepatitis A infection in England and Wales, 2001-05

	Quarter	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
January-March	1	239	260	303	224	129
April-June	2	195	335	247	137	123
July-September	3	186	365	260	142	135
October-December	4	176	397	218	168	73
Total		796	1,357	1,028	671	460

Laboratory reports of acute hepatitis B infection in England and Wales, 2001-03[1]

	Quarter	2001	2002	2003
January-March	1	160	204	219
April-June	2	140	240	193
July-September	3	159	221	178
October-December	4	142	257	162
Total		601	922	752

[1] In England and Wales acute hepatitis B cases are reported to the Health Protection Agency. In 2004, there was a substantial deterioration in the quality of acute hepatitis B reporting and since 2004 data have not been available. The Health Protection Agency is working to improve the quality of information on acute hepatitis B reporting and provisional data should be available from the start of 2007 later this year.

Laboratory reports of Salmonella typhi (causative agent of typhoid) in England and Wales, 2001-06

	Quarter	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
January-March	1	36	27	42	41	42	61
April-June	2	42	43	77	57	65	55
July-September	3	59	42	49	56	52	83
October-December	4	43	34	35	53	73	49
Total		180	146	203	207	232	248

Source:
Health Protection Agency (HPA)

Home Care Services: Oxygen

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on the new domiciliary oxygen service in *(a)* England, *(b)* each strategic health authority and *(c)* each health trust in its first year of operation. [151011]

Dawn Primarolo: The new domiciliary oxygen service started on 1 February 2006. The first full year operational costs relate to 2006-07. These details are set out in the following table.

Domiciliary Oxygen Service: 2006-07

	Total expenditure (£000)
England	71,786,157
Strategic health authority (SHA)	
North East SHA	7,135,372
North West SHA	9,606,498
Yorkshire And The Humber SHA	6,561,058
East Midlands SHA	5,518,053
West Midlands SHA	7,767,896
East of England SHA	10,762,053
London SHA	7,265,996
South East Coast SHA	4,873,611
South Central SHA	4,361,402
South West SHA	7,934,217
Primary care trust	
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan	422,298
Barking and Dagenham	364,217
Barnet	346,003
Barnsley	406,828
Bassetlaw	168,147
Bath and North East Somerset	264,958
Bedfordshire	654,732
Berkshire East	303,405
Berkshire West	358,290
Bexley Care Trust	232,273
Birmingham East and North	601,560
Blackburn with Darwen	214,496
Blackpool	266,665
Bolton	207,863
Bournemouth and Poole	310,160
Bradford and Airedale	798,600
Brent Teaching	160,359
Brighton and Hove City	275,036
Bristol	853,220
Bromley	271,009
Buckinghamshire	493,795
Bury	184,817
Calderdale	202,524
Cambridgeshire	849,513
Camden	205,759
Central and Eastern Cheshire	588,313
Central Lancashire	597,722
City and Hackney Teaching	232,961
Cornwall and Isles Of Scilly	1,223,929
County Durham	1,381,047
Coventry Teaching	507,622
Croydon	296,231
Cumbria	472,985

Domiciliary Oxygen Service: 2006-07

	Total expenditure (£000)
Darlington	256,502
Derby City	215,937
Derbyshire County	825,763
Devon	1,012,912
Doncaster	431,860
Dorset	629,215
Dudley	66,017
Ealing	210,866
East and North Hertfordshire	1,032,617
East Lancashire	408,320
East Riding of Yorkshire	479,246
East Sussex Downs and Weald	317,323
Eastern and Coastal Kent	1,014,547
Enfield	241,238
Gateshead	360,123
Gloucestershire	643,545
Great Yarmouth and Waveney	577,213
Greenwich Teaching	209,171
Halton and St. Helens	519,985
Hammersmith and Fulham	143,767
Hampshire	1,486,888
Haringey	163,915
Harrow	283,697
Hartlepool	259,252
Hastings and Rother	294,640
Havering	440,512
Heart of Birmingham	255,156
Herefordshire	211,270
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale	225,334
Hillingdon	261,562
Hounslow	189,195
Hull	670,595
Isle of Wight Healthcare	142,901
Islington	204,372
Kensington and Chelsea	142,565
Kingston	138,149
Kirklees	367,750
Knowsley	305,047
Lambeth	293,549
Leeds	813,336
Leicester City	418,884
Leicestershire County and Rutland	730,593
Lewisham	203,040
Lincolnshire	1,032,190
Liverpool	946,459
Luton	265,912
Manchester	781,331
Medway	231,405
Mid Essex	723,096
Middlesbrough	656,756
Milton Keynes	320,505
Newcastle	576,821
Newham	310,662
Norfolk	1,319,045
North East Essex	802,791
North East Lincolnshire	188,626
North Lancashire	413,032
North Lincolnshire	237,132
North Somerset	317,200
North Staffordshire	285,311

Domiciliary Oxygen Service: 2006-07

	Total expenditure (£000)
North Tees	346,791
North Tyneside	491,900
North Yorkshire and York	719,473
Northamptonshire	819,829
Northumberland Care Trust	972,049
Nottingham City	445,944
Nottinghamshire County	860,764
Oldham	219,860
Oxfordshire	637,583
Peterborough	442,028
Plymouth	377,135
Portsmouth City Teaching	211,986
Redbridge	229,610
Redcar and Cleveland	341,494
Richmond and Twickenham	150,039
Rotherham	343,028
Salford	526,063
Sandwell	398,363
Sefton	458,618
Sheffield	587,294
Shropshire County	532,528
Solihull	322,866
Somerset	830,212
South Birmingham	304,853
South East Essex	661,386
South Gloucestershire	327,960
South Staffordshire	1,024,489
South Tyneside	450,484
South West Essex	866,779
Southampton City	406,048
Southwark	263,048
Stockport	279,328
Stoke on Trent	488,753
Suffolk	920,331
Sunderland Teaching	1,042,152
Surrey	1,109,438
Sutton and Merton	239,371
Swindon	308,848
Tameside and Glossop	246,710
Telford and Wrekin	181,840
Torbay Care Trust	197,726
Tower Hamlets	263,986
Trafford	225,639
Wakefield District	314,766
Walsall Teaching	503,569
Waltham Forest	319,260
Wandsworth	110,625
Warrington	193,822
Warwickshire	494,350
West Essex	669,703
West Hertfordshire	976,908
West Kent	833,283
West Sussex	797,939
Western Cheshire	294,387
Westminster	144,986
Wiltshire	637,197
Wirral	607,406
Wolverhampton City	510,865
Worcestershire	578,485

Source:
NHS Business Services Authority

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in England were dependent on a domiciliary oxygen system in their homes in each of the last 10 years. [151012]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not hold information on the number of people using the home oxygen service in England prior to 2006-07, as the information collected was based on the number of oxygen cylinders dispensed, not the number of patients using the service. However, information was available on the number of patients using the oxygen concentrator service under contracts with specialist suppliers. The 2004 estimate used to support procurement of the new service was that around 60,000 patients used the service (of which 20,000 used concentrators).

Data available from the new integrated service contract implemented from 1 February 2006 show that there are some 79,000 patients using oxygen at home.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average delivery time for *(a)* routine and *(b)* emergency oxygen supplies to outpatients (i) before and (ii) after the introduction of the new home oxygen service. [151015]

Dawn Primarolo: Prior to the introduction of the new home oxygen service on 1 February 2006, there were no explicit requirements on those providing an oxygen cylinder service or an oxygen concentrator service to deliver a service urgently or within another specified period. Therefore, no data are available to assess average delivery time prior to that date.

The new service contract requires the service provider to meet specific response times for each oxygen service provided under the contract. These are:

emergency or urgent supply of oxygen to be delivered within four hours of receipt of an order from a healthcare professional;

an order supporting the discharge of a patient from hospital to be delivered on the day following receipt of the order or on a date specified by the healthcare professional in the order; and

an order for short burst oxygen therapy, long-term oxygen therapy, or an ambulatory oxygen service to be provided within three working days of receipt of an order either from a health care professional or from the patient directly (for re-supply).

Each supplier must meet these service requirements under the terms of the contract and delivery times are a key indicator used in monitoring supplier performance. There is no average delivery time. A supplier will either pass or fail in meeting these requirements. Current data show that suppliers are achieving around 99 per cent. compliance with this service requirement.

Hospitals: Admissions

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the mean length of stay was for patients admitted to hospital in each year since 1997-98 *(a)* in England and *(b)* broken down by strategic health authority area. [149487]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information has been placed in the Library.

Hospitals: Finance

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 173-34W, on hospitals: finance, on what date in 2008 he expects the financial close of the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Pembury hospital private finance initiative scheme to take place. [151637]

Mr. Bradshaw: Financial close on the Pembury hospital private finance initiative scheme for Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells hospital NHS trust is expected by the end of March 2008.

Hospitals: West Sussex

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what knowledge *(a)* the central NHS and *(b)* his Department had of the hurdles for hospital services set out in the current consultation in West Sussex in advance of the commencement of the consultation. [150130]

Dawn Primarolo: Proposals for service change and consultation on those proposals is a matter for the national health service locally.

We would expect any local proposals brought forward for consultation to have taken into account variety of issues and to be both financially and clinically viable.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for further disposals of land at the Southlands hospital site in Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex. [150366]

Mr. Bradshaw: The disposal of land at Southlands hospital site is a matter for the local national health service.

Influenza: Disease Control

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the paper summarising the published scientific data currently available on pre-pandemic and pandemic vaccines presented to the meeting of the Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisations on 14 February 2007. [152174]

Dawn Primarolo: A copy of the paper on pre-pandemic and pandemic influenza vaccines: summary of the evidence has been placed in the Library from the meeting of Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisations on 14 February 2007.

Lung Diseases

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with mesothelioma in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [150556]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 23 July 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people have been diagnosed with mesothelioma in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) England in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (150556)

The most recent available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer registered in England are for the year 2004. Figures for patients diagnosed with mesothelioma in Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside county district, North East government office region (GOR) and England, from 1997, are given in the table below.

Numbers of newly diagnosed cases of mesothelioma[1] registered in Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside county district, North East GOR and England, 1997-2004

	Jarrow constituency	South Tyneside county district	North East GOR	England
1997	3	8	110	1,287
1998	5	19	120	1,476
1999	2	9	127	1,564
2000	2	20	147	1,612
2001	3	14	145	1,800
2002	3	10	140	1,788
2003	5	10	128	1,828
2004	5	14	151	1,834

[1] Figures selected using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD10) C45.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Billericay, dated 31 May, on the subject of testosterone deficiency. [151823]

Ann Keen: A reply was issued on 19 July 2007.

Mesothelioma

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were treated for mesothelioma in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [150560]

Ann Keen: While we do collect figures on the number of people treated for mesothelioma, we do collect figures on finished consultant episodes where the primary diagnosis was mesothelioma.

The requested information is detailed in the following table, these figures relate only to admitted patients and do not include any patients who are treated for mesothelioma in accident and emergency but not admitted, patients treated in an out-patient setting or patients treated in the community. The figures are not for patients, as one patient may have had more than one episode.

Count of finished consultant episodes where the primary diagnosis was Mesothelioma[1] for selected organisations—national health service hospitals, England

	Finished consultant episodes			
	North east strategic health authorities			
	South Tyneside primary care trust (5KG) as PCT of residence	*Northumberland, Tyne and Wear strategic health authority (Q09) as SHA of residence*	*County Durham and Tees Valley strategic health authority (Q10) as SHA of residence*	*England*
2005-06	40	316	303	6,436
2004-05	28	348	242	5,671
2003-04	56	443	230	5,697
2002-03	53	267	173	4,685
2001-02	59	321	129	4,563
2000-01	57	315	122	4,442
1999-2000	58	401	121	4,155
1998-99	39	373	98	3,773
1997-98	11	186	69	3,075

[1] The ICD-10 codes used in this analysis were as follows:
C45 Mesothelioma
D19 Benign neoplasm of mesothelial tissue
Notes:
1. Finished Consultant Episode (FCE):
An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
2. Ungrossed Data:
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
3. Diagnosis (primary diagnosis):
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
4. Assessing growth through time:
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.
Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
5. PCT and SHA data quality:
PCT and SHA data were added to historic data-years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of treatment and SHA of treatment is poor in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality of PCT of general practitioners practice and SHA of GP practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 is also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data.
Source:
HES, The Information Centre for health and social care

MRSA

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) why MRSA is not a recognised cause of death; and if he will make a statement; [150538]

(2) if he will make it his policy to adopt the recommendations of the *(a)* World Health Organisation and *(b)* Office of National Statistics and allow MRSA to be cited on a death certificate as a contributory factor. [150539]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 23 July 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your questions asking why MRSA is not a recognised cause of death and whether it will be policy to adopt the recommendations of the (a) World Health Organisation and (b) Office of National Statistics and allow MRSA to be cited on a death certificate as a contributory factor. I am replying in her absence. (150539, 150538)

Diseases caused by infection with Meticillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus bacteria (eg MRSA septicaemia, MRSA pneumonia, MRSA wound infection etc) are recognised as causes of death and can be cited on death certificates. The Office for National Statistics publishes annual statistics on deaths certified as due to or contributed to by MRSA.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) makes recommendations, in the International Classification of Diseases, currently in its tenth revision (ICD-10), on certification of cause of death by doctors, coding and classification of diseases, and selection of a single cause for each death for statistical purposes. The General Register Office and ONS follow ICD-10 recommendations and go further, as explained below.

Doctors have a statutory duty, under the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953, to certify the cause of death to the best of their knowledge and belief. GRO produces books of Medical Certificates of Cause of Death (MCCDs), in the format recommended by WHO, and supplies these to doctors through local registrars of births and deaths. The books include notes to doctors, based on ICD-10, on how to complete the MCCD. These ask the doctor to describe the sequence of illnesses or events that led directly to death in part I of the MCCD, ending on the last used line with the underlying cause of death. The underlying cause is defined by WHO as the disease or (external cause of) injury that initiated the morbid train of events leading directly to death. Certifiers are also asked to write in part II of the certificate any other conditions which contributed to the death but were not part of the direct sequence. WHO makes clear that the certifying doctor must use his/her clinical judgement to decide which of the conditions present at or before death contributed to the death and so should be included on the certificate.

In addition to the notes in the front of every book of MCCDs, the ONS Death Certification Advisory Group (DCAG) published updated guidance to certifiers in ACP News and on the GRO website (www.gro.gov.uk/medcert/) in June 2005. This guidance, which is also supplied to doctors with every new book of MCCDs, includes specific advice about certifying deaths involving health care associated infections (HCAI). The Department of health's Chief Medical Officer, Sir Liam Donaldson, in his 'CMO Update' no 42 of July 2005, which is sent to all registered doctors, drew attention to the DCAG guidance in a short article entitled 'Certifying deaths involving MRSA' http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/PublicationsAndStatistics/LettersAndCirculars/CMOUpdate/DH_4115663). These publications, from ONS/GRO and the Department of Health, make absolutely clear that doctors should include MRSA and other HCAI on the death certificate in the appropriate place if they believe that the infection was part of the direct causal sequence or contributed to the death.

WHO recommends that the underlying cause of death is tabulated for routine mortality statistics because preventing it would prevent not just the death, but the whole period of illness leading up to death and so result in the greatest health gain. MRSA infection is often associated with health care, and so it will not usually be the underlying cause of death, which may be the disease or injury necessitating the care during which the MRSA infection was acquired. Because of the public, policy, professional and media interest in the subject of MRSA infection, ONS provides more than just routine underlying cause statistics. Using ICD-10 codes and the full text from MCCDs, ONS publishes annual figures on the number of deaths in which MRSA was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, in addition to those where it was selected as the underlying cause of death. Figures for 2001 to 2005 were published in Health Statistics Quarterly no 33, which is available in the House of Commons library, in February 2007. Statistics based on death certificates which cited MRSA have also been quoted in answer to a number of previous Parliamentary questions and published in Hansard. In 2005 there were 1,629 death certificates that cited MRSA in England and Wales and in 29% of these (467 deaths) MRSA was the underlying cause of death.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are employed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; and what its budget is for 2007-08. [151767]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of people employed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is not held by the Department. NICE is an independent body and should be contacted direct for this information. In 2007-08, NICE'S total budget is £35.05 million, of which £33,349 million was funding direct from the Department.

NHS Foundation Trusts

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of foundation hospitals whose boards met wholly in private; and what percentage this figure represents of the total number of foundation hospitals. [151511]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not hold this information. Legislation governing national health service foundation trusts allows them to open board of governors meetings to the public. There is no equivalent provision for meetings of the board of directors. The way in which these meetings are conducted is a matter for individual trusts. Directors would need to justify decisions on the conduct of their meetings with governors, who can hold directors to account for the performance of the trust and are responsible for communicating with the membership community information relating to the performance of the organisation.

NHS Trusts: Eastern Region

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse has been of *(a)* early retirement and *(b)* redundancy agreements for (i) chief executives and (ii) executive directors who were not reappointed following reorganisation of the primary care trusts and NHS trusts in the eastern region. [149464]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 17 July 2007]:* The costs of early retirement and redundancy payments are not collected centrally.

NHS: Cost-effectiveness

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence appraises the cost-effectiveness of the price paid for treatments by the NHS; [151476]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely impact on the NHS of the provision of a range of discounts for erythropoietin in National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance. [151477]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) 'Guide to the methods of technology appraisal', describes all aspects of appraisal methodology, including the principles and methods of health technology assessment. The Guide states that "estimates of...prices for particular resources should be used consistently across appraisals", and that the Institute uses the "public list price" of a treatment when conducting its appraisals.

The Guide is published on the NICE website at:

www.nice.org.uk/page.aspx?o=201973

NICE is currently undertaking a review of its 'Guide to the methods of technology appraisal', which underpins the technology appraisal programme. NICE expects to commence a three-month public consultation on its findings in November 2007.

NICE's technology appraisal guidance on the use of erythropoietin analogues in the management of cancer treatment induced anaemia is due to be published in November 2007. The appraisal is being conducted in line with NICE's published methodology.

NHS: Email

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the expected cost is of converting the NHS e-mail system to Microsoft Exchange; and what added functions will be provided by the new system. [150561]

Mr. Bradshaw: NHSmail first went live October 2004. There are over 260,000 NHSmail users registered for the national health service e-mail and directory service which is increasing every week with an average of one million messages sent or received across the NHSmail platform daily.

Since 2004 the technological and market environment has changed significantly. A number of opportunities for technology refresh were built into the original NHSmail contract. The move to Microsoft Exchange is the first of those. The cost of the transition will not exceed the existing programme budget. Costs have been controlled partly by the licences gained through the renewal of the enterprise agreement with Microsoft and partly through the reuse of existing infrastructure.

The move to Exchange will deliver new functionality and improved usability to NHSmail users. These include full mobile access via an extensive range of wireless devices, facilitating access to the many peripatetic workers in the NHS, full support for shared calendar use between doctors and managers, easier navigation between screens and functions, and the ability to share contacts between users. Exchange will also enable much faster recovery should any event impact one of the two data centres.

NHSmail carries out annual user surveys, and the Exchange-based service meets all of the most common requests for change reflected in survey results.

Other additional features are currently under consideration, such as instant messaging, which we believe will further increase the service appeal to NHS staff. As a result of this and the features described above, early contact with NHS trusts and NHS staff indicates that the transition to Exchange is likely to increase NHSmail user take-up above the current rate of 5,000 new users per month.

NHS: Finance

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the accuracy of data used to calculate local health allocations. [149779]

Mr. Bradshaw: Revenue allocations to primary care trusts are informed by a fair funding formula. The formula is overseen by an independent body, the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA). ACRA's role is to ensure equity in resource allocation. In order to achieve this objective, ACRA ensures that the most up-to-date, accurate and robust data available at the time of making allocations are used in the formula.

NHS: ICT

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will make a statement on the future of Cerner's products and services within the NHS IT system; [150472]

(2) in which NHS hospitals Cerner's Millennium product is working satisfactorily; and if he will make a statement on the expected roll out programme; [150473]

(3) if he will make an evaluation of the effectiveness of Cerner's Millennium system. [150474]

Mr. Bradshaw: Cerner is the chosen subcontractor of two of the local service providers (LSPs) under the national programme for information technology in the national health service, Fujitsu in the South and BT in London, for the provision of secondary care systems.

In the South, six health communities have to date gone live with the Cerner Millennium system provided through the national programme. Each health community typically comprises an acute NHS trust and the associated primary care trust sites in its area. Details are provided in the following table.

Trust name	*Total users*	*Peak users*	*Average users*	*Go live date*
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	880	700	450	25 September 2006
Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Trust	2,000	980	420	24 February 2007
Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust	900	170	130	22 December 2005
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	2,875	620	400	20 April 2007
Weston Area Health NHS Trust	1,700	1,400	450	29 July 2006
Winchester and Eastleigh Health. .e NHS Trust	1,821	980	360	10 February 2007
Total	10,176	4,850	2,210	

To date, 1.4 million patient records have been entered in the systems in use in the South.

Five further systems are planned to go live in the South during 2007, 24 in 2008, and 19 in 2009. In London, three Millennium deployments are planned in 2007, the first, at Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals Trust, due to go live before the end of July, and a further four in 2008. Go live dates in each strategic health authority (SHA) area are determined by agreement with the NHS bodies concerned.

The Millennium system is a robust product built on modern architecture, with greater patient data security and stability than older systems. It is used in many other countries and currently has a worldwide patient base of some 100 million patients. The version of Millennium being deployed through the national programme is based on that purchased in 2005 by two London NHS hospital trusts, the Homerton, and Newham University Hospitals Trusts. This version, release 0, contains the patient administration service functionality, is compliant with Choose and Book, and has the ability to order pathology tests and radiological diagnoses, and receive the reports. Subsequent releases will include ever greater functionality, particularly clinical functionality, bringing increasing benefits to patients and those who treat them.

Current users of the Homerton and Newham systems, who have had two years to become familiar with the system and to make local improvements, have expressed their satisfaction with the system. Further positive feedback has been received from a number of users, especially nurses.

Though the current Millennium release version has less functionality than that of certain advanced alternative systems in some trusts, this limitation is a necessary step in building up a fully integrated secondary care system through subsequent releases. Meanwhile, NHS Connecting for Health and SHAs are working closely with the LSPs and Cerner to further develop and improve the product, its functionality, and its ease of use.

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are employed in the NHS in *(a)* England and *(b)* Suffolk; and what percentage of each is employed in (i) management, (ii) administrative, (iii) scientific, (iv) research, (v) clinical medical, nursing and midwifery and (vi) other roles. [150544]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is shown in the table. The annual workforce census does not separately identify research staff.

Qualified ambulance staff have been excluded as the East of England Ambulance Service Trust falls within the Suffolk region, but serves a much wider area. Consequently the number of ambulance staff in Suffolk is much higher than would be expected, which also distorts the percentages in the other staff group areas.

National health service staff in England and Suffolk by specified staff group, as at 30 September 2006

	England	Percentage	Of which: Suffolk	Percentage
All NHS staff[1]	1,306,622	100.0	13,013	100.0
Frontline Medical Staff[2]	659,017	50.4	6,324	48.6
of which				
HCHS Doctors[3]	90,243	6.9	778	6.0
GMPs[4]	36,008	2.8	434	3.3
Qualified Nurses (incl. Midwifery, Health Visitors and Practice Nurses)	398,269	30.5	3,820	29.4
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	134,497	10.3	1,292	9.9
Qualified ambulance staff	—	—	—	—
Clerical and administrative staff	219,080	16.8	1,962	15.1
Managers and senior managers	35,309	2.7	293	2.3
Others	393,216	30.1	4,434	34.1

[1] The figures for Suffolk are based on 2006 Primary Care Trust and trust boundaries and consists of Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust, Suffolk Mental Health Partnership Trust, Suffolk PCT, West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust and East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust.
[2] Front line medical staff includes HCHS doctors, general medical practitioners, qualified nurses (including GP practice nurses), qualified scientific, therapeutic & technical staff and Qualified ambulance staff.
[3] Excludes medical hospital practitioners and medical clinical assistants, most of whom are general practitioners (GPs) working part time in hospitals.
[4] General Medical practitioners includes GP providers, GP others, GP retainers and GP registrars.
Source:
Annual Workforce Census

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are employed in the NHS in *(a)* England and *(b)* West Sussex; and what percentage of each is employed in (i) management, (ii) administrative, (iii) scientific, (iv) research, (v) clinical medical, nursing and midwifery and (vi) other roles. [151785]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is shown in the following table.

NHS staff in England and West Sussex[1] by specified staff group, as at 30 September 2006

			Number (headcount) Of which:	
	England	Percentage	West Sussex	Percentage
All NHS staff	1,338,779	100.0	29,263	100.0
Frontline medical staff[2]	675,260	50.4	15,261	52.2
of which:				
HCHS doctors[3]	90,243	6.7	2,075	7.1
GMPs[4]	36,008	2.7	569	1.9
Qualified nurses (incl. midwifery, health visitors and practice nurses)	398,335	29.8	8,502	29.1
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	134,498	10.0	2,558	8.7
Qualified ambulance staff	16,176	1.2	1,557	5.3
Clerical and administrative staff	224,302	16.8	4,925	16.8
Managers and senior managers	36,751	2.7	807	2.8
Others	402,466	30.1	8,270	28.3

[1] The figures for West Sussex are based on 2006 primary care trust and trust boundaries and consists of Brighton and Sussex university hospitals NHS trust, Queen Victoria hospital NHS trust, Royal West Sussex NHS trust, Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS trust, Sussex Partnership NHS trust, Worthing and Southlands hospitals NHS trust, West Sussex PCT and South East Coast ambulance service NHS trust
[2] Front line medical staff includes HCHS doctors, general medical practitioners, qualified nurses (including GP practice nurses), qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff and qualified ambulance staff
[3] Excludes medical hospital practitioners and medical clinical assistants, most of whom are GPs working part-time in hospitals
[4] General medical practitioners includes GP providers, GP others, GP retainers and GP registrars.
Sources:
The Information Centre Non-Medical, Medical and Dental and General and Personal Medical Services Censuses

NHS: Parking

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the provision of car parking facilities for NHS staff who *(a)* work at NHS sites and *(b)* visit people in their homes. [150536]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has provided advice to the national health service, in Health Technical Memorandum 07-03 Transport management and car parking, about the provision of car parking through the development of transport management plans. A copy is available in the Library.

Specific arrangements for the provision of car parking facilities for NHS staff will ultimately be determined at local level; will be dependent on local authority planning approval; and will be dependent on the needs of staff, patients and visitors alike.

Parking facilities for health care professionals who visit people in their own home are similarly governed by local circumstances and availability.

Obesity

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* obesity and *(b)* smoking rate in (i) England, (ii) Hampshire and (iii) Southampton. [150966]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the format requested. The latest data on obesity prevalence is available from the 2005 Health Survey for England (HSE). Table 1 shows the prevalence of obesity among men and women aged 16 and over in England in 2005.

Data on prevalence of obesity is not available for Hampshire. However, from the HSE we can provide the percentages of obesity among adults, aged 16 and over, for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Health Authority, for the combined years 2002-04. This information is shown in table 2.

Information on obesity prevalence in Southampton is not available. However estimated prevalence of obesity among adults, aged 16 and over, along with associated confidence intervals are provided for the wards in the Southampton local authority (LA). These estimates, for the combined years 2000-02, are taken from the synthetic estimates of healthy lifestyle behaviours and are shown in table 3.

Data on the percentage of adults, aged 16 and over, who smoke are available from the 2005 general household survey. The data are not available for Hampshire, however they are available by Government office region (GOR). Data are provided on the percentage of adults who smoke in England and in the South East GOR, which incorporates Hampshire, in table 4.

Information for Southampton's smoking prevalence is not available. However, estimated prevalence of adult smokers aged 16 and over, along with associated confidence intervals are provided for the wards in the Southampton LA. These estimates are also taken from the Synthetic Estimates of Healthy Lifestyle Behaviours. These estimates are for the combined years 2000-02, and are shown in table 5.

Table 1: Prevalence of obesity among adults, by gender, 2005[1], England

	Percentage/Number
Men	22.1
Women	24.3
Bases (unweighted)	
Men	2,930
Women	3,409
Bases (weighted)	
Men	3,144
Women	3,184

[1] Data are weighted for non-response.
Source:
Health Survey for England 2005—updating of trend tables to include 2005 data. The Information Centre.

Table 2: Prevalence of obesity for Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Health Authority (SHA), 2002-04[1]

	Obese[2] (BMI over 30)	Unweighted base	Percentage Adjusted base[2]
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	21.3	845	1,307

[1] Samples have not been weighted for non-response or selection.
[2] Figures are adjusted so that each year is given an equal weight.
Source:
Health Survey for England 2002, 2003. The Department of Health. Health Survey for England 2004. The Information Centre.

Table 3: Estimated prevalence of obesity among adults, by ward in the Southampton local authority area, 2000-02

Southampton local authority	Estimated prevalence of obesity	95% lower confidence interval	95% upper confidence interval	Percentage Comparison of estimated prevalence for obesity with national estimate[1]
Bargate	18.3	12.4	25.7	2
Bassett	18.0	12.4	25.3	2
Bevois	19.3	13.2	26.9	2
Bitterne	26.6	19.0	35.7	2
Bitterne Park	21.3	15.0	29.4	2
Coxford	24.9	17.8	33.8	2
Freemantle	18.4	12.7	25.7	2
Harefield	23.7	16.9	32.3	2
Millbrook	22.9	16.2	31.4	2
Peartree	22.3	15.8	30.5	2
Portswood	17.0	11.6	24.0	2
Redbridge	25.9	18.5	34.9	2
Shirley	20.2	14.2	27.9	2
Sholing	23.1	16.4	31.5	2
Swaythling	20.4	14.0	28.3	2
Woolston	24.3	17.2	32.9	2

[1] It should be noted that the scores for comparing the synthetic estimate to the national estimate relate to the data as follows: 1=CI significantly below NE, 2=overlapping, 3=CI significantly above NE. The national estimate is derived directly from the Health Surveys for England 2000-02 (with associated confidence intervals) and therefore is not a model-based estimate.
Source:
Synthetic Estimates of Healthy Lifestyle Behaviours at ward level, 2000-02. The Information Centre, Neighbourhood Statistics 2005.

Table 4: Prevalence of cigarette smoking in South East GOR and England, 2005[1,2]

	All adults	Weighted bases (000s)	Percentage Unweighted bases
South East GOR	22	6,015	3,163
England	24	35,936	18,613

[1] Among adults aged 16 and over.
[2] 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004-05 data due to survey change from financial to calendar year.
Source:
General Household Survey 2005. Office for National Statistics.

Table 5: Estimated prevalence of smoking among adults, by ward in the Southampton local authority area, 2000-02

Southampton local authority	Estimated prevalence of smoking	95 per cent. lower confidence interval	95 per cent. upper confidence interval	Percentage Comparison of estimated prevalence of smoking with national estimate[1]
Bargate	37.7	24.1	53.3	2
Bassett	20.4	12.0	32.3	2
Bevois	33.4	21.0	48.5	2
Bitterne	38.9	25.4	54.4	2
Bitterne Park	26.3	16.1	39.9	2
Coxford	36.1	23.2	51.4	2
Freemantle	31.8	19.9	46.6	2
Harefield	33.1	20.8	48.1	2
Millbrook	37.1	24.0	52.6	2
Peartree	29.5	18.3	43.7	2
Portswood	28.0	17.1	42.0	2
Redbridge	40.1	26.3	55.5	2
Shirley	24.6	14.9	37.6	2
Sholing	29.0	18.0	43.2	2
Swaythling	37.4	23.9	52.7	2
Woolston	35.2	22.5	50.3	2

[1] It should be noted that the scores for comparing the synthetic estimate to the national estimate relate to the data as follows: 1=CI significantly below NE, 2=overlapping, 3=CI significantly above NE. The national estimate is derived directly from the Health Surveys for England 2000-02 (with associated confidence intervals) and therefore is not a model-based estimate.
Source:
Synthetic Estimates of Healthy Lifestyle Behaviours at ward level, 2000-02, The Information Centre, Neighbourhood Statistics 2007.

Obesity: Children

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of children classified as *(a)* overweight and *(b)* obese by the age of three years (i) at the present time and (ii) in 1997. [151071]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the exact format requested. Data on children's overweight and obesity prevalence are taken from the Health Survey for England. We can provide the prevalence of children aged two to three who are overweight or obese in England in 2002-04 combined. Data are aggregated over three years, 2002, 2003 and 2004 to achieve a sufficiently large sample for analysis at this level. These data are shown in table 1 and are published in 'Statistics on Obesity, Physical Activity and Diet, England 2006'. Copies are available in the Library and at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/obesity/statistics-on-obesity-physical-activity-and-diet-england-2006.

We can also provide the prevalence of overweight and obesity among children aged two to 10, from 1997 to 2005. Data for 2005 are the latest data available. These data are shown in table 2 and are published in the 'Health Survey for England—Updating of trend tables to include 2005 data', and at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/health-survey-for-england/health-survey-for-england--updating-of-trend-tables-to-include-2005-data.

Table 1: Overweight and obesity prevalence among children aged two to three, 2002-04[1] England

	Percentage
Obese	11.6
Overweight including obese	25.2
Base (unweighted)	1,130
Base (weighted)	1,232

[1] Data are aggregated over three years, 2002, 2003 and 2004 to achieve a sufficiently large sample for analysis at this level.
Source:
Health Survey for England 2002, 2003. The Department of Health
Health Survey for England 2004. The Information Centre

Table 2: Overweight and obesity prevalence among children aged two to 10, 1997 to 2005, England

								Percentage Unweighted[1]			Weighted	
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
Overweight	12.5	13.6	13.8	12.6	14.8	13.2	14.0	14.2	14.3	14.0	14.7	14.2

Table 2: Overweight and obesity prevalence among children aged two to 10, 1997 to 2005, England

Percentage

	Unweighted[1]									Weighted		
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Obese	10.9	11.6	14.6	12.0	13.1	15.5	13.7	14.3	16.7	13.8	14.5	16.8
Overweight including obese	23.4	25.2	28.4	24.6	27.9	28.7	27.7	28.5	30.9	27.8	29.1	31.0
Bases (weighted)	4,089	2,552	1,262	1,094	2,129	4,654	1,774	759	1,419	1,736	726	1,338

[1] From 2003 data were also weighted for non response. Data weighted for child selection only are provided for consistency with previous years.
Source:
Health Survey for England—Updating of trend tables to include 2005 data

Ovarian Cancer: Medical Treatments

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what appraisal the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has carried out on treatments for ovarian cancer. [151513]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has issued technology appraisal guidance on the use of paclitaxel for ovarian cancer (updated in January 2003) and on the use of topotecan, pegylated liposomal doxorubicin hydrochloride (PLDH) and paclitaxel for the treatment of advanced ovarian cancer (May 2005).

Physiotherapy

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of physiotherapists the NHS in England will need to employ in each of the next three financial years. [150901]

Mr. Bradshaw: Workforce planning is a matter for local determination. It is for local workforce planners to determine the physiotherapy needs of their local population with appropriate support from the workforce review team (WRT), national workforce projects and NHS Employers.

Projected estimates on the future number of physiotherapists are published on the WRT website:

www.healthcareworkforce.nhs.uk/workforce_review_team/

Ritalin

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were prescribed a methylphenidate in each of the last 10 years. [150652]

Ann Keen: We do not collect that information centrally. Data are, however, available on the number of prescriptions for central nervous system stimulants and drugs used for attention deficit hyperactive disorder including methylphenidate (Ritalin) dispensed to children under 16 years and those aged 16 to 18 years in full-time education.

The following table gives numbers of prescriptions by age.

Financial year	*Items under 16*	*Items 16 to 18 in full-time education*
1996-97	48,264	2,058
1997-98	86,247	3,388
1998-99	112,294	4,596
1999-2000	144,894	7,698
2000-01	171,244	7,873
2001-02	200,202	9,225
2002-03	247,115	11,935
2003-04	289,009	17,218
2004-05	338,909	24,906
2005-06	379,334	31,694
2006-07	454,797	40,339

Royal Brompton Hospital: Clostridium

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the incidence of clostridium difficile in the Royal Brompton hospital was in each of the last three years, broken down by age category of patient. [151450]

Ann Keen: The data requested are not available. Mandatory surveillance for Clostridium difficile infection in people aged 65 years and over commenced in January 2004 and covers acute national health service trusts in England rather that individual hospitals.

Reported figures for the Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospital NHS Trust are shown in the following table.

Number of reported cases of Clostridium difficile

January to December each year	*The Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospital NHS Trust*
2004	25
2005	21
2006	14

Source:
HPA

School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the long-term effects of the school free fruit and vegetable programme. [151064]

Dawn Primarolo: An initial evaluation of the school fruit and vegetable scheme was carried out in November 2004. At that stage the children who participated in the evaluation had only been receiving free fruit and vegetables

since June 2004. The results provided a useful insight into the initial impact of the scheme but it was recognised that further work would need to be undertaken to measure the impact of the scheme over a longer period. In 2006 we commissioned a further evaluation of the school fruit and vegetable scheme. The report of the further evaluation will be published shortly.

School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme: Expenditure

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on the free fruit and vegetable programme in schools in each year since it was introduced. [151065]

Dawn Primarolo: The lottery provided £16 million towards the original pilots of the National School Fruit Scheme between 2000 and 2002. Lottery funding also provided £42 million to support scaling-up of the original pilots across five Government regions between 2002 and 2004.

The Department spent £0.75 million in 2001-02 and £0.3 million in 2002-03 on administering and evaluating the national school fruit scheme pilots.

The national rollout to all local education authority infant, primary and special schools across England of the scheme was completed at the end of 2004 and in the year 2004-05 the Department spent £28.5 million on the scheme.

From April 2005 the Department has fully funded the school fruit and vegetable. The cost of the scheme in 2005-06 was £37.83 million and £36.77 million in 2006-07.

As the scheme has developed we have been able to achieve efficiencies in the overall administration of the scheme and the supply and distribution of the fruit and vegetables which has resulted in spending on the scheme reducing over the last year.

Simvastatin

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has produced on the use of statins; and if he will make a statement. [150816]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published technology appraisal guidance on "Cardiovascular Disease – Statins" in January 2006. This guidance has been placed in the Library and is available on NICE's website at www.guidance.nice.org.uk/TA94

Smoking

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the percentage of the population of *(a)* Hampshire, *(b)* England and *(c)* Southampton that smoke, broken down by (i) sex, (ii) age, (iii) religion and (iv) NHS trust. [150960]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the format requested. Data on the percentage of adults, aged 16 and over, who smoke are available from the 2005 General Household Survey (GHS), and are available by Government office region (GOR). Data are provided on the percentage of men and women, aged 16 and over, who smoke in the South East GOR which incorporates Hampshire. This information is given in table 1. The sample sizes are too small at GOR level to break down by age.

Data on the percentage of adult smokers, aged 16 and over, in England is also available from the 2005 (GHS). These are broken down by gender and age and are provided in table 2.

Data on smoking prevalence collected from surveys are not available level by religion or by national health service trust.

Information for Southampton's smoking prevalence is not available. However, the estimated prevalence of adult smokers, aged 16 and over, along with associated confidence intervals are provided for the wards in the Southampton local authority. These estimates are taken from the Synthetic Estimates of Healthy Lifestyle Behaviours and are published on the Neighbourhood Statistics website, available at:

neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/Download1.do

These estimates are for the combined years 2000-02 and are shown in table 3. This information is not available broken down by gender, age, religion or NHS trust.

Table 1: Prevalence of cigarette smoking in South East GOR, by gender, 2005[1,2]

South East GOR	*Percentage*
All adults	22
Men	24
Women	21
Weighted bases (thousand)	
All adults	6,015
Men	2,849
Women	3,166
Unweighted bases	
All adults	3,163
Men	1,485
Women	1,678

[1] Among adults aged 16 and over
[2] 2005 data include last quarter of 2004-05 data due to survey change from financial to calendar year
Source:
General Household Survey 2005. Office for National Statistics

Table 2: Prevalence of cigarette smoking, by gender and age, 2005[1,2]—England

	All adults	*16-19*	*20-24*	*25-34*	*35-49*	*50-59*	*Percentage 60 and over*
All adults	24	25	32	31	27	24	13
Men	25	23	34	33	29	25	14
Women	22	27	29	29	25	23	13

Table 2: Prevalence of cigarette smoking, by gender and age, 2005[1,2]—England

	All adults	16-19	20-24	25-34	35-49	50-59	Percentage 60 and over
Weighted bases (Thousand)							
All adults	35,936	1,940	2,607	5,948	9,869	5,897	9,675
Men	16,834	993	1,186	2,843	4,559	2,859	4,394
Women	19,102	947	1,421	3,105	5,311	3,038	5,281
Unweighted bases							
All adults	18,613	896	1,152	2,957	5,118	3,127	5,363
Men	8,663	449	502	1,367	2,341	1,509	2,495
Women	9,950	447	650	1,590	2,777	1,618	2,868

[1] Among Adults aged 16 and over
[2] 2005 data include last quarter of 2004-05 data due to survey change from financial to calendar year
Source:
General Household Survey 2005. Office for National Statistics

Table 3: Estimated prevalence of smoking among adults, by ward in the Southampton local authority area, 2000-02

	Estimated prevalence of smoking	95 per cent. lower confidence interval	95 per cent. upper confidence level	Percentage Comparison of estimated prevalence for smoking with national estimate
Bargate	37.7	24.1	53.3	2
Bassett	20.4	12.0	32.3	2
Bevois	33.4	21.0	48.5	2
Bitterne	38.9	25.4	54.4	2
Bitterne Park	26.3	16.1	39.9	2
Coxford	36.1	23.2	51.4	2
Freemantle	31.8	19.9	46.6	2
Harefield	33.1	20.8	48.1	2
Millbrook	37.1	24.0	52.6	2
Peartree	29.5	18.3	43.7	2
Portswood	28.0	17.1	42.0	2
Redbridge	40.1	26.3	55.5	2
Shirley	24.6	14.9	37.6	2
Sholing	29.0	18.0	43.2	2
Swaythling	37.4	23.9	52.7	2
Woolston	35.2	22.5	50.3	2

[1] It should be noted that the scores for comparing the synthetic estimate to the national estimate relate to the data as follows:
1 = CI significantly below NE,
2 = Overlapping,
3 = CI significantly above NE.
The national estimate is derived directly from the Health Surveys for England 2000-02 (with associated Confidence Intervals) and therefore is not a model-based estimate.
Source:
Synthetic Estimates of Healthy Lifestyle Behaviours at ward Level, 2000-02. The Information Centre, Neighbourhood Statistics 2005

Smoking: Health Hazards

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by the NHS on treating patients with smoking-related illnesses in Hereford constituency in the last 12 months. [150755]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not centrally collected.

West Sussex Primary Care Trust: Finance

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost is of the West Sussex Primary Care Trust Fit for the Future hospital reconfiguration consultation. [151063]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not held centrally but can be obtained from West Sussex Primary Care Trust.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library the guidance issued by his Department to local authorities in each month since January 2005 on the establishment of academies; and if he will make a statement. [149888]

Jim Knight: A large number of publications issued by my Department to local authorities include guidance on academies. The most recent specific guidance to

local authorities on academies is included in '400 Academies—Prospectus for Sponsors and Local Authorities' (ISBN: 1-84478-682-X) published in May 2007. Copies of this have been placed in the Library.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what value for money assessment of academies has been *(a)* completed and *(b)* planned; and if he will make a statement. [150838]

Jim Knight: The National Audit Office has examined whether the academies programme is able to meet its objectives and to deliver value for money. Its report 'The Academies Programme' was prepared under section 6 of the National Audit Act 1983 for presentation to the House of Commons in accordance with section 9 of the Act, and was published on 23 February 2007. The report examined whether the academies programme was "able to meet its objectives and to deliver value for money", and concluded that:

"Given the progress made by most academies so far in improving the quality of education for their pupils, the academies programme is on track to deliver good value for money."

Academies are a key element of the drive to raise standards; raising aspirations and creating opportunity in some of the most disadvantaged communities in the country. There are no current plans for further "value for money" reviews of the programme.

Academies: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what financial provision for academies has been made for each year from 2005-06 to 2012-13 in his Department's budget; and if he will make a statement. [149889]

Jim Knight: The following table details the financial provision for academies for each of the years in question where such provision is known.

Budgets for subsequent years will depend on the final allocation of the Department's comprehensive spending review settlement.

	Revenue	*£ million Capital*
2005-06	[1]145.5	[1]251.7
2006-07	[1]265.8	[1]385.7
2007-08	[2]565.0	[3]517.0

[1] Actual outturn
[2] Estimated outturn
[3] Current baseline

Adoption: Standards

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect of the targets on adoption on the numbers of children remaining with their birth families. [150788]

Kevin Brennan: A national adoption target was announced in 2000 to increase the number of adoptions of looked after children by 40 per cent. by the year ending March 2005, and to exceed this by achieving, if possible, a 50 per cent. increase by the end of March 2006.

The target related to children who were already looked after.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families collects statistics on the number of adoptions of Looked After Children in England. Relevant information is published in the document "Children Looked After By Local Authorities Year Ending March 2006" which is available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000721/index.shtml.

Babies: Care Proceedings

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children under the age of one had care proceedings initiated for them in each of the last three years. [151068]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the initiation of care proceedings is not collected centrally. The information provided in the table relates to the number of children looked after who became subject to a care order and were aged under one year old at the time the care order became effective.

Children looked after during years ending 31 March, 2004, 2005, 2006 aged under 1 year old who became subject to a care order[1, 2, 3]: England

Number

	Year ending 31 March		
	2004	*2005*	*2006*
Number of children aged under one year	3,000	3,100	3,100

[1] Figures include children who started to be looked after during the year as a result of a care order being granted and children who started to be looked after under any other legal status, including Section 20 of the Children Act, and subsequently became subject to a care order during the year.
[2] To maintain the confidentiality of each individual child, data at national level are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[3] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
Source:
SSDA903

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* annual and *(b)* net present value costs of the Building Schools for the Future programme in each year between 2003-04 and 2020-21; and if he will make a statement. [150700]

Jim Knight: Currently we are investing around £2.2 billion a year through the Building Schools for the Future programme. An announcement about the level of investment over the next spending period 2008-09 to 2010-11 will be made later this year. Beyond that, future levels of investment will depend on the outcome of future spending decisions. My Department has made no estimate of the net present value of costs.

Children in Care

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children have been *(a)* in care and *(b)* taken into care in each year since 1990-91; if he will place in the Library a breakdown of the reasons why children went into care; and if he will make a statement. [150155]

Kevin Brennan: The number of children who were looked after during the years ending 31 March 1991 to 2006 is shown in table 1.

The number of children who were taken into care during the years ending 31 March 2002 to 2006 is shown in table 2.

"Children taken into care" are children who started to be looked after under the following legal statuses: interim or full care orders, and police protection or emergency protection or child assessment orders. They exclude children freed for adoption or for whom a placement order was granted, they exclude children under voluntary accommodation and they also exclude children under youth justice legal statuses.

The remaining information requested can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Table 1: All children[1] looked after at 31 March, 1991-2006[1,2], England

	Number
1991[3]	59,800
1992[3]	55,500
1993[3]	51,200
1994[3]	49,500
1995[3]	49,900
1996[3]	50,800
1997[3]	51,400
1998[4]	53,300
1999[4]	55,500
2000[4]	58,100
2001[4]	58,900
2002[4]	59,700
2003[4]	60,800
2004[3]	61,200
2005[3]	60,900
2006[3]	60,300

[1] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
[2] Historical data may differ from older publications. In previous years' publications, this table used data from CLA100. To be consistent with tables elsewhere, data in this publication are now taken from the SSDA903 throughout, and the breakdowns may therefore differ slightly from figures in previous publications.
[3] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which in 1990-91 to 1996-97, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 covered all looked after children.
[4] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 one-third sample survey.

Table 2: Looked after children taken into care during the years ending 31 March 2002 to 2006[1,2,3,4,5,6,7], England

	2002[3]	2003[3]	2004[4]	2005[2]	Number 2006[2]
England	7,400	8,100	7,500	7,700	7,600

[1] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
[2] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 covered all looked after children.
[3] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 one-third sample survey.
[4] Only the first occasion on which a child was taken into care in the year has been counted.
[5] "Children taken into care" are children who started to be looked after under the following legal statuses: interim or full care orders, and police protection or emergency protection or child assessment orders. They exclude children freed for adoption or for whom a placement order was granted, they exclude children under voluntary accommodation and they also exclude children under youth justice legal statuses.
[6] Historical figures may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
[7] To maintain the confidentiality of each individual child, data at national level are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 or to the nearest 10 otherwise.

Children in Care: Care Homes

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many looked after children are accommodated in independent children's homes; [150331]

(2) how many independent children's homes have been registered in each of the last five years; [150332]

(3) how many independent children's homes have been de-registered in each of the last five years; and for what reasons. [150334]

Kevin Brennan: Data on the number of looked after children who are accommodated in independent children's homes are not available from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

Data on the number of independent children's homes that have been (a) registered and (b) de-registered in each of the last five years are not held centrally by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average annual cost is of housing a looked after child in an independent children's home. [150333]

Kevin Brennan: The average annual cost of a placement for a looked after child in an independent children's home in England for 2005-06 (the latest year for which figures are available) was £120,000.

Children in Care: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many newborn babies were taken into care in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in the last 12 months. [151370]

Kevin Brennan: The number of newborn babies, aged seven days or less, taken into care in England for year ending 31 March 2006 was 670. Of these, 10 were the

responsibility of East Sussex local authority. The corresponding number for Eastbourne is unknown as information is collected at local authority level.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations he received on the number of newborn babies taken into care in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in the last 12 months. [151371]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Children: Adoption

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children have been adopted in each of the last 10 years, broken down by age. [150330]

Kevin Brennan: Statistical information on the total number of adoptions in England and Wales by age of child for the years 1995-2005 is included in table 6.2b in the Statistics Series "Marriage, divorce and adoptions", volume FM2, published by the Office for National Statistics. A copy of this publication is available in the House Library and on the National Statistics website at

www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/FM2no32/FM2_32.pdf

Statistics for 2006 have not yet been published.

Children: Care Orders

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of children subject to a care order attend *(a)* a community school, *(b)* a foundation school, *(c)* a specialist school, *(d)* a city technology college, *(e)* an academy, *(f)* a community or foundation special school, *(g)* a faith school and *(h)* a grammar school. [150743]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested is not available.

We are determined to improve outcomes for all children in care. Our recent White Paper Care Matters: Time for Change sets out specific proposals to improve their education. This includes: a £500 educational allowance for children in care at risk of falling behind at school; putting the 'designated teacher' on a statutory footing to improve the expertise in schools; appointing 'virtual school heads' to oversee their education; improving attendance and reducing exclusions; reducing mobility of school placements, particularly in the crucial years before GCSEs; and a bursary of a minimum of £2000 for all children in care who go on to university.

These proposals build on the measures already in place: a specific duty on local authorities to promote the educational achievement of children in care and a requirement to give them the highest priority in school admission arrangements.

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in what circumstances sensitive material, as defined by the Data Protection Act 1998, will appear on the ContactPoint database. [150734]

Kevin Brennan: ContactPoint will not hold detailed case information. In addition to basic identifying information for the child or young person, it will hold only contact details for the parent or carer, and for practitioners providing services to a child or young person. In the case of sensitive services—defined as sexual health, mental health or substance abuse—practitioner contact details will only be added to ContactPoint with informed, explicit consent. ContactPoint will also have the facility for practitioners to indicate to others if they are a lead professional and have undertaken a common assessment, in relation to a child or young person.

ContactPoint has developed a strong, collaborative relationship with the Information Commissioner's Office based on a shared desire to ensure that ContactPoint operates within the Data Protection Act. Richard Thomas, the Information Commissioner has recently written to the Project Director and confirmed that

"The information that you require to populate ContactPoint is of an administrative nature, it reveals nothing about an individual's health or condition and it does not strike me as sensitive."

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how the effectiveness of the ContactPoint Audit system will be monitored. [150746]

Kevin Brennan: ContactPoint will identify all users seeking access through a method of strong authentication involving physical security tokens, PIN numbers and passwords. Where access is mediated, ContactPoint will authenticate the identity of both the user and the mediator to the same high level. All ContactPoint activity will be audited, including the query parameters and the results returned.

User managers will regularly run analysis reports that will highlight potential inappropriate usage patterns for investigation. In addition, random samples of activity will be automatically extracted and analysed. The ContactPoint central team will monitor user managers to ensure that the audit reports are being run.

These measures provide a high level of assurance that the ContactPoint audit function is robust, and activity can be correctly attributed to an individual authorised user.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in what circumstances people will have access to ContactPoint without having first undergone a Criminal Records Bureau check. [150747]

Kevin Brennan: The only users who will be granted to access ContactPoint, without undergoing an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check, will be authorised members or employees of a police authority, a chief officer of police for a police area in England, or officers of the British Transport Police Authority. Their access will be granted by virtue of the fact that all officers and staff undergo equivalent vetting and checks but not the enhanced CRB check itself.

Children: Mental Health Services

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to improve access to mental health services for children; and if he will make a statement. [150750]

Jim Knight: The CAMHS Standard of the Children's National Service Framework for England (published September 2004) set out a 10 year programme of improvements for child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS). The aim is that all children and young people, from birth to their eighteenth birthday, who have mental health problems and disorders, will have access to timely, integrated, high quality multidisciplinary mental health services to ensure effective assessment, treatment and support, for them, their parents or carers, and other family members.

This commitment to improve CAMHS has been backed by significant additional funding, over £400 million in the last four years, to local authorities and the NHS. We will continue to build on these improvements and ensure that the promotion of children's mental health and emotional well being remains a priority for schools and children's services.

City Academies: Sponsorship

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with which potential sponsors of city academies his Department is holding discussions. [148917]

Jim Knight: Potential sponsors are those who have not yet formally entered into a funding agreement. Those who have projects which are in the public domain are listed as follows.

A number of potential sponsors are in very early discussions about academy projects. Their details have therefore not been provided.

The list of potential sponsors the Department is currently in discussions with are:

Absolute Return for Kids (ARK),
All Roads DSO,
Andrew Tinkler,
Aston University
Barnfield FE College,
BBC,
Bob Edmiston,
Bovis Lend Lease,
Brian Scrowcroft,
British Edutrust Foundation,
Carillion,
Central Manchester University,
CfBT,
Church of England,
Corporation of London,
Coventry City College,
Coventry City Council,
Coventry University,
Crown Products (Kent) Ltd.,
CTC Trusts',
David and Anne Grassland,
David Ross,
David Samworth,
Duke of Northumberland,
Dulwich College,
Edge Foundation,
Emmanuel Schools Foundation,
Eric Payne,
Grahame Dacre,
Haberdashers' Livery Company,
Hewlett Packard,
Holiday Extras,
HSBC Trust,
Imperial College
ITV Granada,
Jaguar Cars,
JCB,
Jon Aisbitt,
Kent County Council,
KPMG,
Laing O'Rourke,
Leighton Group,
Liverpool Hope University,
Lord Harris of Peckham,
Mancat,
Manchester Airport,
Manchester Children's University Hosp NHS Trust,
Manchester City Council,
Martin Finegold,
Mercers' Company,
Microsoft,
New Charter Housing Trust,
New Line Learning,
Northumbrian Water,
Oasis Community Learning,
Ormiston Trust,
Oxford Brookes University,
Priory Trust,
Prospect Education (Technology) Trust Ltd.,
Queen Mary
RC Archdiocese of Liverpool,
Rodney Aldridge Charitable Trust,
Roger de Haan,
RSA,
Sheffield Hallam University,
Shireland Learning,
Steiner School Fellowship,
Sunderland County Council,
Sunderland Housing Group,
The Co-operative Group,
The Skinners Company,
Toc H,
Tonbridge School,
ULT
University College London,
University of Central England
University of London
University of Manchester
University of Nottingham,
University of the West of England

University of Wolverhampton
Wellington College.
Willow Park Housing Trust.
Worshipful Company of Information Technologists.

Classroom Assistants

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what change there has been in the number of teaching assistants in England since 1996-97; what assessment he has made of the effects of that change on levels of pupil attainment; and if he will make a statement. [150691]

Jim Knight: In January 2007, there were approximately 162,900 (full-time equivalent) teaching assistants in schools in England. This is an increase of 102,300 since 1997, more than doubling the number of teaching assistants.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families, in conjunction with the Welsh Assembly Government, have commissioned a five-year research study (2004-09) to provide a detailed analysis of the impact of support staff on teaching and learning, in addition to comprehensive and reliable information on the types, characteristics and deployment of support staff (including teaching assistants) in schools in England and Wales. Early findings published in 2006 (Blatchford et al, DfES Research Report 776) suggested that many teachers felt support staff were having a positive effect on pupil learning and behaviour. Teachers also felt that support staff benefited their teaching in a number of ways, for example, by allowing them to differentiate the work for more pupils. Subsequent publications will report in more detail on the role of support staff in teaching and learning and provide a systematic analysis of the effect of support staff on pupil outcomes, including attainment.

In 2002, Ofsted reported that

"In virtually every year group and at every level of free school meal eligibility, the quality of teaching in lessons with teaching assistants is better than in those without".

(Applies to primary only. Source: Teaching Assistants in Primary Schools: An Evaluation of the Quality and Impact of their Work April 2002).

In 2006, the National Foundation for Educational Research concluded that

"In departments that had dedicated support staff, both teachers and departmental heads were significantly more satisfied with the amount and quality of in-class support and administrative support they received. There was evidence that being based in one department was also of benefit to the support staff themselves, both in terms of their overall satisfaction and access to professional development."

(Source: The deployment of teachers and support staff to deliver the maths and science curriculum in secondary schools—NFER 2006).

In January 2003, the National Agreement, "Raising Standards, Tackling Workload" was signed by the Government, employers, and the majority of the school work force unions. The agreement set out the shared vision for the school work force of the future and featured a series of phased reforms to help schools raise standards of achievement of all their pupils and tackle work load issues. It is vital that schools make the most effective use of teachers' time, ensuring that they spend their time only on activities that really need the professional skills and judgment of a teacher. The increased use of teaching assistants (and other support staff) in schools, providing high quality support in the classroom and by taking on a number of administrative tasks previously carried out by teachers, has therefore been integral to the Government's drive to raise standards for pupils and tackle teacher work load.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teaching assistants are employed in each *(a)* Government region and *(b)* local education authority. [151182]

Jim Knight: The following tables provide the number of full-time equivalent teaching assistants employed in local authority maintained schools in England by Government Office region and local authority, January 2006.

Local authority figures for January 2007 are expected to be published on 27 September.

Full-time equivalent[1] teaching assistants in local authority maintained schools by Government Office region and local authority area in England, January 2006

	Teaching assistants[2]
England	153,100
North East	6,930
Darlington	300
Durham	1,100
Gateshead	480
Hartlepool	310
Middlesbrough	520
Newcastle upon Tyne	620
North Tyneside	430
Northumberland	1,040
Redcar and Cleveland	380
South Tyneside	470
Stockton-on-Tees	430
Sunderland	850
North West	22,020
Blackburn with Darwen	650
Blackpool	480
Bolton	1,070
Bury	640
Cheshire	1,740
Cumbria	1,310
Halton	330
Knowsley	460
Lancashire	3,890
Liverpool	1,130
Manchester	1,920
Oldham	830
Rochdale	860
Salford	780
Sefton	780
St. Helens	610
Stockport	780
Tameside	660
Trafford	440
Warrington	630
Wigan	980
Wirral	1,020
Yorkshire and the Humber	17,330
Barnsley	680
Bradford	2,000
Calderdale	860
Doncaster	840

Full-time equivalent[1] teaching assistants in local authority maintained schools: by Government Office region and local authority area in England, January 2006

	Teaching assistants[1]
East Riding of Yorkshire	950
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	920
Kirklees	1,490
Leeds	2,500
North East Lincolnshire	690
North Lincolnshire	600
North Yorkshire	1,710
Rotherham	900
Sheffield	1,590
Wakefield	1,090
York	500
East Midlands	13,490
Derby	930
Derbyshire	2,190
Leicester	1,090
Leicestershire	1,730
Lincolnshire	2,370
Northamptonshire	1,940
Nottingham	1,060
Nottinghamshire	2,060
Rutland	120
West Midlands	17,430
Birmingham	4,390
Coventry	770
Dudley	1,200
Herefordshire	420
Sandwell	970
Shropshire	750
Solihull	630
Staffordshire	2,080
Stoke-on-Trent	830
Telford and Wrekin	640
Walsall	820
Warwickshire	1,630
Wolverhampton	720
Worcestershire	1,580
East of England	17,290
Bedfordshire	1,340
Cambridgeshire	1,880
Essex	3,920
Hertfordshire	2,910
Luton	820
Norfolk	2,570
Peterborough	1,050
Southend-on-Sea	650
Suffolk	1,540
Thurrock	630
London	22,820
Inner London	9,660
Camden	640
City of London	10
Hackney	720
Hammersmith and Fulham	430
Haringey	960
Islington	620
Kensington and Chelsea	280
Lambeth	750
Lewisham	720
Newham	980
Southwark	1,070
Tower Hamlets	1,320
Wandsworth	800
Westminster	370
Outer London	13,160
Barking and Dagenham	560
Barnet	1,070
Bexley	570
Brent	680
Bromley	620
Croydon	980
Ealing	670
Enfield	1,160
Greenwich	920
Harrow	550
Havering	660
Hillingdon	800
Hounslow	680
Kingston upon Thames	380
Merton	460
Redbridge	910
Richmond upon Thames	350
Sutton	360
Waltham Forest	760
South East	22,360
Bracknell Forest	220
Brighton and Hove	510
Buckinghamshire	1,100
East Sussex	1,330
Hampshire	3,210
Isle of Wight	430
Kent	4,660
Medway	930
Milton Keynes	680
Oxfordshire	1,630
Portsmouth	660
Reading	250
Slough	530
Southampton	660
Surrey	2,720
West Berkshire	490
West Sussex	1,660
Windsor and Maidenhead	330
Wokingham	380
South West	13,440
Bath and North East Somerset	270
Bournemouth	460
Bristol, City of	1,110
Cornwall	1,630
Devon	2,380
Dorset	1,350
Gloucestershire	1,030
Isles of Scilly	[2]—
North Somerset	430
Plymouth	870
Poole	460
Somerset	1,380
South Gloucestershire	640
Swindon	380

Full-time equivalent[1] teaching assistants in local authority maintained schools by Government Office region and local authority area in England, January 2006

	Teaching assistants[2]
Torbay	300
Wiltshire	750

[1] Includes both full-time and the full-time equivalent of part-time support staff.
[2] Includes nursery nurses, nursery assistants, literacy and numeracy support staff and any non-teaching staff regularly employed to support in the classroom expect from special needs and minority ethnic pupils support staff.
[3] Nil or negligible.
Note
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source
School Census

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many classroom assistants were employed by each local education authority in each of the last 10 years. [151208]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of teaching assistants employed in local authority maintained schools by local authority in each January from 1997 to 2006. The number of classroom assistants cannot be provided separately.

Full-time equivalent[1] teaching assistants in local authority maintained schools by Government Office Region and local authority area in England, January 1997 to 2006

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
England	60,580	65,540	69,600	79,020	94,990	105,360	121,190	132,060	147,000	153,100
North East	2,870	2,990	3,130	3,450	4,280	4,010	5,060	5,630	6,430	6,930
Gateshead	190	200	210	220	300	320	370	350	450	480
Newcastle upon Tyne	270	300	310	330	410	330	480	580	700	620
North Tyneside	200	220	220	240	270	180	300	250	290	430
South Tyneside	160	160	160	180	250	350	280	420	440	470
Sunderland	420	400	440	460	610	510	690	750	810	850
Hartlepool	100	110	120	140	210	140	260	250	310	310
Middlesbrough	210	200	180	210	280	360	440	520	530	520
Redcar and, Cleveland	150	170	160	170	180	120	200	250	240	380
Stockton-on-Tees	210	220	230	280	340	210	280	290	380	430
Former Durham	640	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Darlington	n/a	120	130	140	170	200	210	190	270	300
Durham (post 1 April 1997)	n/a	550	580	620	690	650	820	990	1,090	1,100
Northumberland	320	340	380	450	560	650	720	800	910	1,040
North West	8,750	9,370	9,920	10,990	13,700	14,400	17,500	18,950	20,700	22,020
Cumbria	610	620	660	730	840	1,100	1,110	1,150	1,200	1,310
Former Cheshire	1,130	1,240	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cheshire (post 1 April 1998)	n/a	n/a	830	870	1,020	1,120	1,230	1,350	1,530	1,740
Halton	n/a	n/a	190	200	240	250	270	320	320	330
Warrington	n/a	n/a	250	270	320	370	380	440	510	630
Bolton	390	430	480	570	650	790	830	950	1,050	1,070
Bury	270	260	280	330	360	460	480	540	590	640
Manchester	740	750	750	810	1,080	1,430	1,610	1,750	1,880	1,920
Oldham	390	410	430	470	560	580	630	690	780	830
Rochdale	260	270	290	340	530	680	710	760	840	860
Salford	430	440	450	480	530	700	570	660	790	780
Stockport	340	360	310	410	510	670	700	750	810	780
Tameside	280	290	310	360	490	360	420	460	520	660
Trafford	190	200	220	230	300	230	300	380	420	440
Wigan	340	390	420	430	560	440	740	800	880	980
Former Lancashire	1,780	2,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lancashire (post 1 April 1998)	n/a	n/a	1,670	1,830	2,190	1,960	3,130	3,300	3,570	3,890
Blackburn with Darwen	n/a	n/a	300	350	430	360	530	580	610	650
Blackpool	n/a	n/a	190	220	290	190	390	430	480	480
Knowsley	210	230	260	280	350	470	430	490	480	460
Liverpool	450	490	520	610	920	720	1,150	1,150	1,190	1,130
St. Helens	260	270	290	310	390	420	480	530	640	610
Sefton	360	380	410	470	580	490	650	680	750	780
Wirral	320	350	390	420	570	620	780	790	850	1,020

Full-time equivalent[1] teaching assistants in local authority maintained schools by Government Office Region and local authority area in England, January 1997 to 2006

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Yorkshire and the Humber	7,700	8,160	8,500	9,830	11,660	13,030	14,430	15,420	16,680	17,330
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	370	400	440	460	540	510	540	640	880	920
East Riding of Yorkshire	340	370	410	470	550	500	650	800	880	950
North East Lincolnshire	220	240	260	310	460	520	570	650	630	690
North Lincolnshire	180	200	240	270	330	430	450	510	550	600
North Yorkshire	440	540	560	630	800	1,150	1,190	1,410	1,540	1,710
York	140	160	170	220	250	350	370	400	440	500
Barnsley	360	360	360	350	400	610	670	680	680	680
Doncaster	520	460	470	620	640	780	810	860	970	840
Rotherham	280	310	330	410	540	580	770	880	970	900
Sheffield	580	640	710	800	1,080	790	1,200	1,230	1,360	1,590
Bradford	1,240	1,200	1,230	1,370	1,590	1,600	1,870	1,880	1,980	2,000
Calderdale	370	400	420	520	630	720	770	820	880	860
Kirklees	580	620	670	970	1,120	1,160	1,140	1,270	1,390	1,490
Leeds	1,560	1,670	1,670	1,780	1,950	2,380	2,470	2,460	2,550	2,500
Wakefield	540	580	570	650	780	950	960	940	970	1,090
East Midlands	5,050	5,500	6,010	6,690	8,220	9,270	10,090	10,830	12,560	13,490
Former Derbyshire	1,180	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Derbyshire (post 1 April 1997)	n/a	930	990	1,160	1,460	1,660	1,720	1,820	1,980	2,190
Derby	n/a	360	380	430	510	590	670	760	830	930
Former Leicestershire	940	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Leicestershire (post 1 April 1997)	n/a	580	640	760	920	970	1,190	1,150	1,630	1,730
Leicester	n/a	470	520	540	620	730	900	930	1,120	1,090
Rutland	n/a	50	50	70	70	80	100	100	120	120
Lincolnshire	810	820	890	990	1,250	1,550	1,610	1,980	2,190	2,370
Northamptonshire	810	880	990	1,090	1,330	1,310	1,330	1,360	1,680	1,940
Former Nottinghamshire	1,310	1,420	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Nottinghamshire (post 1 April 1998)	n/a	n/a	1,000	1,090	1,350	1,600	1,660	1,770	1,990	2,060
Nottingham	n/a	n/a	540	570	720	770	900	950	1,010	1,060
West Midlands	7,220	7,870	7,770	8,970	10,670	11,420	13,260	14,600	16,590	17,430
Former Hereford and Worcester	630	800	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Herefordshire	n/a	n/a	190	210	250	190	330	370	410	420
Worcestershire	n/a	n/a	680	760	820	930	1,290	1,450	1,580	1,580
Former Shropshire	510	540	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Shropshire (post 1 April 98)	n/a	n/a	350	390	460	560	640	690	780	750
Telford and Wrekin	n/a	n/a	260	280	370	390	480	530	580	640
Former Staffordshire	1,270	960	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Staffordshire (post 1 April 1998)	n/a	n/a	1,060	1,160	1,370	1,310	1,750	1,820	2,070	2,080
Stoke-on-Trent	n/a	460	460	490	540	460	620	750	820	830
Warwickshire	530	630	700	980	1,040	1,240	1,250	1,470	1,590	1,630
Birmingham	2,030	2,080	1,630	1,740	2,170	2,970	3,130	3,320	3,930	4,390
Coventry	390	440	440	670	820	690	640	740	770	770

Full-time equivalent[1] teaching assistants in local authority maintained schools by Government Office Region and local authority area in England, January 1997 to 2006

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Dudley	350	410	420	530	680	830	880	960	1,060	1,200
Sandwell	460	460	490	520	650	500	600	650	850	970
Solihull	280	300	300	320	370	410	470	520	610	630
Walsall	380	390	380	440	580	700	810	840	950	820
Wolverhampton	390	400	420	470	570	230	360	480	580	720
East of England	6,060	6,800	7,280	8,380	10,300	12,000	14,370	15,360	16,850	17,290
Former Cambridgeshire	1,240	1,370	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cambridgeshire (post 1 April 1998)	n/a	n/a	1,000	1,090	1,230	1,420	1,480	1,830	2,020	1,880
Peterborough	n/a	n/a	380	500	540	660	720	780	910	1,050
Norfolk	730	850	930	1,050	1,490	1,710	1,740	1,870	2,310	2,570
Suffolk	500	610	660	770	1,110	920	1,430	1,350	1,460	1,540
Former Bedfordshire	790	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bedfordshire (post 1 April 1997)	n/a	580	650	710	820	950	1,070	1,140	1,240	1,340
Luton	n/a	290	360	430	530	560	620	720	780	820
Former Essex	1,720	1,840	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Essex (post 1 April 1998)	n/a	n/a	1,620	1,760	2,100	3,140	3,500	3,660	3,810	3,920
Southend-on-Sea	n/a	n/a	220	280	350	460	560	600	640	650
Thurrock	n/a	n/a	210	290	340	430	540	550	570	630
Hertfordshire	1,080	1,270	1,250	1,510	1,800	1,740	2,710	2,870	3,110	2,910
London	8,160	8,870	9,790	11,740	14,330	15,340	17,510	19,800	22,140	22,820
Inner London	3,390	3,710	4,060	5,090	6,430	6,580	7,470	8,540	9,490	9,660
Camden	200	240	250	300	360	440	470	550	580	640
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10	10	10
Hackney	210	250	290	380	420	490	530	610	680	720
Hammersmith and Fulham	190	200	210	250	240	260	300	360	380	330
Haringey	350	360	380	420	490	650	680	810	900	960
Islington	250	250	270	350	360	350	480	520	560	620
Kensington and Chelsea	130	140	140	170	210	220	260	270	300	280
Lambeth	300	350	390	500	560	580	640	720	770	750
Lewisham	280	290	320	410	570	470	560	620	670	720
Newham	280	280	390	500	960	720	1,070	1,190	1,300	980
Southwark	350	420	430	650	810	750	710	900	1,030	1,070
Tower Hamlets	370	400	450	510	800	970	950	1,070	1,150	1,320
Wandsworth	330	370	370	460	470	380	530	590	730	800
Westminster	150	170	160	190	190	310	280	330	420	370
Outer London	4,770	5,160	5,730	6,650	7,900	8,760	10,040	11,270	12,650	13,160
Barking and Dagenham	300	290	310	320	400	500	510	560	540	560
Barnet	290	340	400	480	550	740	720	850	980	1,070
Bexley	200	230	280	310	380	320	560	550	600	570
Brent	260	300	360	390	440	450	470	560	640	680
Bromley	210	230	230	270	360	440	500	520	550	620
Croydon	400	410	510	530	660	630	870	950	1,010	980
Ealing	340	360	370	400	510	450	530	630	690	670
Enfield	250	290	290	500	590	810	880	970	1,050	1,160
Greenwich	360	400	430	510	650	650	730	750	820	920
Harrow	270	270	290	300	300	330	430	480	540	550
Havering	170	170	200	260	300	310	520	590	680	660
Hillingdon	300	340	380	420	510	520	590	620	740	800
Hounslow	280	280	290	330	380	400	400	550	580	680

Full-time equivalent[1] teaching assistants in local authority maintained schools by Government Office Region and local authority area in England. January 1997 to 2006

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Kingston upon Thames	130	130	150	170	220	220	250	310	360	380
Merton	190	200	220	240	290	250	300	370	530	460
Redbridge	190	230	270	370	450	580	620	730	820	910
Richmond upon Thames	100	110	110	130	160	210	220	250	330	350
Sutton	160	170	210	230	260	340	310	360	430	360
Waltham Forest	380	400	410	470	490	610	640	670	780	760
South East	9,830	10,480	11,250	12,290	13,720	16,910	18,890	20,300	22,400	22,360
Former Berkshire	940	970	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bracknell Forest	n/a	n/a	140	130	170	110	190	190	210	220
Windsor and Maidenhead	n/a	n/a	150	160	220	210	220	280	300	330
West Berkshire	n/a	n/a	190	200	230	330	350	430	530	490
Reading	n/a	n/a	200	200	240	280	280	280	320	250
Slough	n/a	n/a	230	250	300	340	440	450	530	530
Wokingham	n/a	n/a	210	220	230	290	290	360	380	380
Former Buckinghamshire	650	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Buckinghamshire (post 1 April 1997)	n/a	460	470	490	570	750	710	840	950	1,100
Milton Keynes	n/a	260	270	280	300	310	450	530	530	680
Former East Sussex	700	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
East Sussex (post 1 April 1997)	n/a	490	560	650	720	1,000	1,070	1,350	1,380	1,330
Brighton and Hove	n/a	270	310	320	380	410	370	400	460	510
Former Hampshire	2,560	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hampshire (post 1 April 1997)	n/a	1,880	1,920	1,960	2,120	2,900	3,010	3,160	3,280	3,210
Portsmouth	n/a	330	400	410	480	600	600	630	830	660
Southampton	n/a	370	430	470	490	610	630	640	660	660
Isle of Wight	160	210	250	270	320	300	360	370	450	430
Former Kent	2,330	2,490								
Kent (post 1 April 1998)	n/a	n/a	2,210	2,470	2,750	3,620	4,160	4,330	4,860	4,660
Medway	n/a	n/a	440	670	830	710	830	900	960	930
Oxfordshire	780	830	860	930	1,030	1,080	1,280	1,440	1,670	1,630
Surrey	1,170	1,290	1,360	1,500	1,570	1,960	2,350	2,390	2,610	2,720
West Sussex	530	650	670	710	780	1,090	1,310	1,330	1,480	1,660
South West	4,940	5,490	5,940	6,670	8,090	8,980	10,070	11,160	12,650	13,440
Isles of Scilly	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	10	[2]—	10	10	[2]—	[2]—
Bath and North East Somerset	170	170	160	160	180	70	100	80	170	270
Bristol, City of	650	700	690	770	850	920	920	1,040	1,110	1,110
North Somerset	190	220	220	260	290	310	380	380	450	430
South Gloucestershire	270	280	300	350	430	480	560	550	590	640
Cornwall	790	870	960	980	990	1,000	1,170	1,190	1,860	1,630
Former Devon	810	960	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Devon (post 1 April 1998)	n/a	n/a	630	770	1,020	1,360	1,740	2,090	2,190	2,380
Plymouth	n/a	n/a	320	310	720	660	710	650	750	870
Torbay	n/a	n/a	140	170	180	200	220	290	280	300
Former Dorset	430									
Dorset (post 1 April 1997)	n/a	330	390	580	660	780	890	1,180	1,300	1,350
Poole	n/a	110	150	180	220	400	390	430	420	460

Full-time equivalent[1] teaching assistants in local authority maintained schools by Government Office Region and local authority area in England. January 1997 to 2006

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Bournemouth	n/a	130	170	210	240	380	380	410	400	460
Gloucestershire	470	490	550	590	740	710	750	700	910	1,030
Somerset	610	660	680	710	830	920	990	980	1,100	1,380
Former Wiltshire	530	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wiltshire (post 1 April 1997)	n/a	340	350	350	410	560	650	780	750	750
Swindon	n/a	240	230	260	310	220	220	410	370	380

n/a = Not applicable.
[1] Includes both full-time and the full-time equivalent of part-time support staff.
[2] Nil or negligible.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source: School Census.

Climate Change: Curriculum

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what provision is made in the national curriculum for educating children about renewable energy; and what measures are in place to ensure that all school children are suitably educated about climate change. [150611]

Jim Knight: Under both the current national curriculum in England for science and the new science curriculum to be taught in schools from September 2008, pupils aged 11-14 are taught about renewable energy and the possible impact of human activity, such as the burning of fossil fuels, on the environment. The current geography curriculum for 11 to 14-year-olds requires pupils to be taught about resource planning and management issues, for example developing alternative energy sources. From September 2008, 'environmental interaction and sustainable development' will be one of the key concepts in the new geography curriculum for 11 to 14-year-olds with a requirement to study climate change.

In May 2007, DCSF and DEFRA sent a climate change pack to every secondary school in England. The online teacher guidance accompanying the pack provides material to support the teaching of climate change in geography, science and citizenship. The pack is part of the wider DCSF Sustainable Schools programme which aims to embed sustainability in the curriculum, how schools operate (eg reducing energy usage) and in their work with the local community www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools. In addition to work being supported by DCSF, DEFRA have sponsored a number of projects aimed at raising awareness of climate change through the Climate Challenge Fund. Seventeen out of the 83 projects have schools as their main audience or have specifically targeted aspects of their project, www.climatechallenge.gov.uk. The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) has developed programmes for renewable energy education for primary and secondary schools www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/renewables/renewables-schools. BERR has provided grant funds to hundreds of schools for installations of microgeneration on their properties, and currently provides these through phase 2 of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme www.lowcarbonbuildingsphase2.org.uk.

Creative Partnerships Initiative: Disadvantaged

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment he has made of the ability of schools in disadvantaged communities to pay 50 per cent. of the costs of engagement in the Creative Partnership programme; and if he will make a statement; [150905]

(2) what plans he has to increase funding to extend the Creative Partnership programme to more schools in England; and if he will make a statement. [150906]

Jim Knight: We are currently considering options for the future funding of the Creative Partnerships programme beyond 2008.

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people in his Department and its predecessor have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for (i) inappropriate use of the internet while at work and (ii) using work telephones to access premium rate telephone numbers in the last 12 months. [149197]

Kevin Brennan: From May 2006 to June 2007 in the Department, and its predecessor, one person was disciplined for inappropriate use of the internet while at work, and one person was disciplined for using work telephones to access premium rate telephone numbers.

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what legislative provisions introduced by his Department's predecessor since 1997 have been repealed. [149585]

Kevin Brennan: The following table sets out the legislative provisions, introduced by my Department's predecessors in relation to England since 1997, that have been repealed:

Act	*Section*	
Teaching and Higher Education Act	section 20	Inspection of institutions training teachers for schools
School Standards and Framework Act 1998	section 2	Plans by LEAs for reducing infant class sizes

Act	Section	
	section 6	Preparation of Education Development Plans
	section 7	Approval, modification and review of statement and proposals
	section 13	Disapplication of Pay and Conditions Order in relation to teachers and participating schools
	sections14-19	Intervention in schools causing concern—amended to apply to Wales only
	section 24	School Organisation Committees
	section 26	School Organisation Plans
	section 26A	Plans of local Learning and Skills Councils
	sections 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 35	Amended to apply to Wales only in respect of school organisation
	sections 36-44	Government of maintained schools
	sections 54-57	Staffing and conduct of schools
	sections 64-68	Exclusion of pupils
	section 91	Special arrangements to preserve religious character of foundation or voluntary aided schools
	section 93	Fixing admission numbers
	sections 115-116	LEA functions concerning school lunches
	sections 120 and 121	Early years development and childcare plans
	sections 122-134	Publication of inspection reports
	section 135	Inspection
Learning and Skills Act 2000	sections 52-72	Adult Learning Inspectorate
	section 90	FEFC transfer scheme
Children Act 2004	section 20(4)(b) and (c)	Joint area reviews
	section 24	Performance rating of social services
Education Act 2002	sections 54-59	Powers of intervention in schools causing concern amended to apply to Wales only
	sections 70-71, 73 and 74	School organisation
	section 179	Rights of entry in relation to inspections
	section 188	School inspections
Education Act 2005	sections 1-4	School Inspectors and school inspections—HM Inspectorate for England
Childcare Act 2006	sections 14, 31, 50(4), 61(4) and 80-81	Inspection

Departments: Ministerial Red Boxes

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many ministerial red boxes his Department and its predecessor bought in each of the last five years; what the cost of each was; who the suppliers were; and what tendering process was used in selecting them. [150486]

Kevin Brennan: Red boxes are ordered as and when they are needed from the Department's stationery supplier, Business Banner Supplies. Ministerial boxes are used by successive Ministers over many years.

Departments: Racial Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [149258]

Kevin Brennan: No complaints of racial abuse were investigated in my Department, and its predecessor, in the last 12 months. Formal complaints of racial abuse would be investigated quickly and thoroughly and, where complaints were upheld, appropriate disciplinary action would be taken. All cases are treated seriously.

The Department believes that each and every individual has the right to be treated fairly, with dignity and respect. As such, we do not tolerate unacceptable behaviour towards others. The overall aim of our harassment and bullying policy is to prevent such unacceptable behaviour occurring but, where it does occur, to ensure that appropriate and effective action is taken to deal with it and prevent it happening again. This applies to everyone in the Department. Every individual is personally responsible for their own behaviour, and every manager is responsible for enforcing the policy in accordance with the guidance and procedures set out in our staff handbook.

Education: Assessments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what evidence he has evaluated on whether there has been grade inflation in *(a)* GCSEs and *(b)* A levels since 1990; and if he will make a statement. [151195]

Jim Knight: It is for the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) as the independent regulator to act to ensure that standards in both GCSE and A level are maintained. Since 1997, QCA has carried out reviews of standards in a wide range of A level and GCSE subjects. The reports are available on their website at http://www.qca.org.uk

The Independent Committee on Examination Standards chaired by Dr. Barry McGaw, Director for Education at OECD, published its findings about A levels in December 2004. The report concluded that:

> no examination system at the school or other level is so tightly or carefully managed;
>
> strategies for maintaining comparable examination standards across awarding bodies are adequate to the task;

the awarding bodies have broadly consistent and well-regulated systems for setting question papers, managing marking and awarding grades; and

QCA has robust systems in place to monitor and regulate the work of the awarding bodies.

The improvements we have seen reflect the hard work of pupils and teachers supported by record investment; double the number of support staff and billions invested in rebuilding schools.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on the use of multiple choice questions in GCSE English exams; and if he will make a statement. [151196]

Jim Knight: It is for the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) as the independent regulator to ensure that exams are fit for purpose and to make judgments on how to govern the use of multiple choice questions.

While elements of multiple choice testing may be included, this would be within the context of an exam that maintains the high standards of GCSE and requires a suitably challenging breadth and depth of knowledge. For instance, candidates will still have to read Shakespeare, write essays and give reasoned, individual responses to texts to pass English GCSE.

Education: Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for which public service agreement targets of the former Department for Education and Skills his Department now has responsibility. [147741]

Kevin Brennan: The Department is responsible for the following PSA targets, each of which were agreed between the former Department for Education and Skills and HM Treasury as part of the 2004 Spending Review:

1. Improve children's communication and social and emotional development so that by 2008 53 per cent. of children reach a good level of development at the end of the Foundation Stage; and reduce inequalities between the level of development achieved by children in the 30 per cent. most disadvantaged Super Output Areas and the rest of England by four percentage points from 16 per cent. to 12 per cent. (Joint with the Department for Work and Pensions)

2. As a contribution to reducing the proportion of children living in households where no-one is working, by 2008: increase the stock of Ofsted-registered childcare by 10 per cent.; increase the number of children in lower-income working families using formal childcare by 120,000; and introduce by April 2005 a successful light-touch child care approval scheme. (Joint with the Department for Work and Pensions)

3. Reduce the under-18 conception rate by 50 per cent. by 2010 as part of a broader strategy to improve sexual health. (Joint with the Department of Health)

4. Halt the year-on-year rise in obesity among children under 11 by 2010 in the context of a broader strategy to tackle obesity in the population as a whole. (Joint with the Department of Health and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport)

5. Narrow the gap in educational achievement between looked after children and that of their peers; and improve their educational support and the stability of their lives so that by 2008 80 per cent. of children under 16 who have been looked after for 2.5 or more years will have been living in the same placement for at least two years, or are placed for adoption.

6. Raise standards in English and mathematics so that: by 2006, 85 per cent. of 11-year-olds achieve level 4 or above, with this level of performance sustained to 2008; and by 2008 the proportion of schools in which fewer than 65 per cent. of pupils achieve level 4 or above is reduced by 40 per cent.

7. Raise standards in English, mathematics, ICT and science in secondary education so that: by 2007 85 per cent. of 14-year-olds achieve level 5 or above in English, mathematics and ICT (80 per cent. in science) nationally, with this level of performance sustained to 2008; and by 2008 in all schools at least 50 per cent. of pupils achieve level 5 or above in English, mathematics and science.

8. Improve levels of school attendance so that by 2008, school absence is reduced by 8 per cent. compared to 2003.

9. Enhance the take-up of sporting opportunities by 5 to 16-year-olds so that the percentage of school children in England who spend a minimum of two hours each week on high quality PE and sport within and beyond the curriculum increases from 25 per cent. in 2002 to 75 per cent. by 2006 and to 85 per cent. by 2008, and to at least 75 per cent. in each School Sport Partnership by 2008. (Joint with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport)

10. By 2008, 60 per cent. of those aged 16 to achieve the equivalent of 5 GCSEs at grades A*-C; and in all schools at least 20 per cent. of pupils to achieve this standard by 2004, rising to 25 per cent. by 2006 and 30 per cent. by 2008.

11. Increase the proportion of 19-year-olds who achieve at least level 2 by three percentage points between 2004 and 2006; and a further two percentage points between 2006 and 2008, and increase the proportion of young people who achieve level 3.

12. Reduce the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) by two percentage points by 2010.

Extended Schools

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of schools he expects to provide extended hours services in each year to 2011; and if he will make a statement. [149099]

Kevin Brennan: Our target is for all schools in England to be providing access to the extended schools full core offer of services by 2010 with half of all primary schools and a third of all secondary schools providing these services by September 2008. To help us meet our target we are aiming to have 6,000 schools delivering access to the full core offer of services by September 2007. With over 5,700 schools already providing these services, we are making excellent progress towards meeting our target.

The extended schools core offer of services includes primary schools providing access to child care from 8 am to 6 pm all year round in response to demand, all schools offering access to a range of study support activities beyond the school day, parenting support, swift and easy referral and opening up facilities to the wider community.

Family Courts

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will publish in full responses received to the Government's consultation on improving transparency and privacy in family courts; and what action he proposes to take as a result of the consultation. [150927]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

The Government published the consultation 'Confidence and confidentiality: Improving transparency and privacy in family courts' on 11 July 2006. The consultation paper and the response paper (published on 22 March 2007) can be found at:

http://www.dca.gov.uk/consult/courttransparencey1106/cp1106.htm.

Copies of the responses will be sent to the hon. Member shortly.

Having carefully considered the range of views expressed in the consultation, we concluded that a new approach was needed to improve confidence in the family courts. This would focus on information coming out of the courts rather than who could attend proceedings.

The Government published a further consultation paper on 20 June 2007, setting out what we intend to do and inviting views on a small number of additional proposals. This can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/cp1007.htm.

Copies will also be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Foster Care: Poole

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many foster parents are required in the Poole area to meet demand for placements. [151577]

Kevin Brennan: Data on the number of foster parents who are required in the Poole area to meet the current demand for placements are not collected centrally by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

Foundation Schools

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools have taken up *(a)* foundation and *(b)* trust status. [150802]

Jim Knight: There are 927 foundation schools and 15 foundation special schools as of the 17 July 2007.

Trust Schools are foundation schools that have acquired a foundation established otherwise than under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Prior to the commencement of the relevant provisions of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (25 May 2007), foundation schools did not have to follow a statutory process to acquire a foundation. The Department accordingly did not collect information on how many foundation schools acquired foundations before this date.

There are over 200 schools currently working towards acquiring Trust status—over 140 primary, secondary and specials schools, alongside 69 full pathfinder schools. As of the present time, no schools have implemented proposals to become foundation schools with foundations (Trust Schools) under the Education and Inspections Act 2006. However, the first of the pathfinder schools plan to become Trust schools from September 2007.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Mathematics

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the mark required for an A grade in GCSE in mathematics was in each year since 1988-89; [149077]

(2) what average mark was required to achieve a grade *(a)* A, *(b)* B, *(c)* C and *(d)* E for GCSE (i) mathematics, (ii) English, (iii) physics and (iv) history in each year since 1990-91; and if he will make a statement. [149141]

Jim Knight: This information is not held centrally.

Head Teachers: Retirement

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of headteachers in England are within *(a)* one year, *(b)* two years, *(c)* three years, *(d)* five years and *(e)* 10 years of standard pension age; and if he will make a statement. [150805]

Jim Knight: The normal pension age (NPA) of teachers who entered service before 1 January 2007 is 60. Entrants to the profession from that date have a NPA of 65. NPA is the age at which members of the teachers' pension scheme can retire without any actuarial reduction to their pension benefits.

The following table provides the percentage of full-time head teachers in service in the maintained schools sector in England within one year, two years, three years, five years and 10 years of the NPA 60, in March 2005, the latest information available.

Full-time head teachers in maintained sector schools in England, percentage in service by number of years before the normal pension age (age 60), March 2005 (provisional)

Years before NPA	*Percentage of head teachers*[1]
Less than:	
1	2.1
2	6.2
3	11.3
5	23.9
10	57.7

[1] Percentages are cumulative

Source:
Database of Teacher Records.

Reforms of the teachers' pension scheme that were introduced in January 2007—and which include a NPA of 65 for new entrants—included new provisions that are specifically aimed at encouraging teachers to extend their working lives. These new provisions will provide a real and attractive alternative to teachers' traditional approach to retirement.

The National College for School Leadership is currently undergoing an extensive programme of work on succession planning.

Health Education: Alcoholic Drinks

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much he has allocated for the provision of alcohol awareness programmes in schools over the next three years; and how much was spent on such programmes in each of the last three years. [150414]

Kevin Brennan: The Government recently published the new Alcohol Strategy for England, which highlights young people as one of three priority groups. Alcohol education is delivered alongside education on drugs and volatile substances as part of Personal Social and Health Education, and is a vital element of the current approach.

DCSF does not provide ring-fenced funding for schools' drug education lessons, which are funded from schools' general budgets.

The Government provide ring-fenced funding to prevent substance misuse among young people. The Young People's Substance Misuse Partnership Grant (YPSMPG) is made available to local authorities for the provision of universal, targeted and specialist responses commissioned and delivered at locally, based on their area's needs and priorities. The grant funds a range of different projects across the country determined at local level, which are available for young people.

The grant brings together into a single pot funding from the Home Office, the Department of Health, the Youth Justice Board and the Department for Children, Schools and Families. The following table details the total YPSMPG expenditure for the past five years (note that the first year, 2003/04, was a pilot year in 27 local authority areas):

	£ million
2003/04	[1]14.9
2004/05	58.8
2005/06	66.6
2006/07	64.1
2007/08	55.5

[1] YPSMPG pilot in only 27 local authorities

The YPSMPG is used in addition to mainstream funding to provide a comprehensive range of services for young people up to 18 years:

Universal—substance misuse education, information and advice and prevention campaigns

Targeted—early identification, assessment and prevention interventions with vulnerable young people in risk groups

Specialist—provision of specialist substance misuse treatment for under 18's

In addition to supporting the work of local partnerships, The Government fund specific programmes targeting messages for young people about substances, including the FRANK campaign which has become a credible source of information and advice for young people and their parents. The cross departmental campaign was launched in 2003 funded by Home Office and Department of Health, with the Department for Children Schools and Families contributing from 2006/07.

	£ million
2003/04	4.25
2004/05	4.30
2005/06	6.17
2006/07	9.05

The Government are committed to expanding and improving the quality of school drug education (Inc tobacco, alcohol, volatile substance), through encouraging the development of well structured high quality programmes of PSHE across all key stages.

The national health schools standard requires schools to demonstrate effective PSHE provision. The Government have also invested over £6 million on Blueprint, the largest research programme ever run in this country designed to test the effectiveness of a multi-component approach to drug education, involving an intensive set of school lessons for 11-13 year olds supported by work with parents, communities, health professionals and local media. The full results of the programme will be available over the next 12 months or so.

Health Education: Drugs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent on *(a)* drug awareness, *(b)* alcohol awareness and *(c)* volatile substance abuse programmes aimed at school age children in each of the last five years; and if he will list the projects funded. [150343]

Kevin Brennan: The Government are committed to reducing substance misuse related harm among young people, including harm arising from the misuse of drugs, alcohol and volatile substances. Education and awareness on these substances is a vital element of the current approach, and we have issued schools with guidance on drugs education. DCSF does not provide ring-fenced funding for schools' drug education lessons, which are funded from schools' general budgets.

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The Department of Health lead on the Framework for Volatile Substance Abuse targeted at children and young people (launched on 20 July 2005). The document called "Out of Sight?...not out of mind" outlines a number of key recommendations that the Government intend to take forward in partnership with key stakeholders at local, regional and national level.

The stated aims of the VSA Framework are to:

Provide effective education on VSA to all children and young people, including the most disadvantaged

Provide effective targeted interventions for children and young people abusing or at risk of abusing volatile substances

Reduce the availability and accessibility of volatile substances, with a focus on butane gas lighter refills

Build the capacity of parents, carers and practitioners to identify and work effectively with children and young people who are abusing or at risk of abusing volatile substances

Increase the evidence base with regard to what works in reducing deaths and harm from VSA.

Health Education: Sex

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment he has made of the teaching of sex and relationships education in schools; and what plans he has to standardise teaching according to age and content; [148570]

(2) if he will make sex and relationships education a mandatory part of personal, social and health education; [148571]

(3) whether he plans to employ more specially-trained staff to deliver sex and relationship education; [148472]

(4) whether he plans to incorporate information about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender relationships into sex and relationship education. [148473]

Jim Knight: The Department has not undertaken or commissioned any recent assessment of sex and relationship education (SRE) in schools. Ofsted is responsible for assessing the quality of schools' provision in the area of personal, social and health education (PSHE), including SRE, through its inspection framework and subject reports, and last reported on SRE in "Sex and Relationships Education in Schools" in 2002.

The Department's "Sex and Relationship Education Guidance" for schools outlines their responsibilities in this area and provides information on the issues to be covered at each of the four key stages, taking account of the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the young people. The guidance is clear that schools need to make sure that SRE meets, and is sensitive to, the needs of all pupils whatever their developing sexuality. Pupils should be helped to understand difference and respect themselves and others in order to prevent and remove prejudice.

Certain aspects of SRE must be delivered as part of the statutory curriculum for science, and legislation requires that head teachers and school governing bodies must have regard to the Department's guidance when delivering a broader range of SRE within the framework for PSHE. All schools are expected to meet the statutory requirements and have an up-to-date policy on SRE. Beyond this, there are no plans to regulate SRE further, as this would be contrary to curriculum reforms designed to give schools greater flexibilities.

It is for schools to determine whom they employ to deliver any area of the curriculum. We are however committed to helping schools improve their planning and delivery of this important area, and there is a Government-funded continuing professional development programme for PSHE, which all teachers of SRE are encouraged to undertake. The programme, which is also open to community nurses, supports standards in the delivery of PSHE teaching, including SRE. To date, over 6,000 teachers and nurses have benefited from the programme.

Other measures to support high quality SRE provision include:

(1) The Department's funding for a new PSHE subject association. The association provides support and advice to teachers in all areas of PSHE, including SRE;

(2) Increased funding (£13.2 million) in 2007-08 for the national Healthy Schools Programme. This key programme requires schools, for the purposes of accreditation, to demonstrate that they have a SRE programme in line with DCSF guidance. We expect all schools to have reached or be working towards Healthy School status by 2009;

(3) Detailed guidance to teachers from the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, covering how schools can evaluate what young people are learning through PSHE, including SRE; and

(4) Developing a SRE pupil assessment tool for use by schools and teachers to establish whether SRE provision is meeting the needs of the young people receiving it.

Local Education Authorities: Inspections

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on his plans for the inspection of local education authorities. [150701]

Jim Knight: The Secretary of State has no plans to request separate inspections of local authority education functions. These functions are within the scope of Ofsted's annual performance assessments of children's services, and of joint area reviews of children's services by Ofsted and other inspectorates. The Secretary of State has approved a timetable for a programme of joint area reviews, to cover every local authority in England between 2005 and 2008.

Playing Fields

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools sold their playing fields in each of the last 10 years, broken down by local authority. [151334]

Kevin Brennan: In the last 10 years the Secretary of State has approved 187 applications that involve the sale of an area of land capable of forming a sports pitch of at least 0.2 hectares at schools in England. The analysis is shown in the following table.

Local authority	*Total*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Barnet	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bath and NE Somerset	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Bedfordshire	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bexley	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Bolton	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bracknell Forest	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Bristol	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Buckinghamshire	4	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bury	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Calderdale	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cambridge	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Camden	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cheshire	6	1	—	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
Coventry	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
Croydon	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cumbria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Derby	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Derbyshire	3	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Devon	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dorset	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dudley	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Durham	3	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Ealing	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
East Riding of Yorkshire	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Enfield	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Essex	5	—	1	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
Gloucestershire	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Greenwich	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Halton	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hammersmith and Fulham	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Hampshire	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Havering	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Hertfordshire	6	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—
Kent	5	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Lancashire	4	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leeds	3	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leicester	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Leicestershire	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Lewisham	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Lincolnshire	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Liverpool	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Manchester	7	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	1	—	—
Medway	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Merton	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Milton Keynes	3	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Newcastle	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norfolk	3	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

Local authority	Total	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
North Somerset	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Tyneside	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
North Yorkshire	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northants	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Northumberland	3	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nottingham	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Nottinghamshire	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Oxfordshire	6	—	1	1	—	1	2	—	—	1	—
Peterborough	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Reading	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Redcar and Cleveland	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Rochdale	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Salford	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Sheffield	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shropshire	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Slough	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
South Gloucestershire	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Staffordshire	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Stockton	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Surrey	10	—	4	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Swindon	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Tameside	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafford	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Wakefield	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Walsall	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warwickshire	5	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Sussex	4	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Wigan	4	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wiltshire	7	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	4
Wirral	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wokingham	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
Wolverhampton	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worcestershire	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total	187	7	42	31	21	24	16	13	11	8	14

Primary Education: Class Sizes

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the annual cost of reducing class sizes at Key Stage 1 in English schools to *(a)* 20 or fewer and *(b)* 25 or fewer. [150696]

Jim Knight: There is no clear evidence that further reductions in the infant class size limit from 30 would have further impact on overall pupil attainment, and therefore we have not done any work in costing this. Teachers, supported by teaching assistants, are free to organise their classes into small groups if they consider it will benefit individual pupils' learning.

Private Education: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of capital spending per pupil by independent schools in England; and if he will make a statement. [149100]

Jim Knight: These data are not collected by the Department. However, the 2007 Independent Schools Council Census, comprising 1,276 schools and around 80 per cent. of pupils in the independent sector, indicates that capital expenditure per pupil for the schools included in the census was on average £1,387 per pupil in 2006-07.

Pupil Exclusions: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school exclusions there were in each London borough in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [149400]

Jim Knight: Data on school exclusions for all local education authorities in England, including those for London and covering the years 1997/98 to 2005/06, have been placed in the House Library.

Pupils: Absenteeism

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the total number of unauthorised absences was in each *(a)* government region and *(b)* local education authority in each year since 1997. [151175]

Jim Knight: Figures on the percentage of unauthorised absence for each local authority from 1997 onwards is available in the House of Commons Library. Figures on the total number of unauthorised absence broken down by local authority and government office region are available only at a disproportionate cost.

Unauthorised absence is absence without leave from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences, such as lateness, holidays during term time not authorised by the school, absence where reason is not yet established and truancy.

Pupils: Allergies

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if he will commission research on the performance of pupils with hay fever at *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A level; and if he will make a statement; [150818]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that advice is provided by the Joint Council for Qualifications to examination centres on provision to be made for those affected by hay fever during an examination. [150845]

Jim Knight: I am satisfied that the current arrangements are sufficient to ensure that students who suffer from hay fever are not disadvantaged in taking general qualifications such as GCSEs and A levels. Under the annual regulations and guidance on Access Arrangements and Special Consideration produced by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) on behalf of the awarding bodies, candidates who suffer from hay fever on the day of an examination may apply via their examination centre for "special consideration", which can result in an increase in their marks by up to 2 per cent., depending on the circumstances. The JCQ sends these regulations each year to all examination centres and they are also available on the JCQ's website.

Pupils: Discipline

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to use Ofsted to improve behaviour in schools. [149937]

Kevin Brennan: Inspectors make a judgment about standards of behaviour every time they inspect a school. Ofsted will further strengthen their focus on behaviour by giving inspectors additional guidance that clearly identifies the characteristics of satisfactory and inadequate standards of behaviour. Ofsted inspectors will continue to make monitoring visits to schools judged to have inadequate standards of behaviour to make sure they improve.

Ofsted will also strengthen the behaviour-related aspects of the school self-evaluation form. This provides the opportunity for schools to identify the proportion of lessons where pupils do not make the progress they should as a result of low level disruption or the bad behaviour of individuals.

Taken together, these changes will provide an even stronger incentive for schools to maintain high standards and improve them where they are currently not good enough.

Pupils: Fingerprints

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department has issued to schools about the collection of fingerprints from children. [150344]

Jim Knight: Guidance on the use of biometric technologies in schools will shortly be issued by the British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (Becta) on behalf of my Department.

Pupils: School Choice

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were placed in schools other than their first place preference school in each local education authority in each year since 1996-97. [150839]

Jim Knight: We do not collate this information centrally.

Pupils: Special Educational Needs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of schools have more than *(a)* 50 per cent. of pupils on the special needs register, *(b)* 30 per cent. of pupils on the special needs register, *(c)* 20 per cent. of pupils on the special needs register, *(d)* 10 per cent. of children with statements and *(e)* 20 per cent. of children with statements. [150675]

Jim Knight: Information on the number and percentage of pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) in schools is published in a Statistical First Release "Special Educational Needs in England, January 2007" and is available on the Department's Research and Statistics Gateway at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000732/index.shtml

Maintained primary schools [1]: number of schools by percentage of pupils with SEN [2], January 2007

	Pupils with statements of SEN								
	Up to 2%		*2% up to 5%*		*5% up to 10%*		*10% and above*		
	Number of schools	*%[3]*	*Number of schools*	*%[3]*	*Number of schools*	*%[3]*	*Number of schools*	*%[3]*	*Total number of schools*
England	12,875	74.2	3,827	22.0	544	3.1	111	0.6	17,357
North East	727	79.2	163	17.8	18	2.0	10	1.1	918
North West	1,774	69.5	644	25.2	113	4.4	23	0.9	2,554
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,451	77.5	375	20.0	42	2.2	4	0.2	1,872
East Midlands	1,298	76.5	324	19.1	65	3.8	9	0.5	1,696

Maintained primary schools [1]: number of schools by percentage of pupils with SEN [2], January 2007

	Pupils with statements of SEN								
	Up to 2%		*2% up to 5%*		*5% up to 10%*		*10% and above*		
	Number of schools	*%[3]*	*Number of schools*	*%[3]*	*Number of schools*	*%[3]*	*Number of schools*	*%[3]*	*Total number of schools*
West Midlands	1,444	79.0	345	18.9	33	1.8	7	0.4	1,829
East of England	1,428	69.4	553	26.9	64	3.1	13	0.6	2,058
London	1,287	70.6	468	25.7	54	3.0	14	0.8	1,823
Inner London	471	67.8	200	28.8	16	2.3	8	1.2	695
Outer London	816	72.3	268	23.8	38	3.4	6	0.5	1,128
South East	2,075	77.8	487	18.3	84	3.1	21	0.8	2,667
South West	1,391	71.7	468	24.1	71	3.7	10	0.5	1,940

	Pupils with SEN [4]								
	Up to 5%		*5% up to 25%*		*25% up to 35%*		*35% up to 50%*		*50% and above*		
	Number of schools	*%[3]*	*Number of schools*	*%[3]*	*Number of schools*	*%[3]*	*Number of schools*	*%[3]*	*Number of schools*	*%[3]*	*Total number of schools*
England	602	3.5	13,507	77.8	2,421	13.9	715	4.1	112	0.6	17,357
North East	39	4.2	664	72.3	155	16.9	47	5.1	13	1.4	918
North West	132	5.2	1,994	78.1	327	12.8	93	3.6	8	0.3	2,554
Yorkshire and the Humber	76	4.1	1,495	79.9	227	12.1	68	3.6	6	0.3	1,872
East Midlands	48	2.8	1,344	79.2	223	13.1	72	4.2	9	0.5	1,696
West Midlands	46	2.5	1,447	79.1	264	14.4	67	3.7	5	0.3	1,829
East of England	67	3.3	1,679	81.6	237	11.5	59	2.9	16	0.8	2,058
London	35	1.9	1,365	74.9	333	18.3	86	4.7	4	0.2	1,823
Inner London	6	0.9	503	72.4	145	20.9	40	5.8	1	0.1	695
Outer London	29	2.6	862	76.4	188	16.7	46	4.1	3	0.3	1,128
South East	87	3.3	1,971	73.9	420	15.7	154	5.8	35	1.3	2,667
South West	72	3.7	1,548	79.8	235	12.1	69	3.6	16	0.8	1,940

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Schools banded by the proportion of school population with SEN.
[3] Number of primary schools by proportion of school population with SEN expressed as a percentage of all primary schools.
[4] Pupils with SEN include both pupils with statements and those identified by schools as having SEN who do not have statements.
Source:
School Census

Maintained secondary schools [1]: number of schools by percentage of pupils with SEN [2], January 2007

	Pupils with statements of SEN								
	Up to 2%		*2% up to 5%*		*5% up to 10%*		*10% and above*		
	Number of schools	*%[3]*	*Number of schools*	*%[3]*	*Number of schools*	*%[3]*	*Number of schools*	*%[3]*	*Total number of schools*
England	1,667	49.9	1,513	45.3	157	4.7	6	0.2	3,343
North East	106	51.7	89	43.4	9	4.4	1	0.5	205
North West	201	43.0	232	49.7	33	7.1	1	0.2	467
Yorkshire and the Humber	163	51.3	142	44.7	13	4.1	0	0.0	318
East Midlands	150	50.2	131	43.8	17	5.7	1	0.3	299
West Midlands	167	40.7	221	53.9	21	5.1	1	0.2	410
East of England	233	54.8	173	40.7	19	4.5	0	0.0	425
London	172	43.5	204	51.6	18	4.6	1	0.3	395
Inner London	44	34.4	74	57.8	10	7.8	0	0.0	128
Outer London	128	47.9	130	48.7	8	3.0	1	0.4	267
South East	292	58.2	189	37.6	20	4.0	1	0.2	502
South West	183	56.8	132	41.0	7	2.2	0	0.0	322

	Pupils with SEN [4]									
	Up to 5%		5% up to 25%		25% up to 35%		35% up to 50%		50% and above	
	Number of schools	% [3]	Number of schools	% [3]	Number of schools	% [3]	Number of schools	% [3]	Number of schools	% [3]	Total number of schools
England	202	6.0	2,540	76.0	415	12.4	153	4.6	33	1.0	3,343
North East	6	2.9	166	81.0	25	12.2	8	3.9	0	0.0	205
North West	33	7.1	355	76.0	53	11.3	25	4.3	6	1.3	467
Yorkshire and the Humber	11	3.5	249	78.3	43	13.5	15	4.7	0	0.0	318
East Midlands	15	5.0	236	78.9	37	12.4	8	2.7	3	1.0	299
West Midlands	24	5.9	310	75.6	53	12.9	20	4.9	3	0.7	410
East of England	17	4.0	354	83.3	46	10.8	7	1.6	1	0.2	425
London	29	7.3	256	64.8	72	18.2	30	7.6	8	2.0	395
Inner London	2	1.6	79	61.7	27	21.1	17	13.3	3	2.3	128
Outer London	27	10.1	177	66.3	45	16.9	13	4.9	5	1.9	267
South East	40	8.0	353	70.3	62	12.4	36	7.2	11	2.2	502
South West	27	8.4	261	81.1	24	7.5	9	2.8	1	0.3	322

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Schools banded by the proportion of school population with SEN.
[3] Number of primary schools by proportion of school population with SEN expressed as a percentage of all primary schools.
[4] Pupils with SEN include both pupils with statements and those identified by schools as having SEN who do not have statements.
Source:
School Census

School Leaving

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his estimate is of the cost to the Exchequer in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10, *(d)* 2010-11 and *(e)* 2011-12 of raising the education leaving age to 18 years; and if he will make a statement. [149894]

Jim Knight: We plan to raise the participation age to 17 from September 2013 and 18 from September 2015. This will not involve additional costs over current plans in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10. We estimate that it will incur additional capital costs of £28.2 million in 2010-11 and £19.7 million in 2011-12, and additional training costs of £0.2 million in 2010-11 and £0.5 million in 2011-12.

School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of English school pupils taking *(a)* hot and *(b)* cold school lunches in each reporting period in each year since 1990-91; and if he will make a statement. [150671]

Kevin Brennan: The Department does not collect data about the number and proportion of English school pupils taking hot and cold school lunches.

There is no requirement on authorities or schools to provide a hot school lunch. However, most authorities do offer pupils a hot meal and the transitional funding for school food we are providing authorities between 2005 and 2008 (£220 million for 05-08) is conditional upon local authorities developing plans to begin the reintroduction of hot meals by 2008.

Schools: Aerials

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many mobile telephone masts in each local education authority area are sited *(a)* on and *(b)* within one mile of (i) primary and (ii) secondary school property. [151157]

Jim Knight: We do not hold this information but there is a website[1] operated by the Office of Communications that gives information on the location and operating characteristics of all mobile phone base stations in the United Kingdom.

[1] http://www.sitefinder.ofcom.org.uk/

Schools: Construction

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many new schools were established in England in each year since 1980-81. [150702]

Jim Knight: The number of schools opened in England between 1980 and 2007 are given in the following table. To date, there are some 52 schools proposed to open in 2008, though, of course, this figure is subject to change.

It must be noted that, prior to 2002, school details were recorded on three separate databases which did not demand school opening dates. Therefore, while the figures given are correct as recorded, they should be viewed within this context.

Numbers of schools opened between 1980 and 2007

Year of opening	Number opened
1980	[1]—
1981	[1]—
1982	[1]—

Numbers of schools opened between 1980 and 2007

Year of opening	*Number opened*
1983	[1]
1984	[1]
1985	[1]
1986	[1]
1987	[1]
1988	1
1989	1
1990	1
1991	6
1992	5
1993	2
1994	1
1995	48
1996	136
1997	76
1998	86
1999	133
2000	124
2001	153
2002	118
2003	126
2004	129
2005	128
2006	138
2007	186
Total	1,599

[1] No data

Source:
EduBase

The figures include schools that opened as a result of the amalgamation or merger of two or more schools; schools that have closed but reopened as voluntary schools with a religious character; and schools that have opened in local authorities that have moved from a three-tier to a two-tier system.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many schools in each local education authority *(a)* have been built since 1997 and *(b)* are planned to be built; [151224]

(2) how many schools in each local education authority have been built since the Education and Inspections Act 2006 came into force; and how many plans for new schools to be built have been drawn up since then; [151225]

(3) what percentage of schools that decided to rebuild at least 70 per cent. or more of their existing floor space were rebuilt with private finance initiative funding in each of the last 10 years, broken down by local education authority; [151462]

(4) which local education authorities have made plans to rebuild less than 70 per cent. of their floor space of schools since 1997; [151526]

(5) what percentage of the schools which have decided to rebuild less than 70 per cent. of existing floor space of schools since 1997 was funded by *(a)* a design and build conventional capital and *(b)* private finance initiative funding; [151533]

(6) how many local education authorities have made plans to rebuild at least 70 per cent. or more of the existing floor space of a school since 1997, broken down by local education authority. [151535]

Jim Knight: We hold only some of this information centrally.

Earlier this year we collected data from all education authorities on their schools building investment. This includes, for instance, the number of new schools built each year over the past 10 years, either as additional schools or as replacement of existing schools, by each authority. This is the one area where the data we hold relate directly to one of these questions.

The data also include the numbers of schools where authorities have renewed over 80 per cent. of the floor area of schools, and where they have renewed from 50 per cent. to 80 per cent. This information is available in the House Library.

The information we requested was on completed projects, not on local authorities' plans.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discretionary funding schemes there are for schools administered by his Department; what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* cost of the scheme was in each case in each year since 2004-05; what the budget is for each in each year to 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [150672]

Jim Knight: Information has been placed in the House Libraries detailing which specific grants were allocated to local authorities for schools or to support schools and pupils, for each year, between 2004-05 and 2007-08. The grants are in addition to the main funding for schools, provided though the local government finance system up to 2005-06 and the Dedicated Schools Grant since 2006-07. With the exception of the Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant, recurrent grants that are devolved to schools are not ring-fenced at school level.

DCSF is still agreeing the exact split of budgets with DIUS so it is not possible to give details of funding from 2008-11 at this moment. We will announce these in the autumn. The spending review settlement provided for a significant increase in DfES funding over the next three years to reach £75.5 billion by 2010-11, approximately £11 billion higher than in 2007-08.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of schools funding is distributed without reference to pupil numbers; and if he will make a statement. [150703]

Jim Knight: The core funding for schools is delivered through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which was introduced in 2006-07 following two public consultations in 2005. The DSG was £28 billion in 2007-08 and all of this was distributed with reference to pupil numbers.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what schemes will be funded in 2008-09 with the *(a)* Standards Fund, *(b)* School Standard Grant, *(c)* Information and Communications Technology Scheme and *(d)* academics and specialist schools budget. [150889]

Jim Knight: DCSF is still agreeing the exact split of budgets with DIUS so it is not possible to give details of funding from 2008-11 at this moment. The spending review settlement provided for a significant increase in DFES funding over the next three years to reach £75.5 billion by 2010-11, approximately £11 billion higher than in 2007-08. Details of specific schemes will be announced in the autumn.

Schools: Governing Bodies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to increase the representation of parents on school organisation committees; and if he will make a statement. [150690]

Jim Knight: School Organisation Committees were abolished by section 29 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 which came into force on 25 May 2007.

Under new decision-making arrangements introduced from this date, decisions on statutory proposals to make changes to local school organisation are normally decided by local authorities, except for proposals for a new school where the local authority is the proposer or has a role in the trust of a proposed trust school. Such new school proposals are decided by the schools adjudicator. Other proposals may be decided by the schools adjudicator if the local authority fails to decide proposals within two months or following an appeal by the bodies for which there is explicit provision in the relevant legislation. Statutory guidance to local authorities and the schools adjudicator makes clear that they should have regard to the views of parents when considering proposals.

Schools: Human Rights

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many schools have adopted UNICEF's Rights Respecting Schools Programme; and if he will list them; [150345]

(2) what his policy is on promoting UNICEF's Rights Respecting Schools Programme; [150346]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effect of UNICEF's Rights Respecting Schools programme on the behaviour of children in those schools that have adopted it. [150347]

Kevin Brennan: The Rights, Respect and Responsibilities (RRR) programme provides a framework of values based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Rights Respecting School awards are made by UNICEF to schools which teach children's and human rights and where rights and respect are modelled in all relationships. The Department has not made a systematic assessment of the RRR programme's effect on pupils' behaviour, but we know of schools which implement the programme and which have reported improvements in behaviour.

Helping pupils understand their rights and responsibilities, which is central to RRR, can reinforce the Department's Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) programme, which has been shown to have positive effects on behaviour.

Behaviour-related guidance, training and curriculum materials produced by the Department emphasise the importance of promoting mutual respect and personal responsibility and while the Department does not actively promote the specific RRR framework, schools are free to adopt it. The Department does not collect information about the numbers of schools involved in RRR.

Schools: Inspections

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Ofsted school inspections took place in each year from 1992-93 to 2006-07; how many have taken place in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [149083]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Schools: Nurses

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time school nurses were employed by local authorities in each of the last three years. [150741]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the format requested.

The table provides the full-time equivalent number of matrons, nurses and medical staff employed in local authority maintained schools by local authority in each January from 2004 to 2006. The number of nurses cannot be provided separately. These figures can be provided only on a full-time equivalent basis and cannot be broken down by full and part-time staff.

2007 local authority figures are likely to be available on 27 September.

Full-time equivalent matrons, nurses and medical staff[1] employed in local authority maintained schools in England by government office region and local authorities, January 2004 to 2006

	Matrons/Nurses/Medical Staff		
	2004	*2005*	*2006*
England	1,650	1,700	1,690
North East	50	50	60
Darlington	—	—	—
Durham	—	—	—
Gateshead	10	10	10
Hartlepool	—	—	—
Middlesbrough	—	10	10
Newcastle upon Tyne	—	—	—
North Tyneside	10	—	—
Northumberland	10	10	10
Redcar and Cleveland	—	—	—
South Tyneside	—	10	10
Stockton-on-Tees	—	—	—
Sunderland	10	10	10
North West	170	170	180
Blackburn with Darwen	—	—	—
Blackpool	10	10	10

Full-time equivalent matrons, nurses and medical staff[1] employed in local authority maintained schools in England by government office region and local authorities, January 2004 to 2006

	Matrons/Nurses/Medical Staff		
	2004	2005	2006
Bolton	10	10	10
Bury	10	10	10
Cheshire	20	10	20
Cumbria	10	10	10
Halton	—	—	—
Knowsley	10	—	10
Lancashire	10	20	20
Liverpool	10	10	10
Manchester	10	10	10
Oldham	30	20	20
Rochdale	—	—	—
Salford	—	—	—
Sefton	—	—	—
St. Helens	—	—	—
Stockport	—	—	—
Tameside	20	20	20
Trafford	—	10	10
Warrington	—	—	10
Wigan	—	—	—
Wirral	10	10	—
Yorkshire and the Humber	140	130	140
Barnsley	10	10	10
Bradford	10	10	10
Calderdale	10	10	10
Doncaster	10	10	—
East Riding of Yorkshire	10	10	10
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	—	—	10
Kirklees	10	10	10
Leeds	20	30	30
North East Lincolnshire	10	10	10
North Lincolnshire	—	—	—
North Yorkshire	10	10	10
Rotherham	10	10	10
Sheffield	10	—	10
Wakefield	10	10	20
York	—	—	10
East Midlands	80	100	90
Derby	10	10	10
Derbyshire	20	20	20
Leicester	20	20	10
Leicestershire	10	—	—
Lincolnshire	10	10	10
Northamptonshire	10	10	10
Nottingham	—	10	—
Nottinghamshire	10	20	10
Rutland	—	—	—
West Midlands	130	120	130
Birmingham	30	20	20
Coventry	—	—	—
Dudley	10	10	10
Herefordshire	—	—	—

Full-time equivalent matrons, nurses and medical staff[1] employed in local authority maintained schools in England by government office region and local authorities, January 2004 to 2006

	Matrons/Nurses/Medical Staff		
	2004	2005	2006
Sandwell	10	10	10
Shropshire	20	10	10
Solihuli	10	10	10
Staffordshire	10	10	10
Stoke-on-Trent	—	—	—
Telford and Wrekin	10	10	10
Walsall	—	—	10
Warwickshire	20	20	20
Wolverhampton	—	—	—
Worcestershire	10	10	10
East of England	180	160	160
Bedfordshire	10	10	10
Cambridgeshire	10	—	10
Essex	40	40	40
Hertfordshire	60	60	60
Luton	10	10	20
Norfolk	20	10	10
Peterborough	—	—	—
Southend-on-Sea	10	10	10
Suffolk	10	10	10
Thurrock	—	—	—
London	410	440	470
Inner London	70	70	80
Camden	—	—	—
City of London	—	—	—
Hackney	—	—	—
Hammersmith and Fulham	—	—	—
Haringey	20	20	30
Islington	10	—	—
Kensington and Chelsea	—	—	—
Lambeth	—	—	10
Lewisham	10	10	10
Newham	10	10	10
Southwark	—	—	—
Tower Hamlets	—	—	—
Wandsworth	10	10	10
Westminster	—	—	—
Outer London	340	370	390
Barking and Dagenham	—	—	—
Barnet	30	40	30
Bexley	10	—	10
Brent	40	40	40
Bromley	10	10	10
Croydon	20	10	20
Ealing	30	30	30
Enfield	40	40	50
Greenwich	20	30	30
Harrow	50	50	50
Havering	—	—	—
Hillingdon	60	60	60
Hounslow	20	30	30

Full-time equivalent matrons, nurses and medical staff[1] employed in local authority maintained schools in England by government office region and local authorities, January 2004 to 2006

	Matrons/Nurses/Medical Staff		
	2004	2005	2006
Kingston upon Thames	—	—	10
Merton	—	—	—
Redbridge	—	10	10
Richmond upon Thames	—	10	10
Sutton	—	—	—
Waltham Forest	10	10	10
South East	410	430	350
Bracknell Forest	10	10	10
Brighton and Hove	—	—	—
Buckinghamshire	140	130	60
East Sussex	10	10	20
Hampshire	60	60	60
Isle of Wight	10	10	10
Kent	40	50	50
Medway	—	10	10
Milton Keynes	10	10	10
Oxfordshire	10	20	10
Portsmouth	10	10	10
Reading	10	10	—
Slough	10	10	10
Southampton	10	10	10
Surrey	30	30	20
West Berkshire	—	—	—
West Sussex	40	50	50
Windsor and Maidenhead	—	—	—
Wokingham	—	—	—
South West	90	100	110
Bath and North East Somerset	—	—	—
Bournemouth	—	—	—
Bristol, City of	—	—	—
Cornwall	10	10	10
Devon	10	10	10
Dorset	—	—	—
Gloucestershire	20	20	10
Isles of Scilly	—	—	—
North Somerset	—	10	10
Plymouth	—	10	10
Poole	—	—	—
Somerset	20	20	20
South Gloucestershire	—	—	—
Swindon	10	10	10
Torbay	—	—	—
Wiltshire	10	10	10

"—" = Nil or negligible.

[1] Excludes matrons/nurses/medical staff in nursery schools and pupil referral units.

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
School Census

Schools: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools have been built with private finance initiative funding since May 1997. [151461]

Jim Knight: Since May 1997, we have built 884 schools with private finance initiative funding. Currently 651 of these schools are open and 232 schools are under construction.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average number of pupils attending private finance initiative funded schools was in each of the last 10 years, broken down by local education authority. [151534]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold this information centrally specifically for PFI funded schools. Detailed information on average number of pupils attending PFI funded schools is held at local authority level.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many private finance initiative funded schools have experienced a fall in pupil numbers since opening in each of the last 10 years, broken down by local education authority. [151539]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold information centrally on specifically how many PFI schools have experienced a fall in pupil numbers in each of the last 10 years. This level of detailed information is held at the local authority level.

Schools: Pupils

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance has been given to local education authorities in relation to surplus school places and the reintroduction of new schools; and if he will make a statement. [150688]

Jim Knight: Statutory guidance issued to local authorities, in their capacity as decision makers, makes it clear that when considering proposals to establish a new school, they should take into account not only the existence of spare capacity in neighbouring schools, but also the schools' standards and popularity, together with any evidence of parents' aspirations for a new school. Where proposals for a new school will add to surplus capacity, but there is a strong case for approval on parental preference and standards grounds, the guidance includes a presumption to approve the proposals but makes it clear that the local authority should consider parallel action to remove any resulting surplus.

Schools: Special Educational Needs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to separate the assessment of and funding of special educational needs in schools; and if he will make a statement. [150154]

Kevin Brennan: There are no plans to alter the system of assessing and funding provision to meet children's special educational needs (SEN). However, we will consider carefully the results of the Education and Skills Committee's recent consultation on the proposal to separate local authority assessments of children's SEN from funding the educational provision set out in any subsequent SEN statement.

Schools: Sports

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government are taking to promote competitive school sports. [151228]

Kevin Brennan: This Government are committed to the expansion of competitive school sport. The PE national curriculum requires that all pupils are taught competitive games throughout their compulsory schooling. Competition is also a key component of the national school sport strategy. The 2005-06 school sport survey found that:

71 per cent. of pupils are now participating in intra-school competitive activities and 37 per cent. of pupils are taking part in inter-school competition. Both figures have been rising year on year;

97 per cent. of schools held a competitive sports day in the last academic year and the network of school sport partnerships staged over 10,700 festivals of sport—multi-sport events organised by secondary pupils for partnership primary schools.

In addition, the Prime Minister announced on 13 July extra funding to extend the network of competition managers. This will see the number of competition managers rise from the present 59, to a national network of 225 by 2010. The competition managers are creating a stronger framework for competitive sport and working across primary and secondary schools to increase the amount of competitive sport they offer.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools were classed as requiring significant improvement in each reporting period since 2005. [150682]

Jim Knight: The following table gives the number of schools that were judged to require significant improvement in each term since September 2005 and the number of schools that were removed from this Ofsted category. A school which requires significant improvement is normally re-inspected after around 12 months, when they are either removed from the category, kept in the category for a further 12 months or are placed in special measures.

The most recent information published by Ofsted was for the spring term this year.

Schools requiring significant improvement

	Autumn 2005	*Spring 2006*	*Summer 2006*	*Autumn 2006*	*Spring 2007*
Number of schools requiring significant improvement	120	124	73	112	87
Number of schools removed from the category or closed	[1]0	[1]0	[2]5	58	101
Number of schools in the category at the end of each term	120	244	312	366	352

[1] No re-inspections
[2] No re-inspections; five closures

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the expected cost to the public purse of school improvement partners in each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11. [150876]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children, Schools and Families provides two streams of funding for school improvement partners (SIPs). First, it contributes to the cost to local authorities of providing a SIP for every secondary school and, from April 2008, for every primary school and every special school. The funding is to help local authorities meet the cost of the SIP programme additional to that of previous local authority link adviser arrangements. The funding will be £15.8 million in financial year 2007-08. Allocations of funding for SIPs for 2008-11 will be announced in the autumn as part of wider announcements for the next CSR period.

The second stream of funding is part of the Department's central support provided by the Primary and Secondary National Strategies. The SIP element of that support covers SIPs' accreditation, support to local authorities for introducing and managing SIPs, quality assurance of the programme and regional and national co-ordination of the work of SIPs. The cost of this in 2007-08 is £8.7 million. The cost of this work will vary annually depending on the level of support required and is also subject to the announcement of allocations for 2008-11 in the autumn.

Both streams of funding have a direct and beneficial impact on the resource available to schools to help with school improvement and raising standards.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what additional resources his Department provides to schools classified as causing concern to help them improve. [151239]

Jim Knight: A range of resources is made available by my Department to support schools causing concern. This includes guidance on such schools (available on the DCSF Standards website); central funding from a variety of sources, including the Fresh Start programme, that is paid to local authorities through the Standards Fund; a number of intervention and capacity building programmes such as the Raising Attainment in Teaching and Learning (RAIL) programme for secondary schools and the Intensifying Support Programme (ISP) for primary schools; and a network of school improvement delivery agencies some of whose work includes the provision of teaching materials and consultancy support.

Every local authority has been allocated a share of an additional £30 million, over the 2006-07 and 2007-08 financial years, to support their school

improvement work. Additional funding is also available from my Department's interventions budget, to support specific school improvement projects.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools which are private finance initiative funded were *(a)* categorised as causing concern and *(b)* placed in special measures in each of the last five years. [151459]

Jim Knight: The Department does not centrally hold information specifically on how many PFI schools are categorised as causing concern or placed in special measures. This level of detailed information is held at local authority level for PFI funded schools.

Secondary Education: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of secondary schools contained more than 1,000 pupils in each year from 1990-91 to 2007-08; [150689]

(2) how many pupils there were in English primary schools at Key Stage *(a)* 1 and *(b)* 2 equivalent in each year since 1985-86; and if he will make a statement. [150752]

Jim Knight: The requested information cannot be provided within the deadline required by Parliament.

Secondary Education: Specialist Schools

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether it is his policy to make all secondary schools independent specialist schools; and if he will make a statement. [150687]

Jim Knight: It is not this Government's policy to make all secondary schools independent specialist schools.

Any maintained secondary school in England may apply to be designated as specialist in one, or a combination of two, specialisms. Currently over 85 per cent. of all secondary schools in England are part of the Specialist Schools programme and have a subject specialism. The current target for the programme is that 95 per cent. of all schools will be specialist by 2008 and we are well on the way to achieving this.

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average time taken was to carry out an assessment for a statement of special educational needs in each year since 1996-97, broken down by local education authority; and if he will make a statement. [150698]

Jim Knight: The Government do not collect information on the time taken by local authorities to carry out statutory assessments of children with special educational needs. However, where they have decided that a statement is appropriate, local authorities are required to issue a draft statement within 18 weeks of receiving a request for an assessment and a final statement within 26 weeks (with exceptions set out in regulations made under the Education Act 1996).

The Audit Commission publish figures on the proportion of draft statements issued by each local authority within 18 weeks of the start of the statutory assessment process. This information[1], broken down by local authority is available from http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/performance/dataprovision.asp.

[1] Best Value Performance Indicator 43a and b give the proportion of draft statements issued within 18 weeks excluding and including the permitted exceptions to the time limits respectively since 2000-01. The proportion of draft statements issued within 18 weeks excluding exceptions was collected as indicator K12b from 1997-98 until 1999-2000 and as indicator K10b in 1996-97.

The following table gives the national percentages of draft statements issued within 18 weeks for the years requested.

	Percentage of draft statements issued within 18 weeks excluding permitted exceptions	*Percentage of draft statements issued within 18 weeks including permitted exceptions*[1]
2005-06	96.0	82.7
2004-05	92.0	76.4
2003-04	89.3	68.2
2002-03	86.9	64.7
2001-02	85.4	62.0
2000-01[2]	82.5	57.1
1999-2000	77.2	—
1998-99	66.5	—
1997-98[3]	53.5	—
1996-97[4]	48.2	—

[1] Data not collected in this format prior to 2000-01.
[2] From 2000-01 onwards, these data reflect Best Value Performance Indicator 43a and 43b.
[3] From, 1997-98 until 1999-2000, these data reflect Local Authority Performance Indicator K12b.
[4] In 1996-97, these data reflect Local Authority Performance Indicator K10b.

Special Educational Needs: Free Schools Meals

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what percentage of pupils receiving free school meals in each *(a)* local education authority and *(b)* type of school had special educational needs statements in each of the last 10 years; [151244]

(2) what percentage of students with special educational needs statements in each local education authority attended a school characterised as one of the top 200 schools in the country in each of the last 10 years; [151243]

(3) what percentage of pupils receiving free school meals in each local education authority attended a school characterised as one of the top 200 schools in each of the last 10 years; [151245]

(4) what percentage of pupils receiving free school meals in each local education authority attended a school classified as being in a school causing concern category in each of the last 10 years; [151246]

(5) how many classes of 30 or more pupils there were in each *(a)* local education authority and *(b)* type of school in each of the last 10 years; [151213]

(6) how many members of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school staff in each local education authority were physically assaulted in each of the last 10 years; [151234]

(7) how many single sex schools there were in each of the last 10 years; [151227]

(8) how many faith-based schools there were in each of the last 10 years, broken down by religion; [151211]

(9) how many special educational needs students were educated solely in special schools in each of the last 10 years; [151207]

(10) how many special needs schools there were in each local education authority in each of the last 10 years; [151205]

(11) what the average ratio of special educational needs pupils to non-special educational needs pupils was in each local education authority's classes in each of the last 10 years; [151242]

(12) how many pupils with special educational needs were educated in mainstream schools in each of the last 10 years. [151206]

Jim Knight: The information requested cannot be provided within the deadline required by Parliament.

Specialist Schools

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many specialist schools there were in each of the last 10 years. [151212]

Jim Knight: The number of specialist schools in each year from 1997 to 2007 was as follows:

	Number of specialist schools
1997	221
1998	304
1999	377
2000	513
2001	664
2002	972
2003	1,435
2004	1,945
2005	2,376
2006	2,607
2007	2,807

Around 86 per cent. of all secondary schools are now specialist and we are well on track to meet the target that 95 per cent. of eligible secondary schools should be specialist by 2008.

Specialist Schools: Sports

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many specialist sport schools there are; and what steps his Department is taking to ensure that there are at least 400 sports specialist schools and academies. [150299]

Kevin Brennan: There are already 433 designated sports colleges, composed of:

371 schools with sport as a first specialism;

22 schools with sport as a combined specialism;

26 schools with sport as a second specialism; and

14 academies with sport as a focus.

The Department part funds the Youth Sport Trust to provide guidance and support to schools seeking to apply for sports college status. We are now working towards our ambition to establish 450 sports colleges and academies with a sports focus.

Teachers: Training

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people failed to complete teacher training courses in each year from 2000 to 2007. [151180]

Jim Knight: Information about failure to complete initial teacher training (ITT) courses is only available for trainees in their final year of training. The following tables show the number of final year initial teacher training (ITT) trainees for each academic year between 1999/2000 and 2005/06 who did not gain qualified teacher status (QTS) in their final year of training and, of these, the number who left their course before completion and the number where the outcome of QTS is unknown for:

1. Mainstream initial teacher training (ITT) trainees
2. Employment-based routes (EBR) trainees

Mainstream final year ITT trainees

		Number of mainstream final year trainees who have not gained QTS			
	Total number of mainstream trainees in their final year	*Number of mainstream final year trainees gaining QTS*	*Known not to have completed course*	*Undefined outcome*	*Other outcome*	*Total*
1999/2000	24,650	21,690	1,290	350	1,330	2,960
2000/01	25,720	22,640	1,350	480	1,250	3,080
2001/02	26,350	23,280	1,130	0	1,940	3,070
2002/03	28,570	25,430	1,050	10	2,090	3,140
2003/04	30,970	27,340	1,470	0	2,160	3,630
2004/05	31,360	27,150	1,410	20	2,780	4,210
2005/06	31,310	27,100	1,310	10	2,900	4,210

Notes:
1. Includes trainees from universities and other higher education (HE) institutions, school centred initial teacher training (SCITT) and Open universities (OU), but exclude employment-based routes (EBR).
2. Numbers are individually rounded to the nearest 10, therefore may not sum.
3. 'Other outcome' includes final year trainees who are yet to complete their course, those with withheld QTS (including those where their skills test was not met, their standards were not met and where both their standards and skills test were not met) and those where the skill test has not been taken (include those whose standards were met and those whose standards were not met).
Source:
TDA performance profiles.

Employment-based routes (EBR) trainees

			Number of EBR final year trainees who have not gained QTS			
	Total number of EBR trainees in their final year	*Number of EBR final year trainees gaining QTS*	*Known not to have completed course*	*Undefined outcome*	*Other outcome*	*Total*
2001/02	2,440	2,210	30	0	190	230
2002/03	4,030	3,670	340	0	20	360
2003/04	4,950	4,470	440	0	30	470
2004/05	7,220	6,600	260	0	350	610
2005/06	6,970	6,090	420	0	450	870

Notes:
1. Includes trainees from employment-based routes (EBR) only.
2. Numbers are individually rounded to the nearest 10, therefore may not sum.
3. 'Other outcome' includes final year trainees who are yet to complete their course, those with withheld QTS (including those where their skills test was not met, their standards were not met and where both their standards and skills test were not met) and those where the skill test has not been taken (include those whose standards were met and those whose standards were not met).
Source:
TDA performance profiles.

Truancy: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the total spending by his Department was on anti-truancy programmes in each year since 1996-97; and what assessment of value for money has been made of such spending. [150887]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the replies given on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 313W, to the hon. Member for Brent, East (Sarah Teather), on 22 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1486W, to the hon. Member for South Holland and The Deepings (Mr. Hayes), on 16 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1061-62W, to the hon. Member for Cheadle (Mark Hunter) and on 23 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 1566W, to the hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne).

In 2007/08 we have committed the following amounts:

£0.6 million on attendance consultancy to support to local authorities;

£100,000 on absence data collections (in addition to school census collections);

£126,000 for publicity and promotion materials on attendance and absence; and

£15,000 on events for local authorities to share effective practice on attendance management.

As a result of our focus on providing challenge and support to 436 secondary schools with high levels of persistent absence, we have seen a 22 per cent. reduction in the number of persistently absent pupils in those schools over the autumn and spring terms of 2006-07 compared to the same period in 2005-06.

Trust Schools

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many trust schools there are; and how many are planned to be built in the next five years. [151226]

Jim Knight: At present, no schools have implemented proposals to become foundation schools with foundations (Trust Schools) under the Education and Inspections Act 2006. However, the first of the Pathfinder schools plan to become Trust Schools from September 2007. There are currently 33 Pathfinder projects involving around 70 schools. All of these schools are expected to become Trust Schools by September 2008. With the addition of around 140 Early Adopters this means that there are currently more than 200 schools working towards Trust status. This is a school driven policy therefore there are no set targets. However the Department for Children, Schools and Families will work towards having 300 schools, which by the end of the year will have become Trust Schools or are working towards this.

Forming a Trust does not involve new buildings. There is no additional capital and they will be funded through the local authority like any other maintained school.

Young People: Drugs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children and young people under the age of 18 years were admitted to hospital due to the ingestion of *(a)* illegal drugs and *(b)* volatile substances in each of the last five years. [150737]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply

The specific information requested is not collected. However, the following table shows the number of finished admission episodes of young people under the age of 18, for the most commonly abused illegal drugs and volatile substances, for the last five years.

Count of finished admission episodes for selected primary diagnoses for ages 0-17 years for 2001 to 2006, national health service hospitals, England

	Illegal drugs	Volatile substances
2001-02	1,345	633
2002-03	1,367	630
2003-04	1,336	692
2004-05	1,138	903
2005-06	1,253	1,005

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics, The Information Centre for health and social care.

Young People: Education

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of *(a)* all children and *(b)* looked-after children over the age of 16 years were in full-time education in each of the last five years. [150742]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Percentage of looked after children in Year 11 in full-time education, compared with all children

	Looked after children[1]	All children[2]
2002	56	72
2003	57	72
2004	59	73
2005	61	75
2006	64	78

[1] Source: Outcome Indicators for Looked After Children survey.
[2] Source: "The Connexions/Careers Service Annual Activity Survey".

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many disputes and claims were handled by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service in each of the regions in each of the last five years. [150301]

Mr. McFadden: The number of individual conciliation claims handled by ACAS during the five years up to 2006-07 is as follows:

Region	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Five-year total
London	15,109	15,214	12,435	33,001	8,905	84,664
South and East	10,414	10,666	8,473	8,094	9,965	47,612
East of England	7,355	7,442	5,804	5,100	5,126	30,827
East Midlands	6,090	7,493	5,224	6,105	6,864	31,776
West Midlands	7,977	8,724	6,662	9,670	7,100	40,133
North East	5,294	5,928	9,120	8,349	9,006	37,697
Yorkshire and Humber	8,015	9,202	7,110	7,887	8,081	40,295
North West	14,310	15,932	11,783	15,445	12,521	69,991
Scotland	9,309	10,366	7,138	8,379	7,703	42,895
South West	5,815	6,888	5,035	4,543	5,248	27,529
Wales	4,765	4,704	3,049	3,139	3,520	19,177
Total, all regions	94,433	102,559	81,833	109,712	84,039	472,596

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service employees there are in each region. [150302]

Mr. McFadden: The number of people employed by ACAS as of June 2007 is as follows:

ACAS region	Total number of employees
London	88
Midlands and Eastern	152
North West	96
Northern	110
Scotland	49
Wales, South West and the South	139
ACAS National (Head Office)	141
Total	775

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which regions are covered by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service. [150303]

Mr. McFadden: ACAS operates in all of the regional development agency regions in England. It also operates in Scotland and Wales but does not cover Northern Ireland.

Bankruptcy

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many bankrupt individuals were advised by the official receiver of the fast track voluntary agreement option in each year since the implementation of the Enterprise Act 2002. [149506]

Mr. McFadden: The official receiver does not keep statistics on this matter.

However, all bankrupts are provided with a copy of the booklet "A Guide to Bankruptcy" which includes details about alternatives to bankruptcy including fast track voluntary arrangements.

A leaflet on FTVAs is also available on the Insolvency Service website.

Business: Torbay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will list the schemes available to support entrepreneurs in Torbay; and what the budget is of each. [150811]

Mr. Timms: The Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform currently supports the following schemes for entrepreneurs in Torbay. This support is provided through the South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA).

Vantage Point Innovation Centre at South Devon College, Paignton

Lymington Road Innovation Centre, Torquay.

To date, SWRDA has contributed £1.8 million to these schemes matched with £0.78 million of European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) from the South West European Objective 2 Programme. The Objective 2 programme is also contributing £3.4 million ERDF towards the £7.1 million infrastructure development costs of the White Rock Business Park, Paignton.

In addition to these schemes that are specific to Torbay, the Department also supports entrepreneurs in Torbay through the following regional schemes. This support, which is also provided through SWRDA, is funded on a regional basis and there is no budget specifically earmarked for entrepreneurs in Torbay. The SWRDA contribution to each scheme is shown in brackets.

Business support to Small and Medium Enterprises delivered through the Business Link core offer (£14.8 million per annum)

South West Angels Investor Network (total investment of £1.4 million)

Grant for Research and Development (£1.5 million per annum).

The Objective 2 programme has also provided over £21.7 million ERDF and £1.2 million of European Social Funds (ESF) to support businesses and entrepreneurs across the Objective 2 area which includes Torbay. The Objective 2 contribution to each project is shown in brackets.

Business Link (D&C)—Adding Value to the Business Support Network (£1,497,151 ERDF)

Business Link (D&C)—Developing the Business Support Network (£3,008,825 ERDF)

Business Link (D&C)—Social Enterprise Loan Fund (£1,200,000 ESF)

Devon County Council—Broadband4Devon (£5,366,000 ERDF)

SWIG (South West Investment Group)—Business Development Funds (£420,995 ERDF)

SWIG—Business Rural Enterprise Fund (£102,000 ERDF)

SWIG—Business Growth Fund (£700,000 ERDF)

Finance South West (Venture Capital Funds) (£9,630,070 ERDF)

Environment Agency—Envision (£1,078,656 ERDF).

Coal: Environment Protection

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department has taken to ensure the use and sale of cleaner coal and gas across the UK. [150609]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government have been taking action on a number of fronts to ensure fossil fuels such as coal and natural gas are used cleanly. The two key areas for reducing CO_2, SO_2 and NO_x are as follows.

The development of the Carbon Abatement Technology Strategy for Fossil Fuel Use, published in June 2005 (reference URN 05/844) sets out a path towards the cleaner use of fossil fuels enabling them to have a role in a sustainable world with significant reductions in carbon dioxide emissions. As a result of this the Government announced in the Budget this year a competition to demonstrate carbon capture and storage power plant which has the potential to reduce CO_2 emissions from power plant by up to 90 per cent. The Strategy document is available in the House of Commons Library and also can be found at

www.berr.go.uk/energy/sources/sustainability/carbon-abatement-tech/techstrategy.

Additionally the Government are implementing the European Commission's 'large combustion plant directive', (LCPD, 2001/80/EC) aimed at significantly reducing SO_2 and NO_x emissions as well as dust from power plant and other large industrial installations. This directive comes into effect from the start of 2008. Website Address:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/airquality/eu-int/eu-directives/lcpd.

Combined Heat and Power: Housing

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the opportunity to install combined heat and power and associated heat grids in the new housing developments and eco-towns announced by the Prime Minister to the House on 11 July. [150389]

Malcolm Wicks: As stated in the recently-published Energy White Paper, the Government are committed to reducing carbon dioxide emissions from heat. Many current policies contribute to reducing carbon dioxide emissions from heat—for example the EU ETS, the climate change levy, tax incentives for CHP and the Energy Efficiency Commitment. In addition, policies such as the Warm Front programme to tackle fuel poverty help to reduce emissions.

The Government published a Biomass Strategy alongside the Energy White Paper. The strategy provides a framework for the development of biomass, including its application to combined heat and power. The Government are currently also consulting on proposals to band the Renewables Obligation. The proposals contain mechanisms which are designed to encourage biomass CHP.

The Government recognise the value of considering the heat sector in a holistic and focused way. Further work is therefore being carried out into the policy options available to reduce the carbon impact of heat and its use. The work examines the full range of policy options, including the range of existing policy mechanisms such as the EU ETS.

The Government recognise that Combined Heat and Power has an important role to play alongside other low carbon technologies. However, the market is best placed to decide which technologies are most effective in supplying the UK's energy while also meeting our carbon reduction goals. It will be for the proposers of Eco Towns to bring forward their ideas on how heating and electricity generation can be supplied from

renewable sources, including combined heat and power and associated heat grids as appropriate. These will be assessed against Government policies for promoting renewable and decentralised energy supply. My hon. Friend the Minister for Housing, will shortly be publishing a prospectus for Eco Towns setting out the growth expectations for sourcing heat and power use from renewable energy.

Competition: Public Houses

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will ask the Serious Fraud Office to investigate allegations of the abuse of market share of *(a)* brewing companies and *(b)* leisure companies with large managed and tenanted public house property portfolios. [150721]

Mr. Thomas: Ensuring that markets operate freely and fairly is a matter for the independent competition authorities, rather than for Government. The UK competition framework has established the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) as an independent statutory body which is responsible for ensuring that markets operate competitively. The OFT has the powers to investigate and take action if companies are abusing a dominant position in a market or behaving anti-competitively.

Departments: EU Budget

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what responsibilities he has delegated to regional Ministers in respect of European Union funding; and if he will make a statement. [150842]

Mr. Timms: The role of regional Ministers is set out in paragraphs 115 to 118 in "The Governance of Britain" (cmd 7170).

Departments: Ministerial Red Boxes

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many ministerial red boxes his Department and its predecessor bought in each of the last five years; what the cost of each was; who the suppliers were; and what tendering process was used in selecting them. [150439]

Mr. Thomas: The number of Ministers red boxes ordered by BERR and its predecessor over the previous five years were as follows:

	Number	*Cost (£)*
2002-03	0	—
2003-04	0	—
2004-05	1	604.50
2005-06	9	749 each
2006-07	8	749 each

Banner Business Supplies are the sole supplier of Ministers boxes and are an Office of Government Commerce (OGC) approved supplier.

Electricity Generation: Renewable Energy

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of electricity was generated by renewable sources in the UK in the last period for which figures are available. [150618]

Malcolm Wicks: In 2006, 4.6 per cent. of electricity was generated by renewable sources in the UK.

Source:

Quarterly Energy Trends (June 2007), page 18, Table 2.

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what in-store facilities are being made available in Staffordshire for customers to return white goods under the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive. [150305]

Malcolm Wicks: Detailed figures at a county level are not available, but all retailers of electrical and electronic equipment are obliged to offer in-store take-back if they are not members of the Distributor Takeback Scheme.

Within Staffordshire all 13 local authority civic amenity sites have been approved as designated collection facilities and are playing their part in the UK WEEE system.

Energy Supply

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department plans to take to increase and improve the energy security of the UK. [151544]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department remains committed to open, competitive markets as the means to deliver energy security through diversity of energy supply and fuels. The Energy White Paper published in May 2007 set out in detail the Government's strategy for energy security. Specific measures include reform of the planning and consents process, to help facilitate delivery of energy infrastructure projects, continuing to press for fully competitive and transparent international markets, and provision of more detailed, forward looking information to the market through the Energy Markets Outlook. We will also maximise the economic production of our domestic energy sources, which, together with energy saving measures, will help reduce our dependence on energy imports.

Energy Supply: Meters

Mr. Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made with his Department's consultation with gas and energy suppliers on the introduction of display devices on meters for gas and electricity customers. [149850]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government set out their proposals on display devices in the Energy White Paper. They stated that the Government would require the provision of displays with new and replacement meters, and that

consumers would be able to request for a display to be provided free of charge. They will shortly issue a consultation taking forward these proposals.

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the energy demand research project trials will have an impact on the timetable for the roll-out of smart meters. [149914]

Malcolm Wicks: Data from the Energy Demand Reduction Project, together with information from other work being undertaken by the Government, Ofgem and energy suppliers, will inform the Government's and the industry's approach to a roll-out of smart meters.

The trials will be important for number aspects of a roll-out programme, which the Government expect to be complete within 10 years. The Government will shortly issue a consultation on their approach to smart metering.

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) if he will bring forward legislation for the introduction of domestic smart meters; [149916]

(2) when he expects the start of the roll-out of smart meters with visual displays of real-time information which allow communication between the meter, the energy supplier and the customer. [149915]

Malcolm Wicks: In the Energy White Paper, the Government made clear their expectation that domestic gas and electricity customers would have access to smart meters over the next 10 years. Its forthcoming consultation on the metering and billing proposals in the Energy White Paper will include a call for evidence on smart meters. This evidence, together with information from a range of other activities will inform the Government's decision on how best to roll out smart meters to the domestic market.

Energy Supply: Russia

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make representations to his European Union counterparts on the involvement of Russian energy companies and the purchase of energy sources from Russia within the European Union. [151545]

Malcolm Wicks: We are in regular contact with our European colleagues on energy issues; ensuring security of supply and the development of the internet market are key issues in these discussions.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will review the involvement of Russian energy companies in the UK market. [151546]

Malcolm Wicks: Russian energy companies play only a minor role in the UK energy market and the Government therefore do not plan a review.

Energy businesses operating in our market are subject to the applicable regulatory regimes, which are there to safeguard the interests of customers.

Energy Technologies Institute: Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which external consultants have been appointed by his Department to assess private sector bids for involvement in the Energy Technologies Institute. [148910]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The Energy Technologies Institute is still being established as a 50:50 public/private partnership. The Department has not employed external consultants to assess potential private sector bids for involvement.

Energy Technologies Institute: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost has been of establishing the Energy Technologies Institute. [148911]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The then Secretary of State for Trade and Industry published the prospectus for the Energy Technologies Institute (ETI) on 14 September 2006. It envisaged that the Institute would be fully operational in 2008, with 50:50 public/private sector funding. The intention is that the institute will be legally established later in the autumn. Direct costs so far incurred in supporting the establishment of ETI amount to approximately £573,700.

Export Credit Guarantees

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many applications for Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) cover were received in the periods *(a)* 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 and *(b)* 1 July 2006 to date, stating in each case how many applications were made on (i) the standard ECGD forms downloaded from its website and (ii) bespoke forms. [144886]

Malcolm Wicks: The information requested is as follows.

	(a) 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006	*(b) 1 July 2006 - to date*
Number of standard applications	91	35
Number of non-standard applications	2	1

The number of standard applications for the period of 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 is approximate, as it was not ECGD's practice at that time to maintain a central record of application forms received.

Industrial Disputes: Mediation

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department holds a record of all mediation services providing employment dispute resolution services; and if he will make a statement. [150860]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not hold this information.

The consultation "Resolving Disputes in the Workplace" covered the area of mediation, and the Government will publish its plans for the way forward in resolving disputes in the workplace in due course.

Internet: Privacy

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with counterparts in other countries on the promotion of internet privacy practice. [150244]

Mr. Timms: I have had no such discussions since my recent appointment. These issues are an important aspect of the discussions within Europe and globally about policy issues arising from the internet.

The rapidly increasing use of the internet gives rise to a range of issues relating to privacy. These include the problem of spam, issues around identity and on-line authentication, how to make the internet a safe place for children, and the problem of identity theft when such mechanisms fail. Privacy concerns also emerge in relation to the adoption of new technologies such as radio frequency identification and law enforcement initiatives such as the retention of and access to communications data. We also expect the European Commission to come forward with proposals to enhance privacy of data in their review of the telecommunications framework.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much has been allocated under phase one of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each region in each month since the scheme began; and if he will make a statement. [149421]

Malcolm Wicks: The following table provides the data for all Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 1 funding streams as at 12 July 2007.

LCBP Phase 1—grant allocations by region and month—household funding stream

Region	Month application received	Number of applications	Grant offered (£)
East Midlands		416	457,454
	May 2006	26	29,533
	June 2006	8	6,900
	July 2006	32	33,071
	August 2006	35	40,536
	September 2006	27	38,749
	October 2006	100	103,392
	November 2006	85	71,126
	December 2006	29	34,447
	January 2007	18	26,313
	February 2007	8	8,008
	March 2007	12	26,489
	May 2007	13	14,742
	June 2007	16	18,449
	July 2007	7	5,700
East of England		728	989,611
	May 2006	42	48,749
	June 2006	13	14,900
	July 2006	62	131,726
	August 2006	64	60,468
	September 2006	50	86,360
	October 2006	150	194,889
	November 2006	138	144,803
	December 2006	40	49,961
	January 2007	37	65,490
	February 2007	30	67,495
	March 2007	18	46,733
	May 2007	46	43,753
	June 2007	28	28,683
	July 2007	10	5,600
London		276	640,399
	May 2006	16	27,525
	June 2006	6	17,696
	July 2006	22	45,025
	August 2006	24	64,195
	September 2006	30	100,097
	October 2006	46	121,399
	November 2006	42	64,101
	December 2006	13	18,729
	January 2007	9	28,538
	February 2007	12	46,770
	March 2007	13	58,325
	May 2007	17	14,800
	June 2007	20	26,600
	July 2007	6	6,600
North East		110	168,817
	May 2006	7	13,600
	June 2006	3	7,000
	July 2006	6	10,268
	August 2006	9	27,571
	September 2006	7	16,600
	October 2006	26	12,204
	November 2006	17	26,606
	December 2006	3	7,150
	January 2007	7	16,420
	February 2007	3	6,600
	March 2007	7	13,100
	May 2007	1	1,500
	June 2007	11	8,999
	July 2007	3	1,200

LCBP Phase 1—grant allocations by region and month—household funding stream

Region	Month application received	Number of applications	Grant offered (£)
North West		350	469,355
	May 2006	18	45,216
	June 2006	8	5,353
	July 2006	21	34,512
	August 2006	22	43,520
	September 2006	16	19,283
	October 2006	80	62,835
	November 2006	83	79,209
	December 2006	35	67,924
	January 2007	11	15,403
	February 2007	9	17,379
	March 2007	8	37,270
	May 2007	19	24,634
	June 2007	17	15,540
	July 2007	3	1,279
Northern Ireland		88	216,651
	May 2006	18	30,191
	June 2006	15	21,306
	July 2006	28	82,343
	August 2006	12	44,722
	September 2006	3	5,400
	October 2006	5	10,589
	November 2006	4	10,319
	January 2007	1	400
	March 2007	1	8,880
	May 2007	1	2,500
Scotland		178	390,574
	May 2006	7	35,500
	July 2006	10	52,596
	August 2006	11	52,526
	September 2006	9	20,240
	October 2006	39	26,481
	November 2006	52	79,102
	December 2006	24	43,388
	January 2007	7	14,636
	February 2007	3	7,177
	March 2007	11	51,580
	May 2007	2	1,900
	June 2007	2	5,000
	July 2007	1	449
South East		1,243	2,066,947
	May 2006	110	123,660
	June 2006	39	69,458
	July 2006	120	211,850
	August 2006	113	164,675
	September 2006	86	205,270
	October 2006	226	374,866
	November 2006	192	229,680

LCBP Phase 1—grant allocations by region and month—household funding stream

Region	Month application received	Number of applications	Grant offered (£)
	December 2006	75	109,520
	January 2007	56	142,271
	February 2007	51	179,766
	March 2007	45	140,038
	May 2007	64	57,967
	June 2007	51	37,178
	July 2007	17	20,750
South West		1132	1,605,705*H
	May 2006	78	59,215
	June 2006	32	47,601
	July 2006	103	150,104
	August 2006	103	145,209
	September 2006	79	152,838
	October 2006	162	167,930
	November 2006	204	295,128
	December 2006	59	72,067
	January 2007	60	97,642
	February 2007	43	108,794
	March 2007	37	143,833
	May 2007	64	69,226
	June 2007	79	60,968
	July 2007	30	34,350
	July 2008	1	1,200
Wales		511	649,961
	May 2006	30	29,043
	June 2006	22	15,934
	July 2006	42	84,139
	August 2006	37	34,632
	September 2006	27	59,030
	October 2006	85	73,000
	November 2006	91	121,164
	December 2006	33	57,261
	January 2007	21	24,383
	February 2007	21	14,168
	March 2007	16	43,460
	May 2007	45	53,885
	June 2007	33	30,861
	July 2007	8	9,000
West Midlands		365	524,428
	May 2006	23	22,574
	June 2006	8	7,000
	July 2006	28	23,779
	August 2006	41	84,336
	September 2006	29	41,881
	October 2006	78	116,680
	November 2006	50	50,425
	December 2006	17	28,945
	January 2007	17	32,365

LCBP Phase 1—grant allocations by region and month—household funding stream

Region	Month application received	Number of applications	Grant offered (£)
	February 2007	15	34,861
	March 2007	11	36,165
	May 2007	15	15,980
	June 2007	23	23,740
	July 2007	10	5,699
Yorks and Humber		350	538,354
	May 2006	14	23,580
	June 2006	6	20,265
	July 2006	19	33,890
	August 2006	29	42,984
	September 2006	28	40,813
	October 2006	77	96,707
	November 2006	90	115,047
	December 2006	17	32,280
	January 2007	18	32,340
	February 2007	5	11,183
	March 2007	12	46,563
	May 2007	15	20,168
	June 2007	17	19,986
	July 2007	3	2,550
Grand total		5,751	8,718,655

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much funding was allocated to be spent under *(a)* stream 1, *(b)* stream 2A and *(c)* stream 2B of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme; and if he will make a statement. [149459]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* The Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 1 was launched in April 2006 with a £30 million budget. £1.5 million was allocated to the Clear Skies and Solar PV Major Demonstration programmes to smooth the transition between these programmes and the Low Carbon Buildings Programme. The allocations by funding stream for the remainder were as follows:

Funding stream	Allocation[1] (£ million)
Household	6.5
Community	4.0
Large-scale projects up to £100,000 grants	6.0
Large-scale projects up to £1 million grants	12.0

[1] Including management fees

A further £6.2 million of the total budget was re-allocated to the household stream in October 2006 given the higher than anticipated demand from householders. The revised allocations by funding stream were as follows:

Funding stream	Allocation[1] (£ million)
Household	12.7
Community	2.9
Large-scale projects up to £100,000 grants	2.9
Large-scale projects up to £1 million grants	10.0

[1] Including management fees

In the Budget 2007, the Chancellor announced that an additional £6 million would be made available to the household stream. The current allocations by funding stream are therefore as follows:

Funding stream	Allocation[1] (£ million)
Household	18.7
Community	2.9
Large-scale projects up to £100,000 grants	2.9
Large-scale projects up to £1 million grants	10.0

[1] Including management fees

National Institute for Medical Research

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate was made of the *(a)* value and *(b)* area of the Temperance Hospital site in Camden when his Department sought approval from HM Treasury for its purchase for the National Institute for Medical Research; and if he will make a statement. [143111]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) is a wholly owned institute of the Medical Research Council (MRC). The MRC sought professional advice on the valuation of the National Temperance Hospital (NTH) site. This advised that the valuation of the site was in the range £12 million to £42 million, with a figure between the two extremes being more realistic. The area of the NTH site is 0.9 acres.

Overseas Companies: Chile

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many UK-registered companies currently operate or have a base in the regions of *(a)* Araucania and *(b)* Los Lagos in Chile. [150495]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment's team in Chile is aware of two UK companies with operations in Los Lagos. They are not aware of any UK-registered companies operating in the Araucania region.

Paternity Leave

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the merits of increasing statutory paternity leave. [150095]

Mr. McFadden: The Government believe in the importance of increasing opportunities for individuals to achieve a balance between work and caring responsibilities. This is why they introduced two weeks' paid paternity leave in 2003.

Small Businesses: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the businesses affected in the North Yorkshire area by the recent flooding will be eligible for the small-scale small business recovery scheme which is being offered to small businesses in South Yorkshire. [150615]

Mr. Timms: The Yorkshire Forward Small Business Recovery Fund is a regional scheme and companies in North Yorkshire affected by the recent flooding are eligible to apply. The scheme provides up to £2,500 per company for immediate recovery needs.

Tidal Power: Severn Estuary

Mr. Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the *(a)* advantages and *(b)* disadvantages of tidal power generation in the Severn estuary; and if he will make a statement. [150217]

Malcolm Wicks: Between 1978 and 1994 the Government supported a comprehensive programme of research and development on tidal energy. These studies considered tidal energy schemes at a number of potential sites, including within the Severn estuary. The results of the Severn studies were reported in Energy Paper 57 (ISBN 0 11 412952 5) and an overall assessment of the tidal programme was published in 1994 (ETSU R-82).

A study is currently under way that is looking in some detail at the issues arising on tidal power. The study is being led by the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) working together with my Department, Welsh Assembly Government, the devolved administrations and the South West Regional Development Agency. The study will provide a strategic, independent and evidence-based consideration of all the environmental, social and economic aspects of options for tidal power in the Severn estuary from a sustainable development perspective.

The final report is expected to be published in September. Further details of the study can be seen at:

www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/tidal.html.

Trade: China

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of whether the number of Mandarin speakers in the UK will be enough to cope with the expected level of trade growth between the UK and China in the next 20 years. [149998]

Mr. Thomas: The Government place great importance on developing the skills base of the United Kingdom and recognises the value of foreign languages.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families is leading on a number of initiatives to promote the Chinese language and culture in the UK educational system.

The recent Qualifications and Curriculum Authority review announced plans to free up requirements in languages so that schools can offer major world languages such as Mandarin, at Key Stage 3.

In addition, the Government are actively encouraging better understanding of Chinese business practices and culture. UK Trade and Investment, along with our partners at the China-Britain Business Council provide a wide range of practical services to support British companies to trade with, and invest in China. This includes support on the ground from Mandarin speakers. The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform however does not make assessments on foreign language capacity of the workforce.

Unsolicited Goods and Services: Telephone Services

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the merits of requiring companies to display their telephone number when making unsolicited calls. [150783]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 19 July 2007]:* This matter is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to reply directly to my hon. Friend. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Wind Power

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on the future use of wind power. [150266]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 19 July 2007]:* As stated in the Energy White Paper "Meeting the Energy Challenge", published earlier this year "renewable energy has a key role to play in reducing carbon emissions and achieving security of supply".

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file39387.pdf

In February this year the UK became one of only eight countries to surpass two gigawatts of wind generation. It took 14 years to reach the first gigawatt of electricity from wind and only a further 20 months to reach the second gigawatt.

The UK has one of the best wind profiles in Europe and as such wind technologies both onshore and offshore have the potential to supply a significant percentage of our energy needs.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many windfarms there are in the UK; and where they are located. [150267]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 19 July 2007]:* According to the British Wind Energy Association (BWEA) there are currently a total of 148 wind farms in the UK, 143 onshore and five offshore.

The locations of these wind farms are:

Wind farm	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Dommuie	Aberdeenshire	57 27 01N	02 41 35W
Boyndie Airfield	Aberdeenshire	57 38 47N	02 36 17W
Glens of Foudland	Aberdeenshire	57 25 28N	02 38 34W
Llyn Alaw	Anglesey	53 21 48N	04 26 59W
Cruach Mhor	Argyll and Bute	56 02 24N	05 09 22W
Tangy	Argyll and Bute	55 29 38N	05 40 45W
Deucheran Hill	Argyll and Bute	55 37 44N	05 33 35W
Beinn an Tuirc	Argyll and Bute	55 33 56N	05 34 12W
Beinn Ghlas	Argyll and Bute	56 22 59N	05 16 20W
Green Park	Berkshire	51 25 05N	00 59 02W
Ransonmoor Farm	Cambridgeshire	52 30 15N	00 01 28E
Red Tile	Cambridgeshire	52 27 02N	00 00 27W
Glass Moor	Cambridgeshire	52 30 53N	00 06 45W
Coldham	Cambridgeshire	52 34 29N	00 08 45W
Long Hill Road	Cambridgeshire	52 33 34N	00 06 08E
Abbey Produce Ramsey Site	Cambridgeshire	—	—
Blaen Bowi	Carmarthenshire	51 59 17N	04 26 43W
Parc Cynog	Carmarthenshire	51 51 28N	04 34 40W
Cefn Croes (inc Devils Bridge, Bryn Du)	Ceredigion	52 24 18N	03 45 03W
Llangwyryfon	Ceredigion	52 18 26N	04 01 43W
Mynydd Gorddu	Ceredigion	52 27 18N	03 58 20W
Rheidol	Ceredigion	52 24 12N	03 52 56W
Dyffryn Brodyn	Ceredigion	51 52 09N	04 33 25W
Rhyd-y-Groes	Ceredigion	53 24 46N	04 25 54W
Slievenahanaghan	Co. Antrim	55 02 21N	06 16 20W
Elliot's Hill	Co. Antrim	54 51 00N	06 03 36W
Corkey	Co. Antrim	55 02 00N	06 15 24W
Callagheen	Co. Fermanagh	54 26 18N	08 00 30W
Tappaghan Mountain	Co. Fermanagh	54 32 53N	07 33 14W
Slieve Rushen	Co. Fermanagh	54 09 36N	07 37 12W
Altahullion Phase I	Co. Londonderry	54 57 36N	07 01 54W
Rigged Hill	Co. Londonderry	55 01 18N	06 49 13W
Lendrum's Bridge Phase II	Co. Tyrone	54 26 12N	07 20 42W
Lendrum's Bridge Phase I	Co. Tyrone	54 26 12N	07 20 42W
Owenreagh	Co. Tyrone	54 48 30N	07 19 54W
Bessy Bell	Co. Tyrone	54 40 48N	07 24 12W
Mawla (Moel Maelogen)	Conwy	53 08 08N	03 43 00W
Moel Maelogen	Conwy	53 08 08N	03 43 24W
Bears Down	Cornwall	50 28 23N	04 57 11W
Four Burrows	Cornwall	50 17 30N	05 08 44W
St. Breock	Cornwall	50 28 36N	04 51 45W
Goonhilly Downs	Cornwall	50 02 46N	05 11 56W
Cold Northcott	Cornwall	50 38 14N	04 31 07W
Carland Cross	Cornwall	50 21 05N	05 01 48W
Delabole	Cornwall	50 38 14N	04 42 15W
WWA High Sharpley	County Durham	54 50 20N	01 25 04W
Hare Hill (3Hs)	County Durham	54 45 45N	01 24 59W
Holmside Hall (3Hs)	County Durham	54 50 18N	01 40 35W
High Volts (3Hs)	County Durham	54 41 58N	01 17 29W
Tow Low (High Hedley 2)	County Durham	54 45 37N	01 46 57W
High Hedley Hope	County Durham	54 45 36N	01 46 51W
WWU High Pow	Cumbria	54 46 51N	03 09 35W
Eastman (Voridian)	Cumbria	54 39 51N	03 32 33W
Barrow (Off Shore)	Cumbria	53 59 00N	03 17 00W
Haverigg III	Cumbria	54 12 03N	03 19 45W
Winscales extension	Cumbria	55 51 51N	03 05 15W
Lambrigg	Cumbria	54 20 07N	02 38 18W
Lowca	Cumbria	54 35 34N	03 34 33W
Great Orton II	Cumbria	54 52 01N	03 04 31W
Winscales	Cumbria	54 51 51N	03 05 15W
Askam	Cumbria	54 11 14N	03 10 20W
Haverigg II	Cumbria	54 12 03N	03 19 45W
Harlock Hill	Cumbria	54 13 08N	03 09 28W
Oldside	Cumbria	54 39 34N	03 33 34W
Siddick	Cumbria	54 40 16N	03 32 35W
Kirkby Moor	Cumbria	54 14 46N	03 09 08W
Tir Mostyn and Foel Goch	Denbighshire	53 06 52N	03 29 17W
North Hoyle (Off Shore)	Denbighshire	53 26 00N	03 24 00W
Forest Moor	Devon	50 53 39N	04 24 57W
Wether Hill	Dumfries and Galloway	55 18 37N	03 55 54W
Artfield Fell	Dumfries and Galloway	54 57 58N	04 45 59W
Windy Standard	Dumfries and Galloway	55 17 31N	04 12 18W
Michelin Tyre Factory	Dundee City	56 28 59N	02 53 32W
Hare Hill	East Ayrshire	55 21 06N	04 07 04W
Myres Hill	East Renfrewshire	55 41 30N	04 16 42W
Lynch Knoll	Gloucestershire	51 40 47N	02 16 29W
Hafoty Ucha 3 extension	Gwynedd	52 54 01N	04 23 18W
Hafoty Ucha 2 extension	Gwynedd	52 54 01N	03 35 18W
Hafoty Ucha 1	Gwynedd	52 53 01N	03 35 18W
Trysglwyn	Gwynedd	53 22 28N	04 20 43W
Beaufort Court (RES Office)	Hertfordshire	51 42 29N	00 26 13W
Beinn Tharsuinn	Highland	57 48 06N	04 19 56W
Farr Windfarm	Highland	57 19 30N	04 05 39W
Boulfruich	Highland	58 18 0N	03 26 00W
Gigha Community	Highland	55 40 05N	05 45 16W
Causeymire	Highland	58 25 46N	03 30 31W
Forss, Hill of Lybster	Highland	58 36 28N	03 40 03W
Novar	Highland	57 42 52N	04 26 03W
Out Newton	Humberside	53 40 03N	00 06 04W
Kentish Flats (Off shore)	Kent	51 27 00N	01 08 10E
WWP Hameldon Hill	Lancashire	53 47 19N	02 09 39W
Caton Moor Repowering	Lancashire	54 03 39N	02 39 25W
Coal Clough	Lancashire	53 44 55N	02 10 03W
Black Scout Wind Farm	Lancashire	53 45 10N	02 09 39W
Bambers Farm II	Lincolnshire	53 19 39N	00 14 25E
Deeping St. Nicholas	Lincolnshire	52 43 58N	00 13 01W
Gedney Marsh (Red House)	Lincolnshire	52 50 23N	00 06 24W
Bambers Farm	Lincolnshire	53 19 44N	00 15 03E
Mablethorpe	Lincolnshire	53 19 39N	00 14 25E
Ford Motors	London	51 31 18N	00 09 02E
Royal Seaforth Dock	Merseyside	53 27 31N	03 01 49W
Paul's Hill	Moray	57 26 46N	03 28 34W
Findhorn Foundation	Moray	57 39 26N	03 34 48W
Rothes (Cairn Uish)	Moray	57 32 14N	03 22 17W
Ffynnon Oer	Neath Port Talbot	51 54 00N	03 10 00W
North Pickenham Windfarm	Norfolk	52 37 34N	00 44 59W
Scroby Sands (Off shore)	Norfolk	52 38 00N	01 47 00E
Swaffham Extension	Norfolk	52 39 21N	00 41 07E
Somerton	Norfolk	52 42 33N	01 39 20E
Eco Tech Centre	Norfolk	52 39 21N	00 41 07E
Blood Hill	Norfolk	52 42 41N	01 40 03E
Wardlaw Wood	North Ayrshire	55 42 38N	04 43 24W
Ardrossan	North Ayrshire	55 41 09N	04 48 26W

Wind farm	*Location*	*Latitude*	*Longitude*
Chelker Reservoir	North Yorkshire	53 57 34N	01 54 31W
Burton Wold Wind farm	Northamptonshire	52 21 23N	00 39 02W
Blyth (Off shore)	Northumberland	55 08 09N	01 29 25W
Kirkheaton	Northumberland	55 04 58N	01 59 26W
Blyth Harbour	Northumberland	55 07 20N	01 29 25W
Burray	Orkney	58 52 15N	02 53 41W
Spurness Wind farm	Orkney	59 11 10N	02 41 22W
Thorfinn, Burgar Hill	Orkney	59 07 31N	03 09 16W
Bu farm	Orkney	59 04 59N	02 39 53W
Sigurd	Orkney	59 07 53N	03 08 57W
Castle Pill Farm	Pembrokeshire	51 43 27N	05 00 26W
Mynydd Clogau	Powys	52 34 49N	03 25 59W
Cemmaes	Powys	52 38 38N	03 40 45W
Carno 'A' and 'B'	Powys	52 33 02N	03 36 01W
Bryn Titli	Powys	52 22 03N	03 33 51W
Llandinam P&L	Powys	52 26 11N	03 24 49W
Taff Ely	Rhondda Cynon Taff	51 33 46N	03 29 09W
Crystal Rig 1a	Scottish Borders	56 53 42N	03 30 47W
Black Hill	Scottish Borders	55 47 54N	02 26 02W
Crystal Rig	Scottish Borders	55 53 42N	02 30 47W
Bowbeat	Scottish Borders	55 42 56N	03 08 23W
Dun Law	Scottish Borders	55 48 27N	02 51 37W
Burra Dale Extension	Shetland Islands	60 09 53N	01 14 10W
Burra dale	Shetland Islands	60 09 53N	01 14 10W
Hadyard Hill, Barr	South Ayrshire	55 14 45N	04 43 23W
Black Law B	South Lanarkshire	55 46 01N	03 44 20W
Black Law A	South Lanarkshire	55 46 01N	03 44 20W
Sainsburys, Langlands Park	South Lanarkshire	55 44 32N	04 09 36W
Hagshaw Hill	South Lanarkshire	55 33 02N	03 55 06W
Royd Moor	South Yorkshire	53 31 55N	01 40 10W
Braes O'Doune	Stirling	56 16 34N	04 03 45W
Nells Point	Suffolk	52 28 47N	01 45 35E
Nissan Motors Plant	Tyne and Wear	54 55 12N	01 28 05W
Great Eppleton	Tyne and Wear	54 49 47N	01 25 54W
Ovenden Moor	West Yorkshire	53 46 27N	01 56 05W

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking with business to encourage the creation of wind farms. [150268]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 19 July 2007]:* My Department are continuing to work with the renewables industry to overcome the barriers for deployment.

The Renewables Obligation (RO) is the Government's main support mechanism for supporting renewables generation. The RO places an obligation on suppliers to source a specific and annually increasing proportion of their sales from renewable sources. The RO is currently technology blind so that as long as the generation is from an eligible renewable source the generator will receive one Renewable Obligation Certificate (ROC) for every 1 MW of renewable generation.

We are currently changing the RO to allow banding whereby differing values of ROC's dependent on what the generating source is and we announced in the Energy White Paper the proposed bands for renewables under the RO.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what further wind farm developments are planned. [150269]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 19 July 2007]:* It is for the wind farm developers to decide the best location for the wind farms and for them to take them through the planning process.

According to the British Wind Energy Association (BWEA) there are currently:

32 onshore and seven offshore wind farms are under construction.

96 onshore and seven offshore wind farms are consented but not yet under construction.

217 onshore and seven offshore wind farms are in planning.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with his colleagues in HM Treasury on tax incentives related to wind power. [150270]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 19 July 2007]:* I have had no recent discussions with my colleagues at HM Treasury on tax incentives for wind farms.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 24 July 2007

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Recruitment

Mr. Doran: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will make a statement on senior staff appointments in the House. [152080]

Nick Harvey: Mr. Speaker announced on 28 June that Sir Philip Mawer had written to him saying he wished to step down from the appointment as Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards on 31 December 2007. By that date, Sir Philip will have served for almost six years. The Commission has agreed that the process of recruiting a successor by open competition should begin. The post was advertised in the press on 22 July and the Commission plans to make a recommendation for the House to consider early in the new Session.

The Librarian was appointed on a three year contract in December 2004. The Commission has agreed to make the appointment permanent.

The Serjeant at Arms was appointed on a three year contract starting in December 2004. Following the Tebbit review of the management and services of the House, involving a re-allocation of duties (including the creation of a new post to direct key support services and facilities for Members and others) and after careful consideration the Speaker accepted the House authorities' recommendation not to approve renewal of the contract. Further details on implementation of the Tebbit recommendations are contained in my answer to another question today from the Chairman of the Administration Committee.

Tebbit Review

Mr. Doran: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what progress has been made on the Tebbit Review of Management and Services of the House. [152079]

Nick Harvey: The House of Commons Commission has fast tracked several areas of the Tebbit review on management and services. These include the amalgamation of Estates and Works; the expansion of the Office of the Clerk into that of the Chief Executive and the reorganisation of the Board of Management on functional lines.

A new Parliamentary Director of Estates is to be appointed to take forward an estate strategy which will prioritise large and costly projects facing the House in the future, including refurbishment of the cast iron roofs and large scale mechanical and electrical works servicing the Chamber.

The Commission has instructed the Clerk of the House to push ahead with a reorganisation of the Office of the Clerk (to be named Office of the Chief Executive) which will be at the centre of moving forward a coordinated strategy for achieving delivery of services, ensuring better planning, customer satisfaction and value for money which are highlighted in the Tebbit report. The Commission also approved proposals for restructuring of the Board of Management on functional lines in terms of Chamber and allied services, support facilities for Members, their staff and others on the estate, information and communication services (including IT/IS), and finance/HR, with the possibility of two external members of the board.

SCOTLAND

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what legislative provisions introduced by his Department since 1997 have been *(a)* repealed and *(b)* not brought into force. [149615]

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which Bills introduced by his Department in the last five years did not contain sunset clauses; and if he will make a statement. [152497]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999 and has respectively supported and been responsible for two Acts; the Sunday Working (Scotland) Act 2003 and the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004. All the provisions of both Acts remain in force.

Elections

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on what date the request was received from the Electoral Commission Inquiry to bring forward legislation to allow it to access the ballot papers from the recent Scottish Parliamentary election. [150707]

David Cairns: A request from Mr. Ron Gould, who is leading the Electoral Commission's review of the Scottish elections in May, was received on 14 June 2007, for access to the electronic images of ballot papers. Following consultation with the Electoral Commission including statutory consultation on the draft order, legislation to allow access both to the electronic images and to the ballot papers themselves was introduced on 2 July, debated in both Houses on 17 July and approved by Parliament on 23 July.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Legal Costs

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Solicitor-General who the 10 highest paid barristers were in respect of fees paid by *(a)* the Treasury Solicitors and *(b)* the Crown Prosecution Service in each of the last three years; what the fee income was in each case for each year; and if he will make a statement. [146611]

The Solicitor-General: The information requested for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 in respect of fees paid by the Treasury Solicitor and the Crown Prosecution Service has been placed in the Library.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what legislative provisions introduced by his Department since 1997 (1) have not yet been brought into force; [149744]

(2) have been repealed. [149743]

Mr. Malik: None.

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants within his Department's areas of responsibilities in the last 12 months. [149049]

Mr. Malik: It is not possible to disaggregate costs in respect of hotel accommodation without incurring a disproportionate cost. We are able to provide figures for travel and subsistence costs for our Department, which reflect all domestic and overseas travel for Ministers, Advisors and Officials and include costs for all travel, accommodation and subsistence. The cost for the last 12 months was £10,838,328.

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many overseas visits were made by *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers within his responsibility, and at what cost, in each year since 1997. [151649]

Mr. Malik: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis, a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2006-07 is currently being compiled and will be published before the summer recess. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Developing Countries: Water

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support he has given to governments in developing countries to provide *(a)* training for water and sanitation workers and providers and *(b)* education for water and sanitation workers and providers. [152452]

Mr. Thomas: DFID recognises that capacity building is vital to achieving the millennium development goal targets for water and sanitation. DFID supports a range of institutions and initiatives that have capacity building at the core of their work. In particular, DFID:

- funds capacity building networks such as the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council and the Global Water Partnership;
- works closely with UNICEF at country level in both Africa and Asia in its work in supporting governments implement water and sanitation projects and programmes, as well as centrally with their head office;
- works with others to build capacity e.g. DFID supports the World Bank's Community Driven Development Programme and is planning to provide funding for another World Bank programme building district level capacity in Ethiopia;
- funds programmes to strengthen research networks in developing countries (e.g. the £3.9 million RiPPLE programme in Ethiopia);
- will build on the work it has done in the past through the WELL Resource Centre supporting centres of excellence in Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Zimbabwe, India;
- is providing over £1 million of additional funding for the Partners for Water and Sanitation capacity building initiative, working in Ethiopia, South Africa, Uganda and Nigeria.

DFID assesses the in-country capacity of the sector as part of its standard institutional appraisal for water projects and programmes, and when necessary includes a capacity building component.

Republic of Congo: Debts

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the Republic of Congo's (Brazzaville) compliance with its commitments under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative. [149797]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has not made its own assessment as it relies on the assessment of the IMF and World Bank, which administer HIPC. According to the Annual Report of the World Bank and IMF Boards in May 2006 the Republic of Congo's overall progress in the necessary reforms has been limited and slow. There have been improvements in the management of forestry, the social sectors and health, as well as in developing a poverty reduction strategy. However, there has been limited progress in procurement, debt management, the oil sector and civil society involvement in reducing corruption. There has been no progress in strengthening public investment management.

Sierra Leone: Palliative Care

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what financial support his Department has provided for palliative care in Sierra Leone in the last three years; what support is planned for the future; and if he will make a statement. [151846]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has not provided financial support for palliative care in Sierra Leone within the last three years. DFID Sierra Leone has pledged £50 million over the next 10 years to strengthen basic health systems and is currently working on the design of a health programme.

TRANSPORT

Accidents: Yorkshire and Humberside

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* fatal and *(b)* serious travel-related accidents there were in (i) the City of York and (ii) Yorkshire and the Humber in each year since 1992. [152204]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of reported fatal and serious personal injury road accidents in the City of York local authority and Yorkshire and the Humber in each year since 1992 are given in the following table.

Number of accidents

	City of York		*Yorkshire and the Humber*	
	Fatal	*Serious*	*Fatal*	*Serious*
1992	4	110	373	3,858
1993	4	84	351	3,459
1994	2	67	294	3,333
1995	3	69	313	3,396
1996[1]	3	59	292	3,220
1997	7	111	295	3,175
1998	4	70	286	3,001
1999	8	106	285	2,922
2000	12	73	288	2,800
2001	6	108	299	2,858
2002	8	103	294	2,893
2003	8	70	296	2,808
2004	7	94	288	2,709
2005	9	71	276	2,507
2006	6	114	278	2,538

[1] In April 1996 the City of York local authority became a unitary authority and increased in size.

Information relating to light railways is not available, and providing the information requested for railway and air accidents would entail disproportionate costs.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance has been given to local authorities on the installation and use of automatic number plate recognition systems. [151309]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No specific advice has been given by the Department to local authorities on the installation and use of automatic number plate recognition systems.

Aviation: Security

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the adequacy of security measures at UK airfields from which private aircraft and pilots operate. [152024]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* Aviation security measures in the UK National Aviation Security Programme are constantly kept under review. We are working closely with the EU in considering the appropriateness of security measures for smaller aircraft. The security measures in the UK National Aviation Security Programme apply to aircraft over a certain size used for civil public transport purposes and the airfields from which they operate from.

Bicycles: Parking

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cycle parking spaces were installed by each highway authority in England in each of the last five years. [152050]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Birmingham New Street Station

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport further to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Northfield of 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 146-47, on Birmingham New Street, what further clarification of the further information is required from partners putting forward the redevelopment case for New Street station; and if she will make a statement. [152084]

Mr. Tom Harris: We are very clear that something has to and will be done to improve New Street station.

This is fully recognised within the proposed funding provision for the railway for the next planning period (2009-14) and the funding elements for major improvements for the rail related aspects of Birmingham New Street station have today been announced as being given high priority by government.

The proposals of Birmingham city council and its partners seek a very significant investment commitment from the public purse. The Department is therefore scrutinising these proposals carefully and has asked for information to ensure that the funding sought from government represents best value.

This information includes alternative proposals for optimising the benefits of public investment and clarification of proposals for ensuring that the public sector's contribution is set at the right level.

Blue Badge Scheme

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) when she expects to announce the results of her Department's review of eligibility for the Blue Badge parking scheme; [152102]

(2) for what reasons people with inflammatory bowel disease are not eligible for the Blue Badge parking scheme; and if she will extend eligibility for the scheme to such people. [152103]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Blue Badge Disabled Parking Scheme is primarily designed to assist people with severe difficulty in walking. People with specific conditions, such as inflammatory bowel disease, are therefore not eligible for a badge unless their walking is very seriously affected.

The Department for Transport (DFT) is currently conducting a strategic review of the Blue Badge Scheme, which will consider whether the scheme should be extended to other disability groups.

The strategic review will report to DFT Ministers in September 2007. A subsequent announcement will follow prior to the publication of a comprehensive Blue Badge reform strategy by April 2008.

Bus Services

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many bus services have been *(a)* withdrawn and *(b)* added to service (i) in total and (ii) in each traffic area region in each year since 2004-05. [152132]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not available without incurring disproportionate costs.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the percentage change in bus usage in *(a)* England, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber, *(c)* the City of York and *(d)* London has been since 1997. [152202]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested for England, Yorkshire and the Humber and London is available from Table E of the "Public Transport Statistics Bulletin GB: 2006 Edition", a copy of which is held in the House of Commons Library.

The information for York is not available from DfT sources. York City council reported an increase in bus passenger journeys of 57 per cent. between 2000-01 and 2005-06 in its delivery report for its first local transport plan.

Bus Services: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by her Department on bus subsidy in East Sussex in the last 12 months, broken down by parliamentary constituency. [151430]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department provides grants to local transport authorities through the Rural Bus Subsidy Grant, Rural and Urban Bus Challenge and Kickstart schemes. A total of £1.146 million was paid under these schemes to East Sussex county council in the financial year 2006-07. Figures are not available by parliamentary constituency.

In addition, the Department pays Bus Service Operators Grant to operators of local bus services throughout the country but information on this expenditure is not collected on a parliamentary constituency basis.

Information is not available in the form requested on local authority expenditure on bus support from the Government's unhypothecated Revenue Support Grant or their own resources.

Departments: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding her Department allocated to projects in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each of the last 10 years. [151432]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following table shows the capital funding allocated to East Sussex county council in the local transport capital settlements from 1998-99 to 2007-08. From 2000-01 to 2007-08 the figures shown include block allocations for integrated transport block and highways capital maintenance, along with specific funding for major schemes.

For most of the funding it has been for the county council to decide on its distribution between Eastbourne and the rest of the county, according to its local policies and priorities.

East Sussex council

	£ million
1998-99	5.449
1999-2000	5.478
2000-01	8.043
2001-02	10.061
2002-03	10.767
2003-04	10.694
2004-05	11.955
2005-06	10.931
2006-07	12.005
2007-08	10.473

Departments: Land

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what disposals her Department made of land in Hampshire in each year since 1997; and whether she required any of the land to be used for social housing. [149898]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport was formed in 2002 and since that date has disposed of the following plots of land in Hampshire:

	Number
2002	4 plots sold
2003	0 plots sold
2004	4 plots sold
2005	8 plots sold
2006	6 plots sold
2007 (as at 17 April)	1

It is the responsibility of local planning authorities to identify and release land for housing as part of the planning process. This means that the requirement for the provision of social housing will need to be negotiated and agreed with the local planning authority. The Government have implemented a number of initiatives to assist with land supply for housing. A Register of Surplus Public Sector Land held by central Government bodies has been established. English Partnerships review the sites on the register to identify those which could have the potential for housing development. As of June 2007 there were over 700 sites on the register. Sites are continually being added as they are identified as surplus by landowners and removed once expressions of interest are received after a site has been marketed.

Departments: Legislation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which Bills introduced by her Department in the last five years contained sunset clauses; and what plans she has for the future use of such clauses. [151834]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Of the enacted Bills introduced by the Department for Transport in the last five years one contains a sunset provision.

Under section 16 of the Road Safety Act 2006 no order can be made under the new section 34D of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988 (orders relating to the alcohol ignition interlock programme) after the end of 2010 or such later date as the Secretary of State may specify by order, subject to any order by the Secretary of State terminating the restriction. In the intervening period ("the experimental period") section 16 imposes more limited restrictions on the making of orders under section 34D.

The appropriateness of a sunset clause for the whole or any part of any proposed legislation is considered on a case by case basis. It is also addressed when a regulatory impact assessment relating to legislation is being prepared.

Motor Vehicles: Insurance

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will estimate the average cost of car insurance to the individual. [152155]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The latest insurance industry estimates available are for the year 2005 and are that the average cost of car insurance for all drivers is £370 per annum.

Motor Vehicles: Safety Measures

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress she has made in discussions with her EU counterparts on the Government's policy that motorists in the UK should not be required to use daytime running lights; and if she will make a statement. [151703]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Secretary of State has not yet had an opportunity to discuss daytime running lights (DRLs) with her EU counterparts. However, the Department for Transport and the Secretary of State will continue to work with our EU partners on this subject to make sure the concerns of the UK Government are considered in any decision on the fitment and use of DRLs.

Motor Vehicles: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles in York pay reduced vehicle excise duty (VED) because they have smaller engines; and how many are exempt from VED because they are old vehicles. [152203]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The rate of vehicle excise duty (VED) is directly linked to engine capacity for motorcycles, tricycles and private and light goods vehicles registered prior to 1 March 2001. At the end of March 2007, the numbers of licensed vehicles within these tax classes, registered to keepers residing in the City of York unitary authority were as follows:

Tax class	*Engine capacity*	*Number of licensed vehicles*
Private and light goods	Not over 1549 cc	13,389
Private and light goods	Over 1549 cc	23,345
Motorcycles	Not over 150 cc	1,841
Motorcycles	151 cc to 400 cc	312
Motorcycles	401 cc to 600 cc	717
Motorcycles	Over 600 cc	1,492
Tricycles	Not over 150 cc	1
Tricycles	Over 150 cc	42

At the end of March 2007, there were also 850 licensed vehicles registered within the City of York that were exempt from VED due to them being constructed prior to 1 January 1973.

Railways: Poole

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to increase capacity on commuter trains between Poole and London, measured by *(a)* new carriages and *(b)* passenger numbers; and when the new capacity will be rolled out. [151575]

Mr. Tom Harris: Stagecoach South Western replaced the train units that serve the train service to Weymouth from commencement of the new franchise (February 2007). The train service consisted of five car class 442 units with a capacity of 495 passengers which were replaced with five car class 444 units with a capacity of 520 passengers. The department is not aware of any further plans by Stagecoach South Western to increase capacity on this line.

Road Traffic Control: Ambulance Services

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the impact of speed humps on ambulances; and if she will make a statement. [151897]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has commissioned extensive research into the development of traffic calming technique. This research covers the impacts of road humps on vehicles, including ambulances, and their occupants. As a result, the Department recommends the use of 75 mm high (instead of the 100 mm maximum height permitted under regulations) road humps with shallow gradients, or speed cushions, where emergency services may be expected to pass on a regular basis.

Rolling Stock: Leasing

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total cost was to the public purse of the high speed trains fleet recently leased to SNCF; how long the period of the lease is; and what return is expected for *(a)* the Exchequer and *(b)* Eurostar. [150758]

Mr. Tom Harris: Eurostar UK Ltd. (EUKL) has recently leased its Regional Eurostar trains to SNCF to reduce the cost of stabling and maintaining trains for which it has no current use. The lease agreed with SNCF runs to 2013, however, the value of the deal is commercially sensitive and cannot be released in answer to this question. Income from the lease will accrue to EUKL, improving London and Continental Railways' (EUKL's parent company) overall financial position and reducing the Department for Transport's exposure to supporting Eurostar's costs. The Regional Eurostar trains were ordered by British Rail in 1991 at a cost of £180 million.

Shipping: Radioactive Materials

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether radioactive materials may legally be transported *(a)* on passenger ferries and *(b)* through the channel tunnel. [151927]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Provided that shipments are made in accordance with the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code there is no legal reason why radioactive material may not be transported by passenger ferry.

Provided that shipments are made in accordance with the requirements and restrictions established in Volume F (Carriage of Dangerous Goods) of Eurotunnel's Safety Arrangements, there is no legal reason why radioactive material may not be transported through the channel tunnel.

Transport: Lancashire

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the estimated cost was of the next best option (western route) which Lancashire County Council submitted in her Department as their major business scheme in 2005; what environmental mitigation measures were identified for this route; and what the estimated cost was of any such measures. [152329]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Lancashire county council's 2005 major scheme business case for the Heysham to M6 link did not include an estimated cost for the next best option (the western route). However, it did include an explanation of the reasons why the local authority had rejected the western route. A copy of the business case is available on Lancashire county council's website at

www.lancashire.gov.uk.

Transport: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much Government grant the City of York received for transport schemes in each year since the unitary authority was established. [152201]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A local transport capital settlement is made annually and includes funding to support local transport projects. The settlements are published on the Department for Transport website at:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/ltp/capital

Most Government support for day to day highways and transport services is provided within the revenue support grant. It is up to local authorities to determine how much of this support to use on individual services according to their local policies and priorities.

Travel: Surveys

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average *(a)* number and *(b)* distance of trips as calculated by the National Travel Survey was by (i) car driver, (ii) car passenger, (iii) bus, (iv) walking and (v) other modes of transport for the purposes of (A) commuting, (B) business, (C) education, (D) escort education, (E) shopping and (F) other reasons, broken down by (1) sex and (2) ages (v) under 17 years, (w) 17 to 29 years, (x) 30 to 49 years, (y) 50 to 59 years and (z) over 60 years in the latest period for which figures are available. [152136]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland (Mr. Carmichael) on 28 November 2006, *Official Report*, columns 527-28W.

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been paid by the Department in consultancy fees to Deloitte and Touche in respect of its study into the possible outsourcing of elements of the work of the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency. [152434]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Payments to Deloitte and Touche LLP, from July 2006 (when the contract was awarded) to the end of June 2007, that are related to the current review of services provided by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency have been £1,072,904.

DEFENCE

Arborfield Garrison

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department plans to seek planning permission for more housing development at Arborfield Garrison prior to disposal of surplus property and land. [150923]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence is required to obtain market value when disposing of surplus assets. Officials work closely with English Partnerships, regional development agencies, local authorities and other key stakeholders when considering its disposal strategy. This will often include an assessment of development and regeneration opportunities which can be taken forward by prospective purchasers.

Currently we are promoting the surplus land holdings at Arborfield Garrison within the emerging Local Development Framework for a residential-led mixed use re-development. This may lead to a planning application being made by MOD prior to disposal of the land.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what area of land at Arborfield Garrison he expects to become surplus to his Department's requirements by 2012; and how much of that area is designated brownfield. [150924]

Derek Twigg: Arborfield Garrison consists of Rowcroft Barracks, Hazebrouck Barracks and West Court Officers' Mess that are due to become surplus to the Department's requirements by 2012. The site areas are respectively 50.753 hectares, 67.332 hectares and 28.393 hectares. In accordance with Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing, we consider most of the land holdings as previously developed land (often referred to as brownfield land).

In addition there is 2.24 hectares not assigned to any of the above sites and a number of Service families accommodation, owned by Annington Homes Limited (AHL), that will become surplus to this Department and will be handed back to AHL under the terms of the 1996 Sale Agreement.

Armed Forces: Casualties

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many casualty admissions there have been to *(a)* Selly Oak, *(b)* Ramstein and *(c)* other Ministry of Defence medical facilities from (i) Operation Telic, (ii) Operation Herrick and (iii) other theatres in each year since 1997. [148264]

Derek Twigg: The Royal Centre for Defence Medicine (RCDM) (formerly CDM), officially opened at Selly Oak in April 2001. Figures prior to this date are not available. Since opening, RCDM has handled the following numbers of patients who will have been admitted to any of five separate hospitals in Birmingham (this includes Selly Oak hospital). RCDM is the main reception centre for our casualties from all operations. The figures include all war fighting and non-war fighting physical injuries and illnesses. Figures for other operations include deployed operations, permanent operations, Permanent Joint Operating Bases, British Forces Germany, all Royal Navy ships and overseas locations, and exercise areas of all three services.

The admissions to RCDM from Operation Telic (commenced in 2003) are shown in the following table:

	Total
2003	512
2004	430
2005	321
2006	353
2007	[1]178

[1] January to June

Admissions to RCDM from Operation Herrick (commenced in 2005):

	Total
2005	24
2006	113
2007	[1]145

[1] January to June

Admissions to RCDM from other operations:

	Total
2001	393
2002	504
2003	146
2004	477
2005	598
2006	557
2007	[1]248

[1] January to June

With regard to the number of admissions to the United States medical facility in Ramstein, Germany, I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy my letter in the Library of the House.

Field hospital admissions and Aeromedical figures are published on a fortnightly basis on the MOD website and updated regularly.

Statistics for other theatres of operations from 1997 onwards are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many faulty *(a)* gas and *(b)* electrical appliances in accommodation maintained by Modern Housing Solutions were repaired or replaced in each year since 2005. [149667]

Derek Twigg: Modern Housing Solutions (MHS) has only been responsible for the maintenance of service families accommodation in England and Wales since January 2006.

MHS does not separately identify the information requested.

Armed Forces: Private Education

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on providing education in independent schools for the children of *(a)* officers and *(b)* other ranks of the armed forces in the last year for which figures are available. [150902]

Derek Twigg: Information on cost details of Service Education Allowances that have been spent by Service parents to help provide education for their children at independent schools is not held. When an eligible Service parent claims a Service Education Allowance, it can be used to help provide continuity of education for their child(ren) in either the independent or state maintained school sector; this is the parents' choice. The allowances can also be used at independent or state maintained education establishments that offer professional or vocational qualifications for the post-16 age group. All of these schools and establishments are listed on the Ministry of Defence's Accredited Schools Database.

The net cost of Service Education Allowances for the academic year 2005-06 was £93.6 million and for 2006-07 is estimated to be £93.7 million.

From 1 April 2007, all Service Education Allowances are now managed by the Joint Personnel Administration system. I am able to provide information on the number of Service Education Allowance claimants for 2005-06. This is shown in the following table:

Service	*Officers*	*Other ranks*	*Total*
Royal Navy	920	457	1,377
Army	2,675	1,605	4,280
Royal Air Force	1,286	971	2,257
Total claimants	4,881	3,033	7,914

Information on the cost for officer and other rank claimants from the legacy single Service administration systems could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Temporary Accommodation

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total cost was of placing service families in hotels in each year since 2005. [150027]

Derek Twigg: Records of hotel costs in England and Wales incurred prior to 1 January 2006 are no longer available. However, the costs incurred since January 2006 are:

January-December 2006: £49,081

January-30 June 2007: £28,271

It will take more time to identify hotel costs for Scotland, Northern Ireland and Overseas and I will write to the hon. Member. A copy of my letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Defence Export Services Organisation

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future of the Defence Export Services Organisation. [151453]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 13W.

Departments: Air Conditioning

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on the hire of mobile air conditioning units in each of the last five years. [151975]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Crime

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criminal offences have been created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since October 2006. [149594]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence has sponsored one piece of primary legislation since October 2006; the Armed Forces Act 2006. That Act maintains in force, with modifications, a number of offences which are currently in the Service Discipline Acts (the Army Act 1955, the Air Force Act 1955 and the Naval Discipline Act 1957). A summary of the main offences in the Act is as follows.

Assisting an enemy, section 1

Misconduct on operations, section 2

Obstructing operations, section 3

Looting, section 4

Failure to escape etc, section 5

Mutiny, section 6,

Failure to suppress mutiny, section 7

Desertion, section 8,

Absence without leave, section 9,

Failure to cause apprehension of deserters or absentees, section 10,

Misconduct towards a superior officer, section 11

Disobedience to lawful commands, section 12

Contravention of standing orders, section 13

Using force against a sentry, section 14

Failure to attend for or perform duty etc, section 15

Malingering, section 16,

Disclosure of information useful to an enemy, section 17,

Making false records etc, section 18,

Conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline, section 19,

Unfitness or misconduct through alcohol or drugs, section 20,

Fighting or threatening behaviour etc, section 21,

Ill-treatment of subordinates, section 22,

Disgraceful conduct of a cruel or indecent kind, section 23,

Damage to or loss of public or service property, section 24,

Misapplying or wasting public or service property, section 25,

Obstructing or failing to assist a service policeman, section 27,

Resistance to arrest etc, section 28,

Offences in relation to service custody, section 29,

Allowing escape, or unlawful release, of prisoners etc, section 30,

Hazarding of ship, section 31,

Giving false air signals etc, section 32

Dangerous flying etc, section 33,

Low flying, section 34,

Annoyance by flying, section 35,

Inaccurate certification, section 36,

Prize offences by officer in command of ship or aircraft, section 37,

Other prize offences, section 38,

Attempts, section 39,

Incitement, section 40,

Aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring, section 41,

Sections 42 to 48 do not create offences but provide for criminal conduct punishable by the law of England and Wales to be dealt with under the 2006 Act.

Failure to attend a hearing following release from custody after charge, section 107

Service restraining orders, section 229

Financial statement orders, section 266

Failing to provide a drug sample, section 305

Failing to comply with requirement for a sample for analysis, section 306,

Misbehaviour in court etc, section 309

Aiding or abetting etc desertion or absence without leave, section 344

Aiding or abetting etc malingering, section 345,

Obstructing persons subject to service law in course of duty, section 346.

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what legislative provisions introduced by his Department since 1997 have not yet been brought into force. [149567]

Derek Twigg: The MOD has been responsible for the introduction of four Acts since 1997.

The Armed Forces Discipline Act 2000 and The Armed Forces Pay and Compensation Act 2004 are both in force.

The Armed Forces Act 2001, with the exception of three sections, is in force. It is intended to bring the Armed Forces Act 2006 fully into force by January 2009.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff at the Main Building, Whitehall funded by the public purse in his Department are classified as people without posts. [152256]

Derek Twigg: Fewer then five staff at Main Building are classified as people without posts. Due to the low numbers involved the information is not broken down further as this could identify the individuals and breach disclosure and confidentiality policy.

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many overseas visits were made by *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers within his responsibility, and at what cost, in each year since 1997. [151651]

Derek Twigg: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis, a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Library of the House. Information for 2006-07 is currently being compiled and will be published before the summer recess. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Ex-servicemen: Pay

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average time period between discharge and payment of gratuity was for persons leaving each service in each year since 1997. [150125]

Derek Twigg: Information on the average time period between discharge and payment of gratuities (i.e. discharge related grants and pensions) since 1997 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Modern Housing Solutions: Standards

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library the results of all customer satisfaction surveys carried out for his Department by Modern Housing Solutions since 2005. [150025]

Derek Twigg: Modern Housing Solutions (MHS) has been delivering services since 1 January 2006, producing monthly progress reports for occupants. The report for June is published on its website at: www.modernhousingsolutions.com/assets/documents/update.pdf and includes the results of MHS's customer satisfaction survey for weeks ending 1 March to 24 May 2007.

It will take a little time to collate the requested information for the period 1 January 2006 to the end of February 2007. I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what legal provisions are in place to prevent *(a)* the preaching of hatred and *(b)* incitement to commit criminal acts against the Jewish community in England and Wales; and if she will make a statement. [151003]

Mr. Coaker: Part III of the Public Order Act 1986 contains a number of offences covering acts intended or likely to stir up racial hatred. These include: use of words or behaviour or display of written material which is threatening, abusive or insulting; publishing or distributing such written material; presenting or directing a public performance of a play involving the use of threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour; distributing, showing or playing recordings of images or sounds which are threatening, abusive or insulting; providing, producing, directing or appearing in a programme service involving threatening, abusive or insulting visual images or sounds; and possessing threatening, abusive or insulting written material or recordings of visual images or sounds with a view to displaying, publishing, distributing or playing them in a programme service. Anti-Semitic hatred is covered by these offences as Jews are defined as a racial group. The maximum penalty for inciting racial hatred is seven years' imprisonment.

In addition to the range of existing incitement offences, the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 created nine racially-aggravated offences, including assaults, criminal damage and harassment, which make available to the courts higher maximum penalties where there is evidence of racist motivation or racial hostility in connection with the offence. The Act also requires a judge or

magistrate dealing with any offence which is racially-aggravated to state in open court that they have found it to be so aggravated, and therefore meriting an increased sentence.

The Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 introduces a requirement for courts to take account of racial or religious motivation in sentencing for other offences.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assistance she has *(a)* given and *(b)* plans to give to the Jewish community in England and Wales to protect it against attacks and violence; and if she will make a statement. [151004]

Mr. Coaker: I can assure the hon. gentleman that this Government take all attacks and violence seriously, and particularly those motivated by prejudice and hatred. We have in place a programme of work to tackle all hate crime, including that motivated by anti-Semitism, based on: increasing reporting; ensuring a more effective response from authorities; bringing more offences to justice; using local data to prevent hate crime from happening in the first place; and better understanding the extent and nature of all hate crimes.

If any members of the community have been the subject of an attack or violence, they should contact the police immediately. If they are worried that they may be the subject of an attack or violence, they should contact their local police Crime Prevention Officer, who can offer specific advice as to protective security measures that may be taken.

Antisocial Behaviour: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the levels of perception of antisocial behaviour in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex. [151363]

Mr. Coaker: The data are not available in the form requested. Antisocial behaviour (ASB) is measured through a measure of perceptions using the British Crime Survey (BCS). The size of the sample in the British Crime Survey means that we cannot provide reliable data for geographical areas smaller than police force areas. This applies both to the local authority level of Eastbourne and the county level of East Sussex. Due to changes in the measure of antisocial behaviour, police force area data comparable to the national figures are only available for 2004-05 to 2006-07, and the national measure of perceptions of ASB only back to 2001-02.

The following table sets out the national BCS figures for the last six years and the comparable figure for Sussex police force area.

Percentage of people perceiving high levels of ASB in their local area

Percentage

	National	*Sussex police force area*	*Statistically significantly different (at the 95 per cent. level) from the national average*
2001-02	19	—	—
2002-03	21	—	—
2003-04	16	—	—
2004-05	17	17	No
2005-06	17	14	No
2006-07	18	15	No

Note:
The measure of antisocial behaviour used is based on a scale constructed from seven questions on problems due to noisy neighbours or loud parties, teenagers and young people hanging around, rubbish and litter, vandalism, people using or dealing drugs, people being drunk or rowdy and abandoned cars.

Asylum: Poole

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers resident in Poole have been waiting for three months or longer for initial decisions to be made. [151592]

Mr. Byrne: Information on numbers of asylum applications and decision outcomes relating to asylum seekers in particular areas of the UK is not collated as are statistics regarding the location of asylum seekers not in receipt of support.

There were no asylum seekers recorded as receiving asylum support in Poole as at the end of March 2007.

The numbers of asylum seekers in receipt of support, broken down by Government office region and local authority, are published on a quarterly and annual basis. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Further breakdowns of those in receipt of support, by parliamentary constituency, are also available from the Library of the House.

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers have arrived in Poole in the last five years. [151596]

Mr. Byrne: Statistics on the location of asylum seekers in the UK are linked to the available information on the support that the asylum seeker receives. The numbers of asylum seekers in receipt of support are available broken down by Government office region, local authority and parliamentary constituency.

The following table shows the number of asylum seekers recorded as receiving asylum support in Poole as at the end of each year for the last five years. These figures exclude any asylum seekers who may be living in Poole but not receiving support.

The numbers of asylum seekers in receipt of support, broken down by Government office region and local authority, are published on a quarterly and annual basis. Copies of these publications are available from the Library

As at the end of December	In dispersed accommodation	In receipt of subsistence only support	Total in receipt of support
2002	0	10	10
2003	0	5	5
2004	0	[1]	[1]
2005	0	5	5
2006	0	[1]	[1]

[1] 1or 2

Note:
All figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

Asylum: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum applicants she estimates are living in York. [151610]

Mr. Byrne: Statistics on the location of asylum seekers in the UK are linked to the available information on the support that the asylum seeker receives. The numbers of asylum seekers in receipt of support are available broken down by Government office region, local authority and Parliamentary constituency.

As at the end of March 2007 there were fewer than three asylum seekers receiving support in York. This figure excludes any asylum seekers who may be living in York but are not receiving support.

The numbers of asylum seekers in receipt of support, broken down by Government office region and local authority, are published on a quarterly and annual basis. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Further breakdowns, of those in receipt of support by parliamentary constituency, are also available from the Library of the House.

BAE Systems: Saudi Arabia

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what requests she and her Department have received from the United States Administration for co-operation in the US Department of Justice's investigation into the Al Yamamah arms deal; and if she will make a statement. [151085]

Meg Hillier: I can confirm that the Home Office has received a request for assistance from the USA in respect of corruption allegations concerning BAE Systems. The request will be dealt with in accordance with the bi-lateral treaty on mutual legal assistance between the UK and the USA. It would be inappropriate to comment further.

Crime: North Yorkshire

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* violent crimes and *(b)* crimes were recorded in (i) North Yorkshire and (ii) City of York in each of the last 10 years. [151609]

Mr. Coaker: The available information relates to the North Yorkshire police force area and the York Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area and is given in the tables.

Table 1: Recorded offences of violence against the person and total crime—1997

	Violence against the person		Total crime	
	York CDRP	North Yorkshire	York CDRP	North Yorkshire
1997	n/a	2,425	n/a	50,252

n/a - not available

Table 2: Recorded offences of violence against the person and total crime—1998-99 to 2001-02

	Violence against the person		Total crime	
	York CDRP	North Yorkshire	York CDRP	North Yorkshire
1998-99	n/a	4,827	n/a	55,309
1999-2000	n/a	5,101	n/a	53,554
2000-01	1,504	4,895	19,291	51,532
2001-02	1,656	5,624	22,890	59,125

n/a = Not available

Notes:
1. The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.
2. The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3: Recorded offences of violence against the person and total crime—2002-03 to 2006-07

	Violence against the person		Total crime	
	York CDRP	North Yorkshire	York CDRP	North Yorkshire
2002-03	2,575	8,108	25,630	67,239
2003-04	3,459	9,610	29,347	71,473
2004-05	4,000	12,045	23,080	61,615
2005-06	3,810	11,473	22,784	58,850
2006-07	3,285	10,087	20,935	54,526

Note:
The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Crimes of Violence: Southampton

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to reduce the incidence of violent crime in Southampton. [151058]

Mr. Coaker: The Government are currently taking forward a very full range of work which will continue to reduce violent crime. We have, for example, recently passed the Violent Crime Reduction Act, which gives the police and local communities the powers they need to tackle guns, knives and alcohol-related violence.

Southampton is one of the areas included in the Tackling Violent Crime Programme, through which the Home Office is working intensively with practitioners in a number of local areas with high levels of more serious violent crime, to support their efforts to reduce alcohol-related crime and domestic violence, to improve police and other agencies' performance and partnership working, and to improve local strategies.

Southampton was also the first area in the South East to adopt a violence prevention initiative based on Accident and Emergency Unit information sharing.

This follows a successful model of community violence prevention developed in Cardiff, which has demonstrated that hospital A&E intelligence can be pivotal in directing violence reduction initiatives, and ultimately reducing the harm caused by violent crime.

Sexual violence is also a priority. Funding has been provided this year for the Southampton Rape Crisis and Abuse Centre, a registered charity providing support, advocacy, counselling and therapy, and for No Limits, Southampton, an organisation which provides information, advice and counselling services for young people. Two independent sexual violence advisers, who provide targeted professional support to victims of sex crimes, are based in Southampton.

Southampton Safe City Partnership are engaged in, and sponsor, a range of initiatives, including:

Improved crime recording and analysis

Domestic violence advocacy to assist victims and reduce repeat offending

Dedicated hate crime and harassment reporting line to the police and local authority

Extended Designated Public Places Order use

Test purchases with on and off licences

CCTV in taxi cabs

Best Bar None Scheme

Taxi Marshals

Nightlink Bus

Dedicated police monitoring of CCTV to identify incidents of violence early.

Departments: Postal Services

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what volume of correspondence her Department sent *(a)* by Royal Mail and *(b)* by other commercial delivery services in each of the last five years; and what the reasons were for the use of other commercial delivery services. [150440]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the volumes of correspondence sent by Royal Mail and by other commercial delivery services for the last five years are not held.

The volume of correspondence dispatched from the Home Office headquarters in 2 Marsham Street in year 2006-07 sent by Royal Mail comprise 32,902 individual items and 6,613 sacks of mail (approximately 200 items per sack). Other commercial mail delivery services were not used in 2006-07 other than limited use of courier companies.

Driving Under Influence: Great Yarmouth

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many instances of drink driving there were in Great Yarmouth in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* sex. [151969]

Mr. Coaker: Screening breath tests data held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform are available by police force area only. Information is not collected centrally on the age or sex of persons required to take a screening breath test.

Drugs: Crime

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of crimes committed have been identified as having drug and alcohol abuse as a *(a)* primary and *(b)* contributory factor, broken down by category of crime; and if she will make a statement. [151992]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available centrally from the recorded crime statistics. It is not possible to identify whether alcohol or drug abuse are contributory factors since the circumstances of individual crimes are not collected in the statistics.

Entry Clearances: Waiting Lists

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average waiting time was for *(a)* visa and *(b)* leave to remain applications in each year since 1997. [151047]

Meg Munn: I have been asked to reply.

UKvisas do not keep statistics on average waiting times for visa applications. Since 2005, UKvisas performance has been measured against the following Public Service Agreement (PSA) standards:

PS A 1: 90 per cent. of straightforward non-settlement applications to be processed within 24 hours.

PS A 2: 90 per cent. of non-settlement applications requiring further enquiries or interview to be processed within 15 days.

PS A 3: 90 per cent. of settlement applications to be processed within 12 weeks.

UKvisas exceeded these standards in the 2004-05 and 2005-06 financial years. In 2004-05, 91 per cent. of PSA 1 applications were processed within 24 hours, 90 per cent. of PSA 2 applications were processed within 15 days and 99 per cent. of PSA 3 applications processed within 12 weeks. In 2005-06, 93 per cent. of PSA 1 applications were processed within 24 hours, 94 per cent. of PSA 2 applications were processed within 15 days and 97 per cent. of PSA 3 applications processed within 12 weeks.

Prior to 2004, service delivery was measured against target times for length of interviews which entry clearance officers were required to meet rather than the total time taken to process visa applications. Figures for the 2006-07 financial year are not yet available.

The Border and Immigration Agency do not keep statistics on average waiting times for leave to remain applications. Performance is measured against the published service standards which can be found on the immigration website at:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/6353/11464/servicestandardsapr07.xls.

Firearms: Crime

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people under the age of 21 have been charged with firearms offences in each of the last five years. [150327]

Mr. Coaker: Information on charges brought by the police are only held by the police themselves and not reported to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

However, data on cases brought to court are collected, and information on the number of persons under 21 years of age proceeded against for firearms offences in England and Wales for the years 2001-05 is provided in the table.

Data for 2006 will be available in the autumn.

Number of persons aged under 21 years proceeded against at magistrates courts for firearms offences, England and Wales 2001-05[1,2,3]

	Number proceeded against
2001	1,193
2002	1,014
2003	959
2004	1,273
2005	1,444

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] See the following offence table for offences used.

	Offence
Indictable firearms offences	
514-516	Possession of firearms with intent to endanger life or injure property
517-519	Using firearms with intent to resist arrest
813-815	Possessing firearms at time of committing, or being arrested for, an offence
816-818	Possessing firearms with intent to commit an indictable offence or resist arrest
823-825	Possessing firearms with intent to cause fear of violence
8103	Possessing firearms or ammunition without certificate (Section 1)[2]
8115	Shortening a shot gun
8104	Possessing shot gun without certificate
8109-8110	Selling firearms to person without a certificate
8117	Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition
8126-8127	Carrying loaded firearm in public place
8135-8137	Possession of firearms by persons previously convicted of crime
8170	Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons designed for discharge of noxious liquid etc.[2]
other81	Other indictable offence
Summary firearms offences	
11504	Non-compliance with condition of firearms certificate (Section 1)[3]
11528	Carrying air weapon or imitation weapon in public place[4]
11532-11534	Trespassing with firearm on land
11541-11543	Person under 17 acquiring firearm subject to control under Section 1
11559-11560	Making false statement in order to procure grant or renewal of firearm or shot gun certificate
11506	Non-compliance with condition of shot gun certificate
11546	Person under 14 having an air weapon or ammunition
11547	Person under 17 having an air weapon in a public place
other 115 + 14103	Other summary firearms offence

Foreign Workers: Health Professions

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what data were used to make statements in the Race Equality Impact Assessment on the changes in immigration rules for postgraduate doctors and dentists, where those data are not provided within the assessment itself. [149762]

Jacqui Smith: The Race Equality Impact Assessment on the changes in the immigration rules for postgraduate doctors and dentists drew upon management information provided by Work Permits (UK) and discussions with the Department for Health on the increasing competition for training programmes.

Identity Cards

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the identity cards pilot scheme is expected to report; and if she will make a statement. [150826]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 19 July 2007]:* There has yet to be a pilot of the identity cards scheme. However, there is provision in section 44(4) of the Identity Cards Act 2006 that will enable provisions of the Act to be brought into force in stages so as to allow for a trial in a particular area or relating to a particular category of persons. It also allows for transitional provisions following any such trial.

Identity Cards: Travelling People

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the implications of the introduction of identity cards for Gypsy and Traveller communities. [151419]

Meg Hillier: Issues relating to the Gypsy and Traveller communities were raised as part of the consultation on identity cards legislation and were included in the summary of responses, published in October 2004 (Cm 6348). Once identity cards are introduced, it is expected that Gypsies and Travellers would be able to apply for an identity card at the same time as applying for a passport.

Immigration: Bulgaria

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of *(a)* Romanians and *(b)* Bulgarians (i) available to fill the agricultural labour requirement in 2008; and what assessment she has made of whether they possess the necessary skills. [151699]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* The seasonal agricultural workers scheme is a low skilled scheme designed to help meet any shortfall in the supply of seasonal labour from within the UK and

those ED states with access to our labour market. As this is a low skilled scheme, we contract with operators to undertake with the individual the necessary assessment of suitability.

A recent International Organisation for Migration (IOM) survey in Bulgaria and Romania shows there is good reason to believe A2 nationals will offer an adequate pool of SAWS recruits. The survey found that 5 per cent. of the sample of respondents (which was representative of the population at large) would consider working in the UK. Of those 50 per cent. would consider working in agriculture and 38 per cent. intended to remain for less than six months. We are in regular contact with the operators and our embassies in Romanian and Bulgaria and will continue to monitor the situation.

Offensive Weapons: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed as a result of knife crime offences in (i) Eastbourne and (ii) East Sussex in each year since 1997. [151365]

Mr. Coaker: The information available centrally relates to homicides by sharp instrument recorded each year between 1997-98 and 2005-06. As figures are not collected below police force area level, data relating to Sussex police are given in the following table.

Offences currently recorded[1] as homicide by sharp instrument[2]: Sussex police, 1997-98 to 2005-06

Year offence initially recorded	*Number recorded*
1997-98	4
1998-99	4
1999-2000	5
2000-01	5
2001-02	6
2002-03	9
2003-04	3
2004-05	9
2005-06	5

[1] As at 9 October 2006: figures subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information comes to light.
[2] Includes all sharp instruments, including knives.
Source:
Based on England and Wales totals as published in 'Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2005-06' (Home Office Statistical Bulletin 02/07).

Passports: Fraud

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which consultants were employed by the *(a)* Identity and Passport Service and *(b)* her Department to examine and give advice on passport security and fraud detection and prevention in each of the last five years; what the (i) duration, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost was of each contract; what reports were submitted; and if she will make a statement. [151506]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* IPS has not generally awarded specific consultancy contracts for advice on passport security, fraud detection and prevention. It has operated a model of engaging specialist contractors on an interim management basis to provide guidance and knowledge to supplement in-house expertise.

Two contracts were awarded in 2004 on a consultancy basis. These are in the following table:

Contractor	*Work*	*Date*	*Price (£)*
Price Waterhouse Coopers LLP	Development of a testing strategy for establishing extent and nature of fraudulent applications	February to April 2004	62,790
BDA Training	Implement common sampling process for detection of fraudulent passport applications	November to December 2004	17,850

Seasonal Agricultural Workers' Scheme

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions her Department has had with operators of the seasonal agricultural workers scheme on the future of the scheme; and if she will make a statement. [151695]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* There have been a number of meetings, both at ministerial and official level, with operators and their representatives since October 2006 about the future of the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS). Those discussions have centred on the implications of the Government's obligations regarding EU Community preference, restrictions on Bulgarian and Romanian nationals and the future role of the Migration Advisory Committee.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment has been made of the ability of the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme to fill the requirement for agricultural labour in 2008. [151698]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* The Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS) allows farmers and growers in the UK to recruit overseas workers to undertake work that is both seasonal and agricultural. The scheme helps to meet any shortfall in the supply of seasonal labour from within the UK and those EU states with access to our labour market.

It is not the purpose of SAWS to fill the requirement for agricultural labour in the UK, and it has only ever met a small proportion of the total requirement for agricultural labour. Migrants from a number of other routes such as working holidaymakers are also free to work in the agricultural sector.

The horticultural industry is also able to recruit workers from throughout the EEA.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme quota will be set for 2008. [151700]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* As in previous years, an announcement will be made on next year's quota in time to allow operators to recruit workers for 2008.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps have been taken following the meeting with the National Farmers Union about the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme on 2 May 2007. [151701]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* I met with Lord Rooker, Minister for Sustainable Food and Farming and Animal Health, on 15 May 2007 and we are arranging a further meeting with operators and the National Farmers Union to discuss the scheme.

Technology: Safety

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the implications for *(a)* public safety and *(b)* the (i) safety and (ii) privacy of individuals of use of mobile and location-based technology. [149449]

Mr. Coaker: The Government meets with the communication service providers, children's charities and other interested parties to keep these matters under review. We are supportive of the industry Code of Practice for the use of mobile technology to provide passive location services in the UK. This code governs the way services are run and provide consumer (particularly child) protection measures that supplement legal and regulatory requirements. We will work with industry to ensure that the Code of Practice is updated to take account of technological advances.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Carbon Emissions: Imports

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will commission research to quantify the amount of carbon dioxide emissions generated by imports to the UK of Chinese-manufactured goods. [150800]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA's evidence and innovation strategy considers some of the 'embedded' environmental impacts of the international supply chains that feed UK consumption. Research projects relevant to embodied carbon emissions include:

Support for a British Standards Institute project to develop a publicly accessible specification for embedded greenhouse gas emissions of products and services.

The development of an embedded carbon emissions indicator to enable more accurate measurement of embedded carbon emissions in supply chains outside the UK. This is based on a multi-regional model that, in the first instance, divides the world into three regions (OECD-Europe, other OECD and non-OECD countries) enabling a more accurate estimation of carbon dioxide emissions embedded UK trade than previously possible. To date, UK emissions factors for this data have been used but do not give an accurate result, as the impacts can vary depending on the sources of energy used in the producing country. This model will enable a more accurate representation of the emission, albeit not specifically for Chinese energy sources.

Environment Protection: York City Council

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* value was of each special grant awarded to City of York council for environmental purposes in each year since 2006. [151565]

Mr. Woolas: Details of grants awarded to City of York council for environmental purposes since 2006 are shown in the following table.

	Grant	*Purpose of grant*	*Amount (£)*
2005-07	Yorkshire Forward	City of York's Eco Depot	600,000
2006-07	Direct Consultancy Support[1]	Waste Composition Project	49,916
2007-08	Direct Consultancy Support[1]	Waste Composition Project	49,916
2005-06	Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant	General Waste and Recycling	145,790
2006-07	Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant	General Waste and Recycling	38,705
2007-08	Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant	General Waste and Recycling	406,075
2005-06	Joint Municipal Waste Strategy[2]	Revision and Development	72,183

[1] Joint project between North Yorkshire county council and City of York council.
[2] Awarded to North Yorkshire county council. City of York council was one of the named constituent councils for this project.

Exhaust Emissions: Delivery Services

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact of internet and catalogue shopping home deliveries on levels of carbon dioxide emissions in the last five years. [150070]

Mr. Woolas: No assessment has been made by my Department.

Fisheries: Migrant Workers

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the percentage of Cornish fishing crews which are migrant workers. [152029]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* My Department does not hold the information requested.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will review the adequacy of the budgets for flood defences; and if he will make a statement. [151148]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the statement given by the Secretary of State on 2 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 689, in which he stated the Government have always recognised the need to spend more on flood defence because of changes in climate. DEFRA and local authority spend on flood

and coastal erosion risk management has increased from £307 million in 1996-97 to £600 million this year and will increase further to £800 million in 2010-11.

Floods: Housing

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many homes have been *(a)* built, *(b)* built on flood plains, *(c)* built in areas of significant flood risk and *(d)* built against the advice of the Environment Agency due to flood risk in (i) each region and (ii) England in the last 10 years. [148954]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

With regards to the homes that have been *(a)* built and *(b)* built on flood plains information from the Communities and Local Government's Land Use Change Statistics and Completions data show the total number of dwellings built and the estimated number built on floodplains. Between 1996 and 2005 (the most recent 10 years for which data are available) there were 1,441,200 dwellings completed, of which an estimated 133,600 were built on flood risk areas.

Data are not available on the number of homes built against Environment Agency advice.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Pontefract and Castleford (Yvette Cooper) to the hon. Member for Shrewsbury and Atcham (Daniel Kawczynski) on 8 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 369W.

Floods: Warnings

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the take up is of the automatic flood warning system in *(a)* North Yorkshire, *(b)* South Yorkshire, *(c)* East Yorkshire and *(d)* England. [150822]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency reported that the take up for Floodline Warnings Direct in these areas is as follows:

North Yorkshire (excluding the City of York): 3,516 properties which is 29 per cent. of those offered Floodline Warnings Direct.

South Yorkshire: 1,653 properties which is 39 per cent. of those offered Floodline Warnings Direct.

East Yorkshire: 2,694 properties which is 45 per cent. of those offered Floodline Warnings Direct.

England: 250,606 properties which is 30 per cent. of those offered Floodline Warnings Direct.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to review the flood warning system. [150823]

Mr. Woolas: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced a Lessons Learned exercise on the summer flooding on 12 July. Any lessons about the operation of the operation of the flood warning system will be picked up as part of that exercise.

Under the Government's making space for water strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management, the technical feasibility of extending warnings to include other types of flooding than from rivers or the sea is currently under study.

Fly Tipping: East of England

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 82W, on flytipping: East of England, how many incidents of flytipping were reported in each local authority in the UK in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06; what the estimated cost was of dealing with incidents of flytipping; and how many (i) prosecutions and (ii) successful prosecutions there were for flytipping in each local authority in the UK in each year. [149878]

Jonathan Shaw: The Flycapture database, which was set up in 2004 by DEFRA, the Environment Agency and the Local Government Association, records the number of fly tipping incidents dealt with by the Environment Agency and local authorities and the enforcement action taken. The Environment Agency deals only with larger scale fly-tipping incidents.

As it is quite lengthy, I am arranging for a table showing the number of incidents and prosecutions recorded on Flycapture for 2004-05 and 2005-06 in England to be placed in the House Library.

Data for 2006-07 have not yet been finalised, but will be available in the summer.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Yorkshire and Humberside

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the change in greenhouse gas emissions has been in percentage terms in *(a)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(b)* City of York since 2003. [151558]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA does not hold greenhouse gas emissions data at the geographical level necessary to derive these reductions. Experimental local authority carbon dioxide emissions data are currently available for 2003 and 2004 only— however, due to changes in the underlying methodology, year-on-year comparisons using these data would be inappropriate.

I have placed experimental emissions estimates for 2003 and 2004 in the Library of the House.

Land Drainage

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Environment Agency spent on drainage on each local authority area in each of the last three years. [151455]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency is responsible for managing flood risk from designated main rivers and the sea with local authorities (and, in low-lying areas, internal drainage boards) responsible for managing flood risk from other watercourses.

Local authorities, highway authorities and water and sewerage companies all have varying responsibilities for drainage of surface water.

I am unable to provide a breakdown of spend on flood risk management by local authority area without incurring disproportionate cost.

Land Use: Flood Control

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to give greater weight in the higher level scheme to land management measures that would reduce the risk to communities from flooding. [150760]

Mr. Woolas: There is funding available under the higher level scheme for the creation of wildlife habitats which may also have flood risk management benefits. My officials are currently reviewing the progress of environmental stewardship to see whether the scheme is on course to meet its environmental outcomes. In particular the review will consider how the scheme can mitigate the effects of climate change which may have a bearing on flood management issues.

Radioactive Materials: Storage

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the Nuclear Decommissioning Agency's choice of sites for storing nuclear waste. [150727]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

Government considers that it is essential that radioactive waste is stored safely and securely at all times pending its disposal, in line with HSE requirements on Nuclear Site Licensees and the recommendations of the independent Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM).

In response to CoRWM's 2006 recommendations, the NDA is reviewing the adequacy of waste storage arrangements across its sites, focusing on the service life of facilities required to accommodate waste until a disposal facility is available. In a separate study NDA's contractors have been looking at possible opportunities to optimise intermediate level waste storage. The preliminary view is that there may be opportunities to consolidate storage at some NDA sites using facilities that are already in site baseline plans, as well as opportunities for minimising waste generation. There are currently no plans for new stores located off NDA sites. The outcomes of these studies will inform the review of the NDA's Strategy, which it expects to begin during 2008. The NDA's Strategy will be the subject of public consultation and subject to approval by Government.

Rights of Way

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it the policy of the Government to exclude built-up areas in towns and villages from the extinguishment provisions of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and exercise his powers to that effect under Section 54. [152315]

Jonathan Shaw: Section 54 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act does provide for "excepted rights of way" which are exempted from the extinguishment provisions of the Act and come into force in 2026. The relevant sections in the Act require regulations to be implemented, and are yet to be implemented in Parliament. The Government will publish a consultation paper in due course to seek views on the scope of the provisions before any regulations are brought into force.

Rights of Way: Yorkshire and Humberside

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what parts of *(a)* York and *(b)* north Yorkshire have been opened to the public under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000; and if he will make a statement. [151517]

Jonathan Shaw: The former Countryside Agency mapped 748 hectares of open country and registered common land in the administrative area of York city council, equivalent to 2.7 per cent. of the administrative area.

The agency mapped a total of 178,990 hectares in north Yorkshire as open country and common land. That includes 95,060 hectares of the Yorkshire Dales National Park and 44,450 hectares of the North York Moors National Park.

Sewers: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many miles of sewers there are in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex; and what percentage are over 100 years old. [151405]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA does not hold this information. Southern Water are responsible for the public sewers in Eastbourne and East Sussex and would hold any available information relating to the age and length of sewers in this area.

Wood: Recycling

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the reasons for the level of recycling of timber; and what steps he is taking to increase the level. [150706]

Joan Ruddock: Recent research[1] carried out on DEFRA's behalf, suggests that it is generally better, in carbon and energy terms, to recover energy from waste wood than to recycle it, with either option being far better than landfill. It estimated that 16 per cent. of waste wood in the UK is currently recycled and 80 per cent. landfilled.

No specific assessment has been made of the reasons for the current level of wood recycling. However the waste and resources action programme (WRAP) continues to play an important role in developing recycling capacity for clean waste wood and markets for the resulting products.

Most waste wood is, however, unsuitable for recycling and the waste strategy for England 2007 sets out the Government's intention to recover more energy from wood that would otherwise be landfilled. DEFRA's waste implementation programme is taking forward a

programme of work to develop energy markets for waste wood by addressing the informational and practical barriers to expansion.

[1] Carbon Balances and Energy Impacts of the Management of UK Wastes, report by ERM (with Colder Associates) for DEFRA, Final Report, March 2007.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council of England: Finance

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much grant in aid he plans to allocate Arts Council England in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [150535]

James Purnell: Discussions on the comprehensive spending review are continuing between DCMS and HM Treasury. No decision has yet been taken about grant in aid for Arts Council England for the next three years.

Arts: National Lottery

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was allocated from the National Lottery to *(a)* the Heritage Lottery Fund and *(b)* UK Arts Lottery Distributors in each financial year since 1994, not including investment income. [152324]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The total operator proceeds for each financial year for *(a)* the Heritage Lottery Fund were:

	Heritage lottery fund (£ million)
1994-95	57.875
1995-96	288.674
1996-97	291.484
1997-98	327.210
1998-99	253.665
1999-2000	244.801
2000-01	258.010
2001-02	275.800
2002-03	225.185
2003-04	216.452
2004-05	226.088
2005-06	230.631
2006-07	200.930

Note:
Figures rounded to the nearest thousand pounds

and *(b)* the Arts Council of England, Arts Council of Wales, Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Scottish Arts Council, Scottish Screen and the UK Film Council were:

£ million

	Arts Council of England	*UK Film Council.*	*Arts Council of Northern Ireland*	*Scottish Arts Council*	*Arts Council of Wales*	*Scottish Screen*
1994-95	48.210	—	1.621	5.151	2.894	—
1995-96	240.465	—	8.083	25.692	14.434	—
1996-97	242.806	—	8.162	25.942	14.574	—
1997-98	272.566	—	9.162	29.122	16.361	—
1998-99	211.303	—	7.103	22.576	12.683	—
1999-2000	188.072	15.848	6.854	21.787	12.240	—
2000-01	183.445	31.477	7.224	17.628	12.901	5.335
2001-02	196.094	33.648	7.722	21.347	13.790	3.199
2002-03	159.556	28.023	6.305	17.377	11.259	2.664
2003-04	153.923	26.414	6.061	16.752	10.824	2.514
2004-05	160.723	27.576	6.330	17.500	11.303	2.619
2005-06	163.978	28.137	6.458	17.851	11.532	2.675
2006-07	142.861	24.513	5.626	15.552	10.046	2.331

Note:
Figures rounded to the nearest thousand pounds

Betting: Regulation

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to receive the conclusions of his Department's working group on regulation and administration of on-course betting. [152333]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Following an approach from the Bookmakers' Committee, my Department facilitated the setting up of the Working Group on the Regulation and Administration of On Course Bookmaking in February 2007. It is chaired by the chief executive of the National Joint Pitch Council and includes representatives of the betting and racing industries. DCMS is not represented on the group.

The group originally planned to report in April 2007. However, it has taken it longer than originally expected to fulfil its terms of reference. We are expecting it to publish its draft proposals for consultation soon.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether those eligible for the targeted assistance scheme in relation to digital switchover are entitled to a digital box with the technical potential for later upgrading with a return path and IPTV slot. [149755]

James Purnell: The digital terrestrial set top boxes provided under the digital switchover help scheme will

meet the scheme's core receiver requirements. These requirements do not at present require that the boxes have a return path but nor do they rule it out. The requirements will be kept under review throughout the process of switchover by an emerging technologies group, which will assess the case for changes, including the possible provision of a return path, based on their usability and cost-effectiveness, and will, where appropriate, recommend that DCMS and the BBC amend the requirements.

National Joint Pitch Council

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department's working group on regulation and administration of on-course betting has identified those administrative functions of the National Joint Pitch Council which are not provided for in regulations under the Gambling Act 2005; and if he will make a statement. [152332]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Working Group on the Regulation and Administration of On Course Bookmaking is independent of my Department. It was set up following an approach from the Bookmakers' Committee, includes representatives of the betting and racing industries and is chaired by the chief executive of the National Joint Pitch Council. Its terms of reference include a requirement to

"Agree a comprehensive list of the current administrative functions of the NJPC that are not preserved in regulations under the Gambling Act 2005".

I understand that its members are in the process of completing this task and will publish their findings for public consultation soon. I am further aware that the Group decided of its own volition to exclude any consideration of pitch tenure issues.

National Lottery: Wales

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect of the diversion of Lottery funding for the London Olympics on future Lottery funding in Wales. [151856]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As announced on 15 March, it is proposed that the Arts Council of Wales will contribute £8.1 million and the Sports Council for Wales £7.3 million.

Of the relevant UK-wide distributing bodies, it is proposed that the Heritage Lottery Fund will make a contribution of £161.2 million and Big Lottery Fund a contribution of £638.1 million. It is for these distributors to determine the proportion of their funding which goes to Wales. No funds will be transferred before 2009.

In addition, non-Olympic good causes may lose about 5 per cent. of their income as a result of sales diversion from Olympic Lottery games during the eight years from 2005 to 2012.

Grants already made need not be affected. Furthermore, the Big Lottery Fund will maintain, and extend from 2009 to 2012, its commitment to provide 60 to 70 per cent. of its funding to the voluntary and community sector, at the levels planned before the announcement of the Olympic transfer.

Sports: Children

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take to increase sporting participation among children nationally as part of the legacy of the 2012 Games. [151118]

James Purnell *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* Our continued investment in the National School Sport Strategy, jointly delivered by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Department for Children, Schools and Families, will help us to achieve a sustainable legacy of sporting participation for children and young people now and beyond the Games in 2012. There is a PSA target to increase the percentage of 5-16 year olds participating in a minimum of two hours high quality PE and school sport each week to 85 per cent. by 2008. The 2005-06 annual survey of schools in school sport partnerships showed that 80 per cent. of children and young people were already doing so.

The Government's long-term aim has been to offer all 5-16 year olds four hours of sport by 2010, through a combination of provision in the school day, out of school and community activities. On 13 July 2007 the Prime Minister announced an additional £100 million funding to increase this offer to five hours per week of sport for children and young people aged 5-16, plus three hours per week for young people aged 16-19, by 2010.

Sports: National Lottery

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Lottery funding was provided to *(a)* athletics, *(b)* swimming and *(c)* rowing in each year since 1998. [152289]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The amount of lottery funding provided to athletics, swimming and rowing in each year since 1998 is in the following table.

Lottery funding

£

	Athletics	*Swimming*	*Rowing*
1998-99	3,045,016	15,791,917	1,790,466
1999-2000	12,161,588	26,119,732	1,908,205
2000-01	19,904,669	18,325,175	1,685,659
2001-02	7,040,174	30,088,993	9,295,194
2002-03	5,134,124	20,282,823	1,914,826
2003-04	9,715,394	3,016,870	400,245
2004-05	32,006,607	19,257,243	18,890,457
2005-06	21,922,334	5,466,592	618,753
2006-07	4,540,492	6,454,689	1,926,034

Sports: Yorkshire and Humberside

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Government spent on sport in *(a)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(b)* City of York in each year since 1997. [152186]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Data for the past 10 years could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The following table shows the Government (Exchequer) funding for

Yorkshire and Humber in each of the last seven years. It is not possible to isolate figures for the City of York as Sport England does not hold data in that format.

	Exchequer (£)
2001-02	139,078
2002-03	25,000
2003-04	205,020
2004-05	893,066
2005-06	1,014,442
2006-07	876,054
2007-08	48,000
Total	3,200,660

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Buildings: Energy

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to encourage the refurbishment of existing buildings to increase energy efficiency. [151254]

Mr. Iain Wright: Buildings account for 45 per cent. of total UK carbon emissions—27 per cent. from homes and 18 per cent. from non-domestic buildings—so reducing emissions from buildings will be a vital contribution to delivering our overall target of reducing UK carbon emissions by 60 per cent. on 1990 levels by 2050.

Despite recent growth in the number of domestic and office appliances, heating is still the major use of energy in buildings—around 75 per cent. of building energy consumption relates to space and water heating—so insulation, draught-proofing and efficient heating systems and controls are key to delivering significant energy efficiencies.

Existing programmes and policies such as Decent Homes, Warm Front, and the Energy Efficiency Commitment, and information and advice from the Government-funded Energy Saving Trust and Carbon Trust continue to encourage and support energy efficiency refurbishments of existing buildings. These programmes have already had a significant impact on the existing building stock. The latest annual report on the English House Condition Survey, published in June this year, found that the average energy efficiency rating of the housing stock had progressively improved from 1996.

In addition, we will shortly begin to roll out the requirement for Energy Performance Certificates and air conditioning inspections which will provide building owners and occupants, for the first time, with information on the energy performance of their buildings and what can be done to improve their performance.

We are currently consulting on proposals for a new three-year Carbon Emissions Reduction Target to run from 2008 to 2011 that would double the activity under the existing Energy Efficiency Commitment that comes to an end in 2008. We announced, in the Energy White Paper in May this year, our intention to introduce a new cap and trade scheme, the Carbon Reduction Commitment, for large organisations to provide a greater incentive for them to take up energy efficiency measures and to consult on a proposal to roll out advanced and smart metering services to all but the smallest business users.

We are also looking at how to further improve the targeting of advice to households to encourage energy efficiency improvements and we are reviewing what other measures could be taken to improve non-domestic buildings.

Business: Renewable Energy

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many business premises in England have *(a)* small-scale wind turbines and *(b)* solar panels, according to Valuation Office Agency valuation records. [152414]

John Healey: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Communities England: Finance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding has been allocated to Communities England for *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [147967]

Mr. Iain Wright: The creation of the new homes agency is subject to the agreement of Parliament, and until this has been granted no money can be allocated. Following parliamentary approval, any future budgets allocated to the homes agency are subject to the outcome of the comprehensive spending review.

Council Housing: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many units of council housing there are in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex. [151426]

Mr. Iain Wright: Eastbourne local authority reported a stock of 3,825 council dwellings as at 1 April 2006 the latest date available. East Sussex local authorities—Eastbourne, Hastings, Lewes, Rother and Wealden—reported a stock of 10,380 council dwellings as at 1 April 2006.

Source:

Local authority returns (Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix).

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many dwellings were *(a)* constructed for private sale, *(b)* built by housing associations and *(c)* built by local authorities in (i) Eastbourne and (ii) East Sussex in each of the last 10 years. [151435]

Mr. Iain Wright: Figures for the number of private dwelling completions as reported by Eastbourne and East Sussex local authorities are presented in the tables:

Private new build completions, 1997-98 to 2006-07

	Eastbourne	*East Sussex (including Eastbourne)*
1997-98	73	512
1998-99	132	1,215
1999-2000	328	1,114
2000-01	377	1,126
2001-02	451	1,102
2002-03	431	1,177
2003-04	540	1,057
2004-05	437	1,170
2005-06	426	1,053
2006-07	255	1,250

Source:
P2 new build return to CLG from local authorities and the national House Building Council. Figures for 1997-98 to 2000-01 are missing some monthly returns from local authorities.

Figures for 1997-98 to 2000-01 are missing some monthly returns from local authorities Figures for the number of new build affordable dwellings as reported by the Housing Corporation are presented below. These affordable figures include social rent and intermediate housing e.g. low cost home ownership

Affordable new build dwellings, 1997-98 to 2006-07

	Eastbourne	*East Sussex (including Eastbourne)*
1997-98	138	432
1998-99	106	334
1999-2000	3	59
2000-01	47	169
2001-02	32	141
2002-03	27	127
2003-04	39	226
2004-05	—	64
2005-06	42	100
2006-07	n/a	n/a

n/a = not available *Source:* Housing Corporation and local authority returns.

No reported local authority dwellings have been built in the last 10 years in Eastbourne and East Sussex.

Council Housing: Waiting Lists

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average waiting time was for social housing rented properties with *(a)* one bedroom *(b)* two bedrooms, *(c)* three bedrooms and *(d)* four or more bedrooms for households on the housing waiting list in each local authority area in England in the last period for which figures are available. [151496]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information on average waiting time on a housing list for households is not held centrally.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of the households on the housing waiting list in each local authority area in England at the start of 2006-07 were housed in social rented housing by the end of that year. [151497]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information on number of households on the waiting list which are subsequently housed in social rented housing is not held centrally.

For information, although not related to households on waiting lists who were subsequently housed in social rented housing, the numbers of households on the waiting list for social housing by local authority, as at 1 April each year, is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600. The link for this table is as follows:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/embedded_object.asp?id=1163853

Departments: Contracts

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how her Department monitors contracts issued by public bodies reporting to her Department, with particular reference to the terms and conditions applied to their work forces. [151554]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government awards contracts incorporating standard terms and conditions that reinforce and promote work force related legislation.

For contracts where the transfer of undertakings (TUPE) regulations would apply, specific conditions are applied to protect employees' rights when the business in which they are employed changes hands.

Communities and Local Government promotes the adoption of procurement best practice among its affiliated, autonomous organisations. This includes the adoption of standard terms and conditions and addressing TUPE regulations as well as other specific work force related issues when merited.

Communities and Local Government promotes the use of effective contract management to ensure compliance.

Departments: Crime

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criminal offences have been created by primary legislation sponsored by her Department since October 2006. [149596]

Hazel Blears: The Department for Communities and Local Government has not created any primary legislation since October 2006, and therefore no new criminal offences have been created.

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in her Department have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for (i) inappropriate use of the internet while at work and (ii) using work telephones to access premium rate telephone numbers in the last 12 months. [149196]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department has not conducted formal proceedings against any staff for inappropriate use of the internet while at work, or for using work

telephones to access premium rate phone lines while at work, in the last 12 months.

Full details of Community and Local Government's approach to the appropriate use of IT and telephones while at work are made available to all staff through the Department's staff handbook. The rules make it clear that the inappropriate use of IT and telephones may constitute a disciplinary offence. Within Communities and Local Government, all users of the Department's IT and telephones are required to make a personal commitment regarding appropriate use of the systems.

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what legislative provisions introduced by her Department and its predecessors since 1997 have not yet been brought into force. [149565]

Hazel Blears: The Department (and its predecessors) has been responsible for the introduction of 17 Acts since 1997 all of which have been brought into force.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what legislative provisions introduced by her Department and its predecessor since 1997 have been repealed. [149584]

Hazel Blears: The Department (and its predecessors) has been responsible for the introduction of 17 Acts since 1997 of which the Local Government Finance (Supplementary Credit Approvals) Act 1997 has been repealed as it was superseded by the Local Government Act 2003.

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants within her Department's areas of responsibilities in the last 12 months. [149041]

Mr. Iain Wright: For the 12-month period June 2006 to June 2007 the amount spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants in the Department for Communities and Local Government, excluding Government Offices, departmental agencies and NDPBs, was £928,118.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on private finance initiative projects for which her Department has responsibility in each of the last 10 years; and how much is projected to be spent in each of the next three years, broken down by local authority. [151527]

Mr. Iain Wright: This Department sponsors 45 signed local authority projects. The total revenue spent by the local authorities on those projects in the last 10 years and forecast for the next three years is as follows:

	£ million
1998-99	11
1999-2000	16
2000-01	19
2001-02	34
2002-03	42
2003-04	62
2004-05	81
2005-06	86
2006-07	117
2007-08	140
2008-09	152
2009-10	149
2010-11	146

Forecasts of revenue payments for any projects spending revenue in the next three years, but which are not yet signed, is not available.

Information on individual projects is available on the HM Treasury website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm.

Departments: Racial Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which her Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [149257]

Mr. Iain Wright: There have been no formal complaints of racial abuse relating to staff in the Department in the last 12 months.

Departments: Standards

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Public Service Agreement targets have been *(a)* met and *(b)* not met by her Department. [152539]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the Communities and Local Government Annual Report which was published on 17 May 2007. Departmental performance across the 10 public service agreement targets is set out in detail in chapters 3 to 9.

Disadvantaged: East Riding

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what programmes her Department is sponsoring in the East Riding of Yorkshire area to promote social inclusion. [151895]

Mr. Dhanda: The East Riding of Yorkshire receives funding from the Department of Communities and Local Government through its Local Area Agreement. This Neighbourhood Element funding is part of resources to build safer and stronger communities. It is up to local partners to decide exactly how these funds are spent, and there has been a focus on improving certain neighbourhoods in the coastal town of Bridlington.

The Department also funds community cohesion activities by small grants distributed through regional Government Offices. The East Riding recently benefited from grants towards the Helping Hands project in Goole which offers support to migrant workers and their families, and towards the Wilberforce Way Walk to commemorate the abolition of slavery and promote community cohesion.

Goole also benefits from regional housing funding for its Advance Goole project to tackle private sector housing issues in part of the town. This aims to create a more mixed and sustainable market to help increase social inclusion.

Empty Property

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* buy-to-let properties and *(b)* empty buy-to-let properties there are in each local authority area. [149428]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information is not held centrally. Details on mortgage types, such as buy-to-let are held by the mortgage lenders.

Floods: Expenditure

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost was of the clear up operation to each affected local authority following recent flooding. [151454]

John Healey: It is too early to say what the cost will be to each affected local authority of the clear up operation following recent flooding. Local authorities are continuing to make their own assessments of the impact of the floods and of the work that will be needed for the recovery process and information improves by the day. We remain in close contact with the affected local authorities and continue to monitor the situation carefully as more information becomes available.

Homelessness: Ex-servicemen

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many former UK armed forces service personnel in *(a)* Leeds, *(b)* West Yorkshire and *(c)* England are estimated to be homeless. [151446]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* The Department does not have a comprehensive estimate of the number of former armed forces service personnel that are homeless, but it does collect information on statutory homelessness from local authorities (which cover some ex-HM forces personnel).

Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level, in respect of households rather than people.

Information reported includes the number of households accepted by local authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty. The duty owed to an accepted household is to secure suitable accommodation.

Based on information supplied by local authorities for 2006-07, around 50 households accepted as owed the main homelessness duty in England were in priority need primarily as a result of being vulnerable through having served in HM forces. Some authorities also report secondary priority need categories (when an household falls in to more than one priority need group), and there were an additional 40 households reported here. In total, this represents 0.1 per cent. of all acceptances in the year.

In the same year, around 200 households accepted as owed the main homelessness duty cited the reason for loss of their last settled home as having left HM forces, representing 0.3 per cent. of acceptances.

A table has been placed in the Library which shows the number of household acceptances who have (i) the primary and (ii) the secondary priority need of being vulnerable through having served in HM forces, and (iii) cited the reason for loss of last settled home as having left HM forces. The data are provided for all local authorities, including Leeds, Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield.

It is important to note that many of those households with the HM forces priority need may also have the reason for loss of having left HM forces accommodation, and so there is likely to be some overlap between the two sets of figures.

Housing: Building Regulations

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether building regulations apply to the construction of porches outside a domestic dwelling. [152515]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Building Regulations 2000 do not apply to porches constructed at ground level which are less than 30 square metres in area provided they comply with the relevant parts of Approved Documents Part N—Glazing, and Part P—Electrical Safety.

Housing: Finance

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much housing funding was provided by the Government in each county of England in each year since 1997. [147699]

Mr. Iain Wright: The total housing funding for each county in the year 2005-06 is in the following table. Figures for other years can be obtained only at disproportionate cost owing to the complexity involved in compiling data on a county-wise basis across so many different funding programmes.

Funding for housing comprises both direct investment and supported investment. Direct investment includes housing capital grants, Housing Corporation capital investment, housing market renewal funding, disabled facilities grants, transfer gap funding and Gypsy sites grants. Housing capital grants are not provided direct to counties but to district councils.

Supported investment includes housing revenue account (HRA) subsidy in the form of major repairs allowance, ALMOs supported borrowing allocations and LAs supported capital expenditure allocations.

Total government investment in housing 2005-06

County	*Total (£)*
Avon	61,059,286
Bedfordshire	24,435,315
Berkshire	45,431,667
Buckinghamshire	49,043,888
Cambridgeshire	37,218,319
Cheshire	46,811,477
Cleveland	25,568,908
Cornwall	29,766,397
Cumbria	24,486,059
Derbyshire	75,691,163
Devon	49,256,868
Dorset	47,636,765
Durham	46,988,587
East Sussex	44,158,644
Essex	143,657,206
Gloucestershire	37,107,148
Greater Manchester	427,493,162
Hampshire	90,572,099
Hereford and Worcester	32,429,370
Hertfordshire	68,952,897
Humberside	57,385,753
Inner London	781,578,439
Isle of Wight	10,472,631
Kent	78,915,070
Lancashire	133,873,129
Leicestershire	63,339,544
Lincolnshire	29,000,383
Merseyside	139,616,618
North Yorkshire	36,252,043
Norfolk	42,314,655
Northamptonshire	47,064,168
Northumberland	33,402,565
Nottinghamshire	84,136,970
Outer London	749,483,158
Oxfordshire	20,736,123
South Yorkshire	281,113,551
Shropshire	33,226,042
Somerset	17,260,609
Staffordshire	167,575,689
Suffolk	18,680,395
Surrey	61,525,233
Tyne and Wear	118,352,732
West Midlands	238,475,063
West Yorkshire	278,699,223
Warwickshire	21,557,294
West Sussex	34,026,191
Wiltshire	21,245,956

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much and what proportion of English housing funding was provided to *(a)* Cornwall and *(b)* the South West in each year since 1997; and how much housing funding was provided to England in each of those years. [148610]

Mr. Iain Wright: Housing Funding for Cornwall in the year 2005-06 was £29.8 million and for the South West Region as whole was £258.5 million. Figures for other years can be obtained only at disproportionate cost owing to the time involved in compiling data on a county-wide basis across so many different funding programmes.

Funding for housing comprises both direct investment and supported investment. Direct investment includes housing capital grants, Housing Corporation capital investment, housing market renewal funding, disabled facilities grants, transfer gap funding and Gypsy sites grants.

Supported investment includes housing revenue account (HRA) subsidy in the form of major repairs allowance, ALMOs supported borrowing allocations and LAs supported capital allocations.

Housing capital grants are not provided direct to counties but to district councils.

Figures for housing capital investment by Communities and Local Government and its predecessor Departments for England between 1997-98 and 2006-07 are given in the following table.

	Value (£ million)
1997-98	1,894
1998-99	2,098
1999-2000	2,173
2000-01	2,866
2001-02	3,312
2002-03	3,598
2003-04	4,685
2004-05	4,767
2005-06	5,151
2006-07	5,189

Housing: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in *(a)* Romsey, *(b)* Southampton and *(c)* Hampshire are on waiting lists for social housing; and how many units of social housing have been built in (i) Romsey, (ii) Southampton and (iii) Hampshire since 1997. [151038]

Mr. Iain Wright: The constituency of Romsey covers most of Test Valley district council but also includes a small part of Eastleigh district council and Southampton city council. Information is not collected at the constituency level, only at local authority level and includes households rather than people.

The number of households on the waiting list for social housing in *(a)* local authorities covering the Romsey area (Test Valley, Eastleigh and Southampton) *(b)* Southampton and *(c)* Hampshire, as at 1 April each year since 1997, are presented in table 1.

Table 1: Households on the waiting list for social housing in (a) Romsey (Test Valley, Eastleigh and Southampton), (b) Southampton and (c) Hampshire

	Test Valley	*Eastleigh*	*Southampton*	*Hampshire*
1997	1,873	967	2,329	15,341
1998	1,768	1,169	3,902	17,144
1999	1,723	1,200	3,699	19,127
2000	1,611	1,361	4,522	22,070
2001	1,440	1,481	5,148	22,634
2002	1,645	1,623	5,811	24,071

Table 1: Households on the waiting list for social housing in (a) Romsey (Test Valley, Eastleigh and Southampton), (b) Southampton and (c) Hampshire

	Test Valley	Eastleigh	Southampton	Hampshire
2003	2,189	3,424	6,697	24,558
2004	2,092	4,446	8,128	28,635
2005	2,698	4,515	9,225	30,357
2006	2,885	5,014	11,126	32,361

Note:
As reported by local authorities.
Source:
Communities and Local Government Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return (HSSA)

These figures are also published on the Communities and Local Government website in table 600. The link for this table is given as follows:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/embedded_object.asp?id=1163853

Local authorities in England report the numbers of households on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns. Not everyone on the waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get onto the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house—particularly where the priority system is heavily based on waiting time.

The numbers of social rent homes provided by local authorities and registered social landlords in *(a)* local authorities covering the Romsey area (Test Valley, Eastleigh and Southampton) *(b)* Southampton and *(c)* Hampshire, since 1997 are presented in table 2 as follows. Homes are provided through new build as well as acquisitions. Figures are as reported by local authorities and the Housing Corporation.

Table 2: Numbers of social rent homes provided by local authorities and registered social landlords in (a) Romsey (Test Valley, Eastleigh and Southampton), (b) Southampton and (c) Hampshire

	Test Valley	Eastleigh	Southampton	Hampshire
1996-97	142	87	167	1,998
1997-98	57	177	229	1,645
1998-99	68	137	266	1,561
1999-2000	52	105	191	1,119
2000-01	92	62	236	1,033
2001-02	48	37	140	1,101
2002-03	160	34	178	817
2003-04	13	96	92	1,045
2004-05	80	132	162	969
2005-06	63	47	114	856

Note:
Figures shown represent our best estimate and may be subject to revisions.
Source:
Housing Corporation and local authorities

Housing: Low Incomes

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to increase the availability of affordable housing in *(a)* Windsor and *(b)* the South East of England. [148785]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 12 July 2007]:* The future level and distribution of housing provision across the South East will be determined by the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the South East. The draft RSS (South East Plan) affordable housing policy proposes that the future provision of affordable housing in the region should have regard to the overall regional target that 25 per cent. of all new housing should be social rented accommodation and 10 per cent. other forms of affordable housing. The policies contained in the draft RSS, including those relating to future plans for affordable housing provision were the subject of an Examination in Public by an Independent Panel. The Panel are due to hand their report to Government on 31 July 2007. The Panel Report will be published by the Government as soon as practicable following that date. Any proposed changes to the Draft RSS by the Government will be published for a further statutory consultation later in the year.

To pre-empt the outcome of the Panel Report and the Statutory Process by making a statement at this time would not be appropriate.

The Draft RSS (South East Plan) proposes an annual average of 281 net dwelling completions in Windsor and Maidenhead and an annual average of 28,900 in the region during the period between 2006 and 2026.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes were built in West Sussex in each year since 1997. [151783]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* The numbers of affordable homes built in West Sussex in each financial year since 1997-98 are presented in the following table. West Sussex has been taken to include the local authority areas of Adur, Arun, Chichester, Crawley, Horsham, Mid Sussex and Worthing. Affordable housing includes both social rent and intermediate housing (e.g. low cost home ownership).

Not all affordable housing supply is through new build completions, supply can also come from the acquisition and refurbishment of private sector homes. Between 1 April 1997 and 31 March 2006 an additional 1,500 affordable homes were supplied through acquisitions which are not shown in the following table. Figures for 2006-07 are not yet available.

Affordable housing new build: West Sussex

Financial year	Number of homes
1997-98	484
1998-99	682
1999-2000	353
2000-01	190
2001-02	182
2002-03	538
2003-04	400
2004-05	391
2005-06	649

Source:
Housing Corporation, local authorities

Housing: Single People

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the proportion of new households which will be single person households in the next 12 months. [152406]

Mr. Iain Wright: One person households account for 70 per cent. of the new households projected to form up to 2026, in England.

Housing: South Eastern Region

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new dwellings were constructed in the South East Government office region or equivalent area in each year since 1979. [152394]

Mr. Iain Wright: The total number of new build completions in the South East of England since 1979 is as follows:

	New build completions
1980-81	36,646
1981-82	31,333
1982-83	30,943
1983-84	39,098
1984-85	39,927
1985-86	37,158
1986-87	42,158
1987-88	41,265
1988-89	41,865
1989-90	36,114
1990-91	29,867
1991-92	27,373
1992-93	24,040
1993-94	25,797
1994-95	26,955
1995-96	26,992
1996-97	25,048
1997-98	25,441
1998-99	23,199
1999-2000	22,797
2000-01	21,839
2001-02	21,815
2002-03	22,745
2003-04	24,280
2004-05	25,692
2005-06	28,209
2006-07	27,698

Source:
P2 return from local authorities and the National House Building Council.

Housing: Standards

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if the Government will set a target date for improving the standard assessment procedure (SAP) rating of the two million properties identified in the English House Condition Survey 2005 with a SAP rating below 30. [148431]

Mr. Iain Wright: We currently have no plans to set a specific target date for improving the SAP ratings of these homes, as we have existing policies and programmes which are successfully raising levels of domestic energy efficiency throughout England.

The Government are committed to meeting its statutory requirement of eradicating fuel poverty in the households of vulnerable people by 2010 and in all households across England by 2016. To date 1.4 million households have received help in making their home more energy efficient, through the "Warm Front" programme.

Additionally, the decent homes standard requires homes to have both efficient heating and effective insulation. Since 1997 we have reduced the number of non-decent social sector homes by over 1 million, with over 700,000 council homes receiving work to improve their central heating and over 600,000 local authority dwellings receiving work to improve their insulation.

We have increased the proportion of vulnerable households in the private sector who live in decent homes to 66 per cent., up from 43 per cent. in 1996.

Landlord and Tenant: Rents

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what studies have been undertaken by her Department on the levels of rent paid by private sector tenants and their security of tenure; and whether there are any plans to change policy in this areas. [150508]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 18 July 2007]:* Through the annual Survey of English Housing the Department collects a range of information about the attitudes of private tenants towards their accommodation. This includes information on rents and satisfaction levels with accommodation. The Department has not undertaken any studies in relation to security of tenure in the private rented sector.

We monitor the operation of the private rented housing market to ensure that the sector continues to offer good quality and safe accommodation for people who do not qualify for social housing and are not in a position to enter home ownership. We have no immediate plans to make changes to the legislation on rent levels and security of tenure governed by the Housing Act 1988.

Local Authorities: Newspaper Press

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for which purposes local authorities are required to place notices in local newspapers. [152398]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government's policy is that information should be made widely available by public bodies, including local authorities, through a variety of appropriate channels. We will take the opportunity, where possible, to allow authorities more discretion on how best to publicise matters in their area. We do not hold centrally, information on the requirements placed on local authorities to insert notices in local newspapers.

Local Government: Grants

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the central grant payment to local authorities in each year since 1997. [152318]

John Healey: The following table shows the total amount of formula grant, which comprises Revenue Support Grant, redistributed business rates, principal formula Police Grant, SSA Reduction Grant (SSA

Review). SSA Reduction Grant (Police Funding Review) and Central Support Protection Grant, where appropriate, for all authorities, the previous year's formula grant adjusted for changes in funding and function to enable like-for-like comparisons, the change in formula grant and the percentage change in formula grant for the period 1997-98 to 2007-08.

Current year	Previous year's adjusted formula grant (£ million)	Current year's formula grant (£ million)	Change (£ million)	Percentage change
1998-99	34,799.547	35,436.867	637.320	1.8
1999-2000	35,436.867	37,110.829	1,673.962	4.7
2000-01	37,110.980	38,516.380	1,405.400	3.8
2001-02	38,343.957	40,024.446	1,680.489	4.4
2002-03	38,399.009	40,323.132	1,924.123	5.0
2003-04	41,444.087	43,894.370	2,450.282	5.9
2004-05	43,706.797	46,124.222	2,417.425	5.5
2005-06	46,428.755	49,015.925	2,587.170	5.6
2006-07	24,091.464	24,813.914	722.450	3.0
2007-08	24,706.400	25,633.008	926.608	3.8

Prior to 2006-07 support for schools was provided via formula grant; from 2006-07 onwards support for schools was provided via the Dedicated Schools Grant.

Members: Official Correspondence

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to reply to question 148411 tabled by the hon. Member for Isle of Wight on 4 July 2007 on tree preservation orders. [151775]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* I answered the question from the hon. Member on 23 July 2007.

Ordnance Survey Act 1841: Fines

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fines were levied for breaching the Ordnance Survey Act 1841, in relation to preventing a representative of Ordnance Survey from entering a property to conduct an inspection in each year since 1997. [152418]

Mr. Iain Wright: There has been no breach of the Ordnance Survey Act 1841 requiring formal action in relation to prevention of a representative of Ordnance Survey from entering a property in any year since 1997. No fines have been levied in any of these years.

Planning

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how a single-issue revision to a planning policy may be initiated; on which occasions such a revision has been initiated in the last 10 years; and what the subject was of each such revision. [149975]

Mr. Iain Wright: A single-issue revision to a national planning policy is initiated when Government decide that an aspect of planning policy needs to be changed or withdrawn. There is a variety of reasons which might prompt Government to revise policy. These include for example, when policies are not being implemented as expected, where new information emerges that suggest a change is needed, or where a change is required as a result of a court judgment.

The following table sets out all single-issue revisions that have been made since 1997, and the planning policy document to which the amendment relates.

	Title of document	Amendment to which planning policy document
2007	Circular 03/2007 "The Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007"	Planning Policy Guidance note 19: (1992)
2007	Circular 01/07 "Revisions to Principles of Selection for Listed Buildings"	Planning Policy Guidance note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment (1994)
2006	Written Ministerial Statement "PPS22" (Yvette Cooper)	Planning Policy Statement 22: Renewable Energy (2004)
2005	"Planning for Sustainable Communities in Rural Areas"	Planning Policy Guidance note 3: Housing (2000)
2005	"Supporting the Delivery of New Housing"	Planning Policy Guidance note 3: Housing (2000)
2005	Circular 09/2005 "Arrangements for Handling Heritage Applications—Notification to National Amenity Societies Direction 2005"	Planning Policy Guidance note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment (1994)
2005	Circular 02/2005 "Temporary Stop Notice"	Planning Policy Guidance note 18: Enforcing Planning Control (1991)
2001	DETR News Release 155 and PQ Mark Todd—"Countryside Planning"—(21 March 2001, *Official Report*, columns 253-55W)	Planning Policy Guidance note 7: The Countryside (2004)
2001	Circular 01/2001 "Arrangements for Handling Heritage Applications—Notification and Directions by the Secretary of State"	Planning Policy Guidance note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment (1994)
2000	DETR News Release 416 and PQ Dr. Whitehead—"Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty"—(13 June 2000, *Official Report*, columns 555-56W)	Planning Policy Guidance note 7: The Countryside (2004)
1997	Circular 14/97 "Planning and the Historic Environment—Notification and Directions by the Secretary of State"	Planning Policy Guidance note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment (1994)

Planning Permission: Appeals

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government within what period of time from a planning appeal being received the Planning Inspectorate is obliged to set a start date for the appeal. [152371]

Mr. Iain Wright: There is no statutory period, following receipt of a planning appeal, for setting a starting date. However, when an appeal is received, and provided it is submitted within the time limit and contains all the essential documents listed in the appeal form, it typically takes the Planning Inspectorate five to seven working days to set the starting date.

Planning Permission: Cornwall

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications that have limited weeks per year

occupancy as an incorporated feature have been approved in Cornwall in the last 10 years. [152095]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally.

Communities and Local Government collects quarterly aggregate statistics on development control from all local planning authorities in England. However, we do not collect information on individual planning applications.

Property Development: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of *(a)* parkland and *(b)* greenfield land has been developed in (i) Eastbourne and (ii) East Sussex in the last 10 years. [151357]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on the percentage of "parkland" that has been developed in Eastbourne or East Sussex is not available centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. This is because central Government do not hold data on the stock of "parkland". The land use change statistics do not have a category which corresponds exactly to "parkland". The nearest category would be "outdoor recreation".

Land use change statistics show the amount of land changing its use from "outdoor recreation" to previously-developed ("brownfield"), but this figure can only be compared against the overall amount of change or the total area of Eastbourne or East Sussex.

The land use change statistics show that between 1996 and 2005:

(i) 1.5 per cent. of the land changing its use in Eastbourne changed from "outdoor recreation" to a developed ("brownfield") use. This change is 0.1 per cent. of the total area of Eastbourne district.

(ii) 0.7 per cent. of the land changing its use in East Sussex changed from "outdoor recreation" to a developed ("brownfield") use. This change is less than 0.1 per cent. of the total area of East Sussex.

Information on the percentage of "greenfield" land that has been developed in Eastbourne or East Sussex is not available centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. This is because central Government do not hold data on the stock of "greenfield" land.

Land use change statistics show the amount of land changing its use from non previously-developed ("greenfield") to developed ("brownfield"), but this figure can only be compared against the overall amount of change or the total area of Eastbourne or East Sussex.

Land use change statistics show that between 1996 and 2005:

(i) 24.8 per cent. of land changing its use in Eastbourne changed from a non previously-developed ("greenfield") use to a previously-developed ("brownfield") use. This change is 1.4 per cent. of the total area of Eastbourne district,

(ii) 13.1 per cent. of land changing its use in East Sussex changed from a non previously-developed ("greenfield") use to a previously-developed ("brownfield") use. This change is 0.4 per cent. of the total area of East Sussex.

Second Homes: Rural Areas

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of second homes and holiday lets on the social cohesion of small rural communities. [152097]

Mr. Iain Wright: This is an issue on which the Government are seeking to improve the evidence base. The National Housing and Planning Advice Unit, established in November 2006, has recently announced plans to conduct research to explore the impact of second homes across the country—including in small rural communities—working with the Department for Food and Rural Affairs and Communities and Local Government.

Sewers: Repairs and Maintenance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Government provides funding to local authorities in England specifically for the maintenance of drains. [152054]

John Healey: The Government provide funding for local authority responsibilities in relation to drains maintenance as part of the general formula grant.

Social Sector Working Party on Housing: Meetings

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what she next expects the Social Sector Working Party on housing to meet. [151885]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Chairman of the Social Sector Working Party is arranging the next meeting of the Working Party for September.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Travellers in England were recorded as occupying unauthorised encampments in each year since 1997. [152405]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government publishes data on the number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans on both authorised and unauthorised sites, on a twice yearly basis. This information is available on our website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1153575

The table shows the number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans on unauthorised encampments in England published on a twice yearly basis since 1997.

	Total number of unauthorised encampments in England
January 1997	1,704
July 1997	2,770
January 1998	1,792
July 1998	2,951
January 1999	1,717

	Total number of unauthorised encampments in England
July 1999	2,555
January 2000	1,788
July 2000	2,513
January 2001	1,638
July 2001	2,382
January 2002	1,637
July 2002	2,261
January 2003	1,620
July 2003	2,315
January 2004	1,594
July 2004	2,377
January 2005	1,301
July 2005	2,099
January 2006	1,118
July 2006	1,772
January 2007	1,286

PRIME MINISTER

Departments: Recruitment

Mrs. May: To ask the Prime Minister how much his Office paid in fees to recruitment agencies for *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent staff in each year since 1997. [151666]

The Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the for Lincoln (Gillian Merron) today.

Departments: Written Questions

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make an assessment of conformity of Answers he has given to written parliamentary questions with Cabinet Office guidance on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [152108]

The Prime Minister: Section 1 of the Ministerial Code provides guidance to Ministers on answering parliamentary questions.

MINISTER FOR WOMEN

Pensions: Family Credit

Steve Webb: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer of 2 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 945W, on pensions: family credit, how many current recipients of state-earnings-related pensions *(a)* in total and *(b)* born in each year from 1939 to 1947 have an enhanced pension in respect of previous receipt of family credit; and if she will estimate the average amount of enhancement for those currently benefiting. [147988]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

The information is not collated centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departments: Flint Bishop Solicitors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have made payments to Flint Bishop Solicitors since 1997. [151401]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office and its agencies have not made any payments to Flint Bishop Solicitors.

Police: Inquiries

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of the Police Service Northern Ireland officer-time has been spent on historical inquiries in the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [150934]

Paul Goggins: The PSNI is committed to providing all material in its possession to assist the inquiries to carry out their legal obligations. To deliver on this commitment, the organisation has sought to maximise the role of PSNI support staff in order to maintain the operational effectiveness of its police officers. To achieve this, PSNI has committed resources to dedicated units and teams such as:

Historic Enquiries Team (HET)
Retrospective Murder Review Unit (RMRU)
Public Inquiry Unit (PIU)
Stevens Enquiry Team
Police Ombudsman (NI) liaison
Murder Archive/Exhibit Store
Rosemary Nelson Murder Inquiry team

These units and teams currently employ 288 staff, the majority of whom are support staff. 19.5 PSNI officers have dedicated roles within these teams which interact directly with colleagues across the organisation on a regular basis.

There is no straightforward way to establish the percentage of time spent on historical inquiries. Providing an accurate response to the question asked would entail disproportionate time and resources.

HEALTH

Junior Doctors

13. **John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of junior doctors who have not been successful in securing a training post for 1 August. [151801]

Alan Johnson: 14,681 applicants in England were not successful in round 1. However, round 2 is ongoing and all applicants in substantive national health service employment will continue to have employment until 31 October. As most applicants are currently NHS employees and will still be needed in the NHS, most unsuccessful applicants should be able to find or return to a service post.

For those appointable doctors who are not successful at the end of round 2 we have prepared an extra package of support which includes:

about 1,000 extra one-year and GP training posts;

access to career information via local Deaneries;

a careers website for junior doctors; and

educational grants.

In this way, any junior doctor who has been judged to be appointable by an interview panel of senior doctors will have access to a training or educational opportunity next year.

In addition, we are currently in discussions with Foundation Programme Directors and Deans to see what options might be available for Foundation Programme doctors who complete the programme but are unsuccessful in securing specialty training posts.

We are also opening up discussions with the BMA, the Academy of Royal Colleges and other representatives of the medical profession to discuss whether there is any risk that high academic achievers may be missed by the end of the recruitment process and if so how we can avoid that happening.

NHS Reconfiguration

16. **Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the progress of the reconfiguration of NHS institutions. [151804]

Ann Keen: The NHS is changing because medicines and treatments are changing. If we do not keep up with the times, services will not keep on improving. Local services are changing for the benefit of patients. That means safer surgery, quicker recovery times, shortened lengths of stay in hospital, more people receiving hospital-style treatment in their own homes, and more investment in local services.

Changes to local services are however a matter for the local NHS.

Minor Injury Units

17. **Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the future role of minor injury units. [151805]

Mr. Bradshaw: The national health service locally is best placed to understand the needs of patients and staff, working with them and other key groups to plan, develop and improve services. The key is ensuring appropriate, timely and safe access to care for patients.

There was some temporary reduction in Minor Injury Unit opening hours last year as part of the financial recovery plan and the formation of Devon Primary Care Trust (PCT). The PCT is now in surplus and is conducting a full review with Devon county council with its social community services.

Primary Care Services

18. **Ms Butler:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proposals he has to improve access to primary care services; and if he will make a statement. [151806]

Mr. Bradshaw: I would like to draw my hon. Friend's attention to the written statement given today by my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health.

Polyclinics

19. **Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the role of polyclinics in the NHS. [151807]

Mr. Bradshaw: Polyclinics provide the opportunities for care closer to people's homes, rather than in hospitals. Whether a particular area would benefit from a polyclinic will be a decision for the health service locally, in consultation with the public and national health service staff.

BCG Vaccination

20. **Jeremy Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of availability of the BCG vaccination; and if he will make a statement. [151808]

Dawn Primarolo: The Chief Medical Officer's letter of 6 July 2005 announced that the universal *Bacille Calmette Guérin* (BCG) vaccination programme was being replaced by a programme targeted at children in high risk groups.

Contracts are in place for the continued supply of BCG vaccine for those who require it.

Maternity Units

21. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on maintaining the number of maternity units in England; and if he will make a statement. [151809]

Ann Keen: Since January 2006, we have received over 25,000 pieces of correspondence concerning local NHS service change. Of these, we know that 619, for example, were part of a campaign against the proposed closure of Stroud Hospital maternity unit.

Waiting Times

22. **Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the Health Minister of the Welsh Assembly Government on waiting times for Welsh patients treated by the National Health Service in England. [151810]

Mr. Bradshaw: There have been no recent discussions between Department of Health Ministers and the Welsh Assembly Government on this matter. However, cross-border matters such as this one are discussed at regular meetings between the Welsh Assembly Government and Wales Office Ministers, of which the Department is kept aware, and at regular meetings of officials.

Epilepsy

23. **Judy Mallaber:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to encourage primary care trusts to improve epilepsy services and in particular promote awareness of the risk of sudden deaths. [151811]

Ann Keen: Through the Action Plan on Epilepsy, National Service Framework for Long-Term Conditions and National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance we have provided local national health service organisations with evidence-based markers of good practice to support service improvements. This includes an emphasis on supporting and empowering patients to manage their condition and mitigate the risk of sudden death.

NHS Finance: Coventry

24. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of trends in funding levels to Coventry NHS trusts since 1992. [151812]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department holds data on the total income of University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire National Health Service Trust (Walsgrave Hospitals NHS Trust in 1999-2000) for the period 1999-2000 to 2005-06.

However, no assessment of these data have been undertaken by the Department as revenue allocations are made directly to primary care trusts (PCTs), not to NHS trusts or individual hospitals. NHS trusts receive most of their income through the commissioning arrangements they have with PCTs.

In addition, strategic health authorities monitor the financial position of NHS trusts to ensure that all NHS organisations within their areas are maintaining financial stability.

Peripheral Arterial Disease

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to address mortality and morbidity caused by peripheral arterial disease in England. [151802]

Dawn Primarolo: There is no specific work programme on peripheral arterial disease but a number of the Department's initiatives are relevant to the prevention or treatment of this condition. For example the Quality and Outcomes Framework of the general practitioner (GP) contract provide incentives for GPs to control key risk factors for peripheral arterial disease, such as smoking and hypertension.

Social Care

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to bring forward proposals on the future funding of social care. [151803]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The comprehensive spending review will be published in the autumn and will set the level of central Government funding for local government for 2008-09 to 2010-11, including for adult social care services.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many alcohol related deaths there have been amongst teenagers in the last *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* five years in (i) Hampshire and (ii) England. [151008]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 24 July 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many alcohol related deaths there have been amongst teenagers in the last (a) 12 months and (b) five years in (i) Hampshire and (ii) England. I am replying in her absence. (151008).

The attached table provides the number of deaths of persons aged 13 to 19 with an alcohol-related underlying cause in (a) 2006 (the latest year available) and (b) the five year period 2002 to 2006, in (i) Hampshire county and (ii) England.

Table 1: Number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause of death[1], persons aged 13 to 19, Hampshire and England[2], 2006 and 2002-06[3]

		Deaths (persons)
	2006	*2002-06*
Hampshire	0	1
England	3	21

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown in the following box.
[2] Based on local authority boundaries as of 2007.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box : Alcohol-related causes of death— International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	*ICD-10 code(s)*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	F10
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	G31.2
Alcoholic polyneuropathy	G62.1
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	I42.6
Alcoholic gastritis	K29.2
Alcoholic liver disease	K70
Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified	K73
Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis)	K74 (excl. K74.3-K74.5)
Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis	K86.0
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X45
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X65
Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent	Y15

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to prevent the sale of alcohol to minors. [150475]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

We have carried out two Tackling Underage Sales of Alcohol Campaigns (the most recent of which included a 10-week operational phase which concluded on 13 July) through which police and trading standards officers have targeted over 3,000 potential problem premises that break the law by selling alcohol to under-18s. These national campaigns make use of tough sanctions available under newly commenced legislation to prosecute the premises licence-holder,

where there are persistent sales of alcohol to children. Prior to this, we carried out four national Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaigns (AMECs) between 2004 and 2006.

As a consequence of these test-purchase campaigns, retailers have strengthened their procedures and training of staff in relation to alcohol sales. Most retailers have now adopted the 'Challenge 21' policy, whereby anyone appearing to be under 21 is asked to produce a valid form of identification prior to any sale of alcohol. Test-purchase failure rates have dropped accordingly, indicating that it is increasingly difficult for under-18s to purchase alcohol illegally. During AMEC one in 2004, the overall test-purchase failure rate was 50 per cent. By AMEC four in the summer of 2006, it had reached 29 per cent. and 21 per cent. for the on and off-licence trade respectively, and 18 per cent. for supermarkets. In addition, the Licensing Act 2003 also increased penalties for selling alcohol to children with the maximum fine increasing to £5,000 on conviction, and the possibility for courts to suspend or order forfeit of personal licences on a first offence as opposed to a second conviction, as was previously the case.

Baby Care Units

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many babies born in England in each of the last five years required neonatal care in a specialist unit. [150276]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. However, information is in the following table on the number of finished consultant episodes (FCE) where neonatal care was provided in a specialist unit. This is not equivalent to the number of babies requiring care in a specialist unit. A baby may have had more than one FCE of neonatal care in a specialist unit.

Count of finished consultant episodes where neonatal care was provided in a specialist unit, 2001-02 to 2005-06 NHS hospitals, England

		Special care	Level 2 intensive care	Level 1 intensive care	Total episodes
2005-06	General episode	18,598	3,475	4,394	
	Birth episode	31,936	4,062	6,196	
	Total	50,534	7,537	10,590	68,661
2004-05	General episode	17,202	2,854	4,020	
	Birth episode	31,121	4,069	5,480	
	Total	48,323	6,923	9,500	64,746
2003-04	General episode	18,259	3,160	4,063	
	Birth episode	28,946	4,400	5,123	
	Total	47,205	7,560	9,186	63,951
2002-03	General episode	15,062	2,784	3,516	
	Birth episode	28,884	4,421	5,063	
	Total	43,946	7,205	8,579	59,730
2001-02	General episode	19,763	2,956	3,962	
	Birth episode	28,756	4,305	6,099	
	Total	48,519	7,261	10,061	65,841

Notes:
1. Definitions of neonatal care provided in specialist units. Special care: care given in a special nursery, transitional care ward or postnatal ward, which provides care and treatment exceeding normal routine care. Some aspects of special care can be undertaken by a mother supervised by qualified nursing staff. Special nursing care includes support for and education of the infants parents.
2. Level 2 intensive care: (high dependency intensive care): care given in an intensive or special care nursery, which provides continuous skilled supervision by qualified and specially trained nursing staff who may care for more babies than in level 1 intensive care. Care includes support for the infant's parents.
3. Level 1 intensive care: (maximal intensive care): care given in an intensive or special care nursery, which provides continuous skilled supervision by qualified and specially trained nursing and medical staff. Care includes support for the infant's parents.
4. Definitions of general and birth episodes General episode: A general episode is any episode which is not covered under other episode types. Other episode types include birth episodes, delivery episodes, patients formally detained under the provisions mental health legislation or long term psychiatric patients, other birth events and other delivery events.
5. Birth episode: A birth episode is the hospital episode that commences at birth. If a baby is transferred from another episode or re-admitted to hospital after discharge this new episode will not be classified as a birth episode, regardless of the age of the baby.
6. FCE An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
7. Data quality Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 national health service trusts and primary care trusts in England. The Information Centre for Health And Social Care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
8. Ungrossed data Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:
HES, The Information Centre for health and social care.

Camping Sites: Sanitation

Sir John Butterfill: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she has taken to ensure that the use of land in Parliament Square as a campsite complies with Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936; and if she will make a statement. [143364]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have taken no action to ensure the use of land in Parliament square as a campsite complies with section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936.

Cancer: Medical Treatments

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of photodynamic therapy for cancer treatment within the NHS. [151339]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 15 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1382W and on 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 154-55W.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS hospitals provide photodynamic therapy cancer treatments. [151340]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 154-55W.

Contraception: Finance

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS was of emergency hormonal contraception in each of the last 10 years. [150969]

Dawn Primarolo: Only partial information is collected centrally.

The information shown in the table is for prescriptions dispensed in the community in England. This does not include emergency hormonal contraception supplied by community contraception clinics or issued under Patient Group Directions.

	Cost (£000)
1999	0.6
2000	1,377.7
2001	1,953.6
2002	2,174.4
2003	2,283.7
2004	2,129.0
2005	1,945.9
2006	2,210.0

Source:
Prescription information is taken from the Prescription Cost Analysis system, supplied by the Prescription Pricing Division of the Business Services Authority, and is based on a full analysis of all prescriptions dispensed in the community i.e. by community pharmacists and appliance contractors, dispensing doctors, and prescriptions submitted by prescribing doctors for items personally administered in England. The data do not cover drugs dispensed in hospitals.

Dental Services

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of the *(a)* adult and *(b)* child population of (i) Selby and York Primary Care Trust area, (ii) North Yorkshire Primary Care Trust area, (iii) Yorkshire and the Humber and (iv) England was registered with an NHS general dental practitioner in 2006. [151617]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 578-79W.

Dental Services: Gloucestershire

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the future of NHS dental services in Gloucestershire. [151717]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* Under the dental reforms launched in 2006, primary care trusts (PCTs) are now responsible for providing or commissioning national health service dental services to meet local needs.

We understand that Gloucestershire PCT regards NHS dental services as a local priority and has announced plans to expand local services.

Doctors: Vacancies

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital doctor vacancies there are, broken down by grade and specialty, in each *(a)* deanery and *(b)* trust. [150383]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

There are details of Medical Training Application Service (MTAS) vacancies by grade/level and specialty and this is on the Modernising Medical Careers website at www.mmc.nhs.uk. MTAS vacancies are also posted on Deanery websites.

Drinks: Nutrition

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the *(a)* calorific content and *(b)* hydrating properties of (i) orange juice, (ii) water, (iii) low-calorie carbonated drinks and (iv) fruit smoothies. [150753]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on the calorific content of foods can be found in the McCance and Widdowson's 'The Composition of Foods' series. Latest data from this series published in 2002 are set out in the following table.

Food	*Energy (kcal/100g)*
Orange juice, unsweetened	[1]36
Water	0
Low calorie carbonated drinks e.g. diet cola	[1]1
Fruit smoothies	[2]42-94

[1] Data are an average figure for a composite sample of products available on the market at the time of analysis.
[2] Fruit smoothies have not yet been analysed for The Composition of Foods. Information made available by market leaders suggest energy values in this range, depending on products formulation.
Source:
Food Standards Agency (2002) McCance and Widdowson's 'The Composition of Foods', Sixth summary edition. Cambridge: Royal Society of Chemistry.

The Government have no plans to commission an assessment of the hydration properties of certain fluids.

The Food Standards Agency advises people to consume 6 to 8 glasses (1.2 litres) of water, or other fluids, every day to prevent dehydration. This amount should be increased when the weather is warm or when exercising.

Genito-Urinary Medicine: Closures

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many community sexual health clinics closed in each of the last five years. [150640]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected centrally.

Health Professions: Registration

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Health Professions Council takes to ensure protected titles are not used by those not entitled to use them. [150016]

Mr. Bradshaw: A person commits an offence if they use a protected title and they are not registered with the relevant health professions regulator, including the Health Professions Council (HPC). I understand from the HPC that if it comes to their notice that a person is using a protected title without being registered it will issue a warning letter. If the person does not register (if qualified) and continues to use the title, the HPC can issue a 'cease and desist' letter. In most cases this action has been effective and the HPC says that it has not yet had to prosecute a case. Anyone improperly using a protected title may be subject to prosecution and a fine of up to £5,000.

Health Services: Autism

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the amount spent on *(a)* Asperger's adult services and *(b)* autism services in Norfolk in each of the last five years. [150866]

Ann Keen: The Department has not estimated the amounts spent on Asperger's adult services and autism services in Norfolk. It is the responsibility of primary care trust to ensure that the services they commission meet the needs of the communities that they serve.

Health Services: Community Care

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether the NHS has responsibility under the Continuing Care Guidance to provide *(a)* chiropody, *(b)* physiotherapy, *(c)* speech and language therapy, *(d)* occupational therapy, *(e)* dietetic services and *(f)* continence services and pads in all care settings; [152073]

(2) for what reasons guidance notes HSC2001(15): LAC(2001)18 and HSC(2003)006: LAC(2003)7 have been withdrawn. [152074]

Ann Keen: The National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare, which was published on 26 June, makes it clear that it is the responsibility of primary care trusts (PCTs) to identify, commission and contract for all services required to meet the needs of individuals who qualify for NHS Continuing Healthcare and for the healthcare part of a joint care package.

The National Framework supersedes HSC2001/15: LAC(2001)18. Guidance in HSC2003/006 : LAC(2003)7, remains current until 30 September 2007, but we will soon publish the guidance that supersedes it.

Health Services: Tourism

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of holidaymakers resident in *(a)* Hampshire and *(b)* England requiring treatment when they returned to the UK in each of the last five years; and what treatments they required. [150946]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not centrally held by the Department.

Home Care Services: Oxygen

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost to the NHS is of providing *(a)* routine and *(b)* emergency domiciliary oxygen supplies in each health trust. [151013]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not hold this information centrally. There are 10 regional contracts supporting the provision of home oxygen to patients at home in England. Four services are available—emergency or urgent supply, short burst oxygen therapy, long-term oxygen therapy and ambulatory oxygen. The price for each service varies within the different service contract regions. Costs will also vary according to the number of patients using a service or combination of services and the patient's individual needs (for example, the amount of oxygen a patient uses each day).

Hospitals: Standards

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospitals are carrying out consultations on *(a)* bed closures and *(b)* service reductions. [151087]

Ann Keen: Any proposals for the reconfiguration of services are a matter for the national health service locally.

There is a well established and well understood process for managing formal public consultations on proposals for major service change so that the public and other stakeholders can help to inform the local debate.

Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccination

Christine Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will take steps to ensure that the Joint Committee on Immunisation and Vaccination considers the benefits of the Australian model for introducing a human papilloma virus immunisation programme; [152443]

(2) if he will consider allowing young women up to the age of 25 to self-refer for human papilloma virus vaccination for two years after the proposed programme begins in 2008. [152444]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has agreed in principle to accept the advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) that human papilloma virus vaccines should be introduced routinely for girls aged around 12-13 years, subject to independent peer review of the cost benefit analysis. Details of the programme will be finalised in the coming months, following further advice from JCVI and discussions with the national health service on the implementation of the programme. JCVI is currently considering the evidence regarding the benefits and costs of vaccinating older girls, and will provide advice on this issue in due course.

Influenza: Vaccination

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to conduct a public debate on vaccine prioritisation in the event of an influenza pandemic, as recommended by the Joint Committee on

Vaccination and Immunisation in its meeting of 14 February 2007; and whether he plans to conduct a public debate on antiviral prioritisation in the event of an influenza pandemic. [152331]

Dawn Primarolo: In the event that the United Kingdom is involved in a worldwide pandemic influenza outbreak, the public will have an active role to play in ensuring the country's effective response.

Building on the research already undertaken, it is proposed to start an ongoing programme of public engagement by the end of 2007. This will include debating vaccine and antiviral prioritisation as well as other issues of public concern in accord with the "National Framework for responding to an influenza pandemic" that was issued in draft in March 2007.

Kidney Patients: Portsmouth

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to implement the National Service Framework for Renal Services in Portsmouth. [151521]

Ann Keen: It is up to the national health service locally to implement the National Service Framework for Renal Services. The Department, however, is assisting the NHS in doing so by providing guidance and policy development expertise on subjects which are particularly challenging.

Malaria

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many British nationals have *(a)* been diagnosed with and *(b)* died of malaria in each year since 2001. [150944]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the nationality of patients that are diagnosed with or died from malaria are not collected. However, the Health Protection Agency does publish an annual table of imported malaria cases and deaths, shown in the following table.

The information is available on the Health Protection Agency website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/infection/topics_az/malaria/cases_deaths.htm

Imported malaria cases and deaths, United Kingdom 2001-06

	Total (number of cases)	*Deaths*
2006	1,758	8
2005	1,754	11
2004	1,660	5
2003	1,722	16
2002	1,945	9
2001	2,050	9

Midwives: Employment

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the merits of providing all midwives, qualifying from universities in England with a guarantee of one year's paid employment as a midwife in the NHS in England. [151514]

Ann Keen: The Department has consulted with NHS Employers, strategic health authorities (SHA) and the Social Partnership Forum on maximising employment opportunities for newly qualified health care graduates. The consistent message from these consultations is that solutions need to be flexible, locally driven and founded on partnerships between employers, staff side and the higher education sector. Any new initiatives also need to be appropriately tested first.

Accordingly, East of England SHA have offered to undertake a feasibility study into establishing a local voluntary guaranteed employment scheme. The feasibility study will last for one year and was launched on 15 May by East of England SHA. The outcome of the feasibility study will determine whether employment guarantee schemes are a viable option. If so, the nature and length of these schemes will be defined upon relevant factors established through the study.

Midwives: Training

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the merits of providing for six month preceptorship training for graduate midwives funded by primary care trusts; and if he will make a statement. [150278]

Ann Keen: There are no plans to carry out an assessment centrally.

It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local stakeholders to assess the needs of their local communities and to commission services accordingly, including the provision of preceptorships. While preceptorships are not mandatory, they are good practice and widely implemented across the responsibilities of a registered midwife and requirements of the post as set out in the terms and conditions of employment during that period.

MRSA: Disease Control

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his answer of 9 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1314W, on MRSA: disease control, if he will place in the Library a copy of the reports investigating the use of ozone to treat hospital infections. [150514]

Ann Keen: The reports on the seven products that use ozone reviewed by the Rapid Review Panel have been placed in the Library.

Nurses: Pay

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the implementation of the nurses' pay award 2007. [151904]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* Discussions continue between the Department, the NHS employers organisation and the national health service unions about this year's pay award. We are hopeful the outcome from these talks will enable the award to be implemented shortly.

Nurses: Training

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps have been taken to *(a)* provide and *(b)* increase take-up of (i) training and (ii) education for existing school nurses in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [148711]

Ann Keen: Post-registration training needs for NHS staff is a matter for local NHS bodies to determine in light of local priorities and local assessment of training needs.

Vaccines: Sleeping Contracts

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 2 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 2531W, on Vaccines (Sleeping Contracts), when negotiations are required to be completed with vaccine manufacturers under the procurement directives; what progress has been made in placing a sleeping contract; and if he will make a statement. [152327]

Dawn Primarolo: Negotiations with vaccine manufacturers have now been completed and a statement will be made in due course.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Admiralty House

Mr. Spring: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what government property within Admiralty House has been *(a)* used and *(b)* not used for official purposes since 27 June. [152455]

Edward Miliband: The ground floor State Rooms have been used for a number of Government and military events since 27 June. The former Deputy Prime Minister will be vacating one of the residential flats shortly and the other two flats are currently unallocated.

Departments: Employment Agencies

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much the Cabinet Office paid in fees to recruitment agencies for *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent staff in each year since 1997. [151675]

Gillian Merron: It is not possible to identify from the Department's accounting system, how much the Cabinet Office paid in fees to recruitment agencies for *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent staff in each year since 1997. This information is therefore not available.

Departments: Flint Bishop Solicitors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have made payments to Flint Bishop Solicitors since 1997. [151393]

Gillian Merron: The Cabinet Office has not made any payments to Flint Bishop Solicitors since 1997.

Departments: ICT

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his Department's budget has been for the Government Communication Network in each year since its inception. [151275]

Gillian Merron: The 2005-06 budget for the team supporting the GCN was £2.1 million; the budget was the same in 2006-07 at £2.1 million.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Spring: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people are employed in the Cabinet Office in *(a)* headcount and *(b)* full-time equivalent. [152456]

Gillian Merron: As at 30 June 2007, Cabinet Office had *(a)* 1,541 staff employed in headcount and *(b)* 1,502.53 employed as full-time equivalent.

Departments: Official Cars

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which former Ministers *(a)* occupied ministerial residences and *(b)* had access to ministerial cars and chauffeurs at 18 July 2007. [151035]

Edward Miliband *[holding answer 19 July 2007]:* My right hon. Friends the Members for Kingston upon Hull, East (Mr. Prescott) and Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) are finalising arrangements to move out of Admiralty House and Carlton Gardens respectively.

The use of official cars by any former Ministers after their departure from office is on the advice of the security authorities. In line with successive administrations, the Government do not comment on security issues.

Former Ministers: Redundancy Pay

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the total potential amount is of severance payments for those eligible who left office upon the change of Prime Minister, broken down by *(a)* Department and *(b)* individual former Minister; and whether any eligible former Ministers have refused to accept any or all of the severance payment available. [151441]

Edward Miliband *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* The arrangements for ministerial severance pay are set out in the Ministerial and other Pensions and Salaries Act 1991. Severance pay is paid by individual Departments.

Legal Costs

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster who the 10 highest paid barristers were in respect of fees paid by a) the Treasury Solicitor and b) the Crown Prosecution Service in each of the last three years; what the fee income concerned was in each case; and if she will make a statement. [146612]

Edward Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Solicitor-General today.

Ministers: Pay

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what procedures are required to enable Ministers who wish to take a reduced or no ministerial salary to do so. [151879]

Edward Miliband *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* If a Minister appointed to a paid ministerial position wishes to forgo all or part of their salary, they should advise the Prime Minister and their Department.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Syms: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will hold a London 2012: Your Games, Your Say question and answer session in Poole. [151595]

Tessa Jowell: In partnership with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), I have committed to conducting regular public meetings in all the nations and regions of the UK before 2012 to give local people the opportunity to question members of the Olympic Family about all aspects of preparations for the London Games. The full programme of meetings and their locations is yet to be decided but I can confirm that residents of the South West will have an opportunity to take part in one such event.

Public Administration Select Committee: Government Responses

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he expects to provide the Government's response to the *(a)* First, *(b)* Fourth, *(c)* Fifth, *(d)* Sixth and *(e)* Seventh Reports of Session 2005-06 of the Public Administration Select Committee. [151694]

Edward Miliband: The Government responded to the Public Administration Select Committee's First Report of Session 2005-06 by way of a statement on the floor of the House on 28 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 681-84. The Government responded to the Committee's Sixth Report of Session 2005-06 on 2 November 2006 (HC 1081). The Government expect to respond to the other reports referred to in due course.

JUSTICE

Antisocial Behaviour: Poole

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many incidents of antisocial behaviour involving mini-motorbikes or other off-road vehicles were reported in Poole in each of the last five years; and how many of these have resulted in *(a)* prosecution and *(b)* antisocial behaviour orders. [151566]

Maria Eagle: Incidents relating to antisocial behaviour involving mini-motorbikes and details of antisocial behaviour orders relating to mini-motorbikes in Poole are not collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice or the Home Office.

The statistical collections on the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform for offences committed by mini-motorcyclists cannot be distinguished from other motor vehicle offences because the offence as defined in legislation is not specific to any type of motor vehicle (e.g. driving on a footpath or vehicle not taxed or insured against third party risks) or it is not identified separately, and grouped together with other miscellaneous motoring offences.

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many penalty notices for disorder have been given in Poole in the last five years. [151593]

Maria Eagle: The Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) Scheme was introduced to all police forces in England and Wales in 2004, under provisions in the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001.

The Office for Criminal Justice Reform collects data on PNDs at police force area level only; more detailed information on the number of PNDs issued by police division is held on local police force databases.

Poole is part of Dorset police force area. Data show that the number of PNDs issued by Dorset constabulary was 516 in 2004, 1,381 in 2005 and 2,262 in 2006 (provisional).

Driving Offences: Measurement

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* drivers and *(b)* companies were prosecuted in each of the last five years for infringement of weight restrictions on roads. [151474]

Maria Eagle: The Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform does not separately identify the offence of exceeding the weight limit on a specified road from other summary motoring offences within the offence group 'Other load offences'.

Driving Under Influence: Sentencing

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for drink-driving resulted in custodial sentences in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006, broken down by police authority. [151860]

Maria Eagle: Data for 2005 will not be available until after the Statistical Bulletin "Motoring Offences and Breath Test Statistics, England and Wales, 2005" is published in the autumn. Data for 2006 will be published next year.

Fixed Penalties: Yorkshire and Humberside

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many fixed penalty notices were issued by West Yorkshire Police in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006; how many of those notices have been paid; how many have been sent to be determined in court; and how many have remained unanswered. [151283]

Maria Eagle: The information collected by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform identifies the number of motoring offences fixed penalty notices issued by result at police force area level. (Data are collected on the disposal, i.e. paid, fine registration certificate issued etc.). However, because of the time taken for the procedures for payment to be enforced, the data are collected approximately nine months later than the period of issue.

2005 data will be available in the 2006 publication "Offences relating to motor vehicles, England and Wales, Supplementary tables" which is expected to be published in 2008. 2006 data will be in the 2009 publication.

Police Cautions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* cautions, *(b)* on-the-spot fines and *(c)* formal warnings were issued by each police force in each of the last 10 years, for which figures are available. [152033]

Maria Eagle: The number of defendants cautioned from 1996 to 2005 in England and Wales, broken down by police force area is shown in the following table. Data for 2006 will be available in the autumn of 2007.

In addition, the Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) Scheme was introduced to all police forces in England and Wales in 2004. Under the scheme, police can issue 'on-the-spot fines' of £50 or £80 for a specified range of minor disorder offences. The number of PNDs issued in 2004 and 2005 by police force area, together with provisional data for 2006, is shown in the following tables.

Formal warnings were also introduced in 2004; the number of offenders issued with a formal warning for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 is shown in the following tables. These data are presented by financial year, rather than calendar year.

Number of defendants cautioned, in England and Wales, broken down by police force area, 1996 to 2005[1,2]

Police force area	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Avon and Somerset	3,910	3,773	4,534	5,197	4,764	4,351	4,286	4,615	5,075	6,107
Bedfordshire	2,664	2,940	2,789	2,833	2,265	3,112	2,628	2,827	3,080	3,455
Cambridgeshire	2,523	2,477	2,621	2,569	2,308	2,207	2,114	2,063	2,618	3,985
Cheshire	4,602	4,048	4,587	3,592	3,111	2,780	2,085	3,051	3,268	4,572
City of London	1,067	1,146	751	709	559	902	1,083	974	605	807
Cleveland	7,757	7,242	5,583	4,321	3,267	3,087	3,020	3,256	3,490	3,617
Cumbria	2,688	2,902	3,015	3,032	2,337	2,505	2,392	2,615	2,753	2,652
Derbyshire	3,303	3,832	3,532	3,301	2,917	3,161	2,732	2,794	3,371	4,644
Devon and Cornwall	8,822	8,042	7,047	7,226	7,283	7,177	7,224	7,870	6,951	7,175
Dorset	1,052	964	1,741	1,787	1,926	1,787	1,709	1,789	3,114	3,115
Durham	1,668	2,014	2,089	2,393	2,349	2,424	2,681	2,628	2,160	3,137
Essex	7,829	6,717	6,064	5,296	4,690	4,640	4,330	4,277	4,799	7,530
Gloucestershire	2,458	2,331	2,897	2,754	2,848	2,828	2,815	2,590	2,696	3,822
Greater Manchester	17,874	16,297	19,716	16,142	12,389	11,181	9,774	11,063	12,778	13,184
Hampshire	8,161	7,592	6,424	7,478	7,014	7,436	6,765	7,587	8,747	9,180
Hertfordshire	2,858	3,057	2,867	2,779	3,182	3,237	3,096	3,378	3,826	4,006
Humberside	4,535	3,968	4,509	3,756	3,533	3,250	2,632	2,874	4,118	5,386
Kent	7,013	7,129	8,570	8,533	7,655	7,339	6,479	8,252	10,013	10,166
Lancashire	8,778	9,333	8,909	7,355	6,777	7,189	6,515	8,205	10,229	10,345
Leicestershire	3,644	3,155	3,409	3,202	2,512	2,149	804	2,564	3,898	5,029
Lincolnshire	3,604	2,566	2,425	1,957	1,440	1,799	2,101	2,063	2,177	3,672
Merseyside	12,807	13,763	14,205	12,159	8,216	6,142	6,331	6,165	6,388	3,785
Metropolitan Police	54,263	53,632	57,969	46,239	36,758	31,337	32,088	31,324	31,833	35,152
Norfolk	5,053	4,460	3,345	2,809	2,773	2,302	2,345	2,314	2,774	3,013
North Yorkshire	2,444	1,852	2,238	2,531	2,461	2,590	2,646	2,722	2,740	2,405
Northamptonshire	3,010	2,352	3,176	3,021	3,431	3,679	3,560	2,716	2,591	3,237
Northumbria	17,795	17,586	14,620	14,505	14,165	14,065	15,694	16,779	16,246	16,628
Nottinghamshire	6,358	5,966	5,808	5,323	5,142	5,118	3,862	4,814	4,868	7,640
South Yorkshire	5,163	4,965	5,306	6,217	3,950	4,304	4,102	4,839	4,891	9,506
Staffordshire	6,014	5,905	4,958	4,105	5,628	5,455	6,124	5,585	4,616	6,496
Suffolk	3,115	3,188	3,345	2,695	3,201	3,459	3,336	3,636	3,484	3,670
Surrey	3,297	2,861	3,514	3,914	3,213	4,097	3,675	4,793	5,435	5,654
Sussex	7,157	6,640	5,762	6,393	6,670	7,666	8,151	8,162	8,709	9,146
Thames Valley	4,377	3,705	3,209	4,626	6,790	5,157	6,149	6,534	8,243	13,337
Warwickshire	2,289	2,160	2,143	2,061	1,785	2,161	2,024	2,277	1,936	2,920
West Mercia	3,973	5,866	5,836	5,297	5,380	6,385	6,357	6,251	6,638	7,747
West Midlands	14,830	15,836	17,093	17,138	15,575	14,517	15,078	15,143	13,751	17,706
West Yorkshire	8,349	8,875	9,676	9,923	9,633	9,071	10,073	11,277	14,959	17,904
Wiltshire	1,932	2,575	2,497	2,678	2,853	2,115	1,695	2,347	1,985	2,046
Dyfed-Powys	2,240	3,109	3,452	3,313	3,185	3,495	3,761	4,491	3,170	3,973
Gwent	4,963	5,329	5,780	5,502	4,529	4,258	3,803	3,666	1,456	2,553
North Wales	3,226	3,074	3,544	3,619	3,124	3,120	3,559	3,299	3,237	2,796
South Wales	6,733	6,869	6,339	5,852	5,399	4,826	3,680	5,337	6,032	6,135
Total	286,198	282,093	287,894	266,132	238,987	229,860	225,358	241,806	255,768	298,945

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to all offenders by police force area, all offences, England and Wales 2004 and 2005, and provisional data for 2006[1]

Police force area	2004	2005	2006[2]	Total
Avon and Somerset	568	3,244	3,876	7,628
Bedfordshire	503	1,239	1,602	3,344
Cambridgeshire	359	1,046	1,346	2,751
Cheshire	372	2,387	2,265	5,624
Cleveland	559	2,806	3,552	6,917
Cumbria	578	1,220	1,677	3,475
Derbyshire	656	1,593	2,537	4,786
Devon and Cornwall	1,889	5,134	6,976	13,999
Dorset	516	1,381	2,262	4,159
Durham	597	1,149	1,583	3,329
Essex	2,802	4,454	4,357	11,613
Gloucestershire	473	1,721	2,654	4,848
Greater Manchester	2,253	7,256	10,532	20,041
Hampshire	2,116	3,658	4,365	10,139
Hertfordshire	412	1,296	5,312	7,020
Humberside	1,596	3,265	5,385	10,246
Kent	767	5,032	6,889	12,688
Lancashire	5,077	10,222	12,401	27,700
Leicestershire	756	1,909	2,376	5,041
Lincolnshire	544	2,373	1,930	4,847
London, City of	60	219	305	584
Merseyside	3,929	11,937	11,269	27,135
Metropolitan	12,758	18,047	20,171	50,976
Norfolk	475	676	1,323	2,474
North Yorkshire	1,078	1,596	2,367	5,041
Northamptonshire	570	1,403	2,498	4,471
Northumbria	211	2,147	6,307	8,665
Nottinghamshire	1,060	2,119	2,205	5,384
South Yorkshire	2,098	3,710	5,989	11,797
Staffordshire	1,450	2,169	3,209	6,828
Suffolk	472	901	1,460	2,833
Surrey	203	641	2,819	3,663
Sussex	1,509	4,193	5,023	10,725
Thames Valley	1,038	5,795	6,676	13,509
Warwickshire	481	933	1,016	2,430
West Mercia	275	1,774	3,433	5,482
West Midlands	4,773	7,320	7,925	20,018
West Yorkshire	4,277	9,217	8,866	22,360
Wiltshire	610	1,080	1,224	2,914
Dyfed Powys	459	1,214	1,353	3,026
Gwent	424	1,511	1,908	3,843
North Wales	1,255	3,792	6,049	11,096
South Wales	241	1,702	5,311	7,254
England and Wales	63,639	146,481	192,583	402,703

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
2 Provisional figures.

Formal warnings for cannabis possession

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Avon and Somerset	977	2,578	3,600
Bedfordshire	603	643	324
British Transport Police	n/a	203	430
Cambridgeshire	349	492	956
Cheshire	311	393	532
Cleveland	120	392	331
Cumbria	272	219	231
Derbyshire	665	513	497
Devon and Cornwall	1,956	1,532	1,473
Dorset	369	340	348
Durham	252	207	257
Dyfed-Powys	917	799	887
Essex	556	697	722
Gloucestershire	371	395	419
Greater Manchester	1,751	3,235	4,943
Gwent	159	396	646
Hampshire	698	1,113	1,477
Hertfordshire	258	488	1,394
Humberside	32	149	533
Kent	198	497	652
Lancashire	390	237	210
Leicestershire	154	978	1,555
Lincolnshire	79	n/a	543
London, City of	505	682	373
Merseyside	961	8,561	7,204
Metropolitan Police	13,161	21,040	30,554
Norfolk	486	638	731
Northamptonshire	120	111	206
Northumbria	199	155	1,419
North Wales	543	792	971
North Yorkshire	727	654	554
Nottinghamshire	529	855	1,077
South Wales	520	536	1,266
South Yorkshire	560	1,023	1027
Staffordshire	867	1,323	1,282
Suffolk	600	64	573
Surrey	523	482	754
Sussex	866	1,350	1,971
Thames Valley	2,232	1,883	2,431
Warwickshire	340	419	649
West Mercia	571	582	686
West Midlands	2,025	3,451	2,852
West Yorkshire	1,212	1,839	1,539
Wiltshire	274	394	231
England and Wales	39,258	63,331	81,310

n/a = Not available.

Prison Service: Convictions

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison service employees were convicted of offences in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* offence, *(b)* length of sentence following conviction and *(c)* grade of employee. [150735]

Mr. Hanson: Currently information is not held centrally to answer the question to the level of detail required and could be obtained only by contacting

each public sector prison establishment, headquarters group and outstation, which would incur a disproportionate cost. However, the Government plan to develop a shared service centre which, when fully live, will have improved IT capability that will enable us to produce accurate reports on information such as disciplinary action taken following receipt of a criminal conviction.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many inmates of prisons in England and Wales were foreign nationals in each of the last five years. [151766]

Mr. Hanson: Figures showing the numbers of foreign national prisoners held in prison establishments in England and Wales can be found in the following table.

Foreign national prisoners held in prisons in England and Wales June 2002-06

	Foreign national prisoners	*British nationals*	*Not recorded*	*All prisoners*
2002	7,719	62,553	946	71,218
2003	8,728	62,417	1,142	72,286
2004	8,941	64,379	1,168	74,488
2005	9,651	65,670	869	76,190
2006	10,879	66,160	944	77,982
2007 (April)	11,231	68,124	905	80,261

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Rehabilitation

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners in each prison in Wales are registered as having a drug or alcohol problem; and how many are engaged in a rehabilitation course. [152321]

Mr. Hanson: No records are kept of the number of offenders with drug or alcohol problems. The numbers engaged in drug treatment (2006-07) in Welsh prisons are given in the following table

Wales prisons	*Clinical interventions*[1]	*CARATs*[2] *(assessments)*	*Drug rehabilitation programme starts* [3]
Cardiff	788	732	96
Parc	400	362	96
Prescoed/ Usk	n/a	236	n/a
Swansea	453	402	152

n/a = not available. [1] Clinical intervention may involve detoxification or maintenance. [2] Counselling, assessments, referral, advice and throughcare. CARAT assessments used as a proxy measure of engagement. [3] Entrants to intensive rehabilitation programmes are referred by CARAT teams.

No central records are kept of the number of offenders engaged specifically in treatment for an alcohol problem.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish the report on the 12 step drug rehabilitation programme in Swansea prison which led to its closure. [152322]

Mr. Hanson: There was no formal report informing the closure of the 12 Step Programme at HMP Swansea. The decision was reached after detailed discussions between the Governor of HMP Swansea and the Wales Area Drug Co-ordinator, with support from the National Drug Programme Delivery Unit (NDPDU). A key factor involved in the decision was the NDPDU audit reports. Copies of which I have placed in the Library of the House.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* drug and *(b)* alcohol rehabilitation courses are available at each prison in England and Wales. [152323]

Mr. Hanson: A comprehensive framework is in place to address the needs of those with substance misuse problems:

clinical services are available in all local and remand prisons, including alcohol detoxification (see following list 1);

Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare (CARAT) services are available in all prisons with the exception of HMP Blantyre House. CARAT teams provide support to those where alcohol is part of a multiple drug misuse problem;

the substance misuse service for 16 to 18-year-olds provides support for those with an alcohol problem (see following list 2);

intensive drug rehabilitation programmes are run in 102 prisons (see following list 3,);

Alcoholics Anonymous run groups in approximately 60 per cent. of prisons—the list of prisons is not held centrally and I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of the list in the Library of the House; and

intensive alcohol rehabilitation programmes are currently being piloted at HMP Bullingdon and HMP Featherstone.

1. Prisons offering clinical services for substance misuse

Altcourse
Ashfield
Bedford
Belmarsh
Birmingham
Blakenhurst
Brinsford
Bristol
Brixton
Brockhill
Bronzefield
Bullingdon
Cardiff
Castington
Chelmsford
Doncaster
Dorchester
Durham
Eastwood Park
Elmley
Exeter
Feltham
Forest Bank
Foston Hall
Glen Parva

Gloucester
High Down
Holloway
Holme House
Hull
Leeds
Leicester
Lewes
Lincoln
Liverpool
Low Newton
Manchester
New Hall
Norwich
Nottingham
Parc
Parkhurst
Pentonville
Peterborough Female
Peterborough Male
Preston
Reading
Shrewsbury
Stafford
Stoke Heath
Styal
Swansea
Wandsworth
Wetherby
Winchester
Woodhill
Wormwood Scrubs

2: The substance misuse service for 16 to 18-year-olds

HMP/YOI Ashfield
HMP/YOI Brinsford
HMP/YOI Castington
HMP Cookham Wood
HMP/YOI Downview
HMP Eastwood Park
HMP/YOI/RC Feltham
HMP Foston
HMP/YOI Hindley
HMP/YOI Huntercombe
HMP/YOI Lancaster Farms
HMP/YOI New Hall
HMP/YOI Parc
HMP/YOI Stoke Heath
HMP/YOI Thorn Cross
HMP/YOI Warren Hill
HMP/YOI Werrington
HMP/YOI Wetherby

3. Intensive drug rehabilitation programmes

Acklington
Altcourse
Ashwell
Aylesbury
Bedford
Birmingham
Blakenhurst
Blundeston
Bristol
Brixton
Bullingdon
Camp Hill
Canterbury
Cardiff
Castington
Castle
Channings Wood
Chelmsford
Coldingley
Cookham Wood
Dartmoor
Deerbolt
Doncaster
Dorchester
Downview
Drake Hall
Durham
Eastwood Park
Edmunds Hill
Elmley
Erlestoke
Everthorpe
Exeter
Featherstone
Ford
Forest Bank
Frankland
Full Sutton
Garth
Gartree
Glen Parva
Gloucester
Guys Marsh
Haverigg
Highdown
Highpoint
Hindley
Hollesley Bay
Holloway
Holme House
Hull
Kingston
Kirkham
Lancaster
Lancaster Farms
Leeds
Leicester
Lewes
Leyhill
Lincoln
Lindholme
Littlehay
Liverpool
Long Lartin
Low Newton
Maidstone

Manchester
Moorland
New Hall
North Sea Camp
Northallerton
Norwich
Nottingham
Onley
Parc
Pentonville
Portland
Preston
Ranby
Reading
Risley
Rochester
Send
Stafford
Stocken
Stoke Heath
Styal
Swaleside
Swansea
Swinfen Hall
The Mount
The Verne
Thorn Cross
Wakefield
Wandsworth
Wayland
Wealstun
Wellingborough
Whitemoor
Winchester
Wormwood Scrubs
Wymott

Prisoners: Scotland

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners of Scottish origin are serving sentences in prisons in England and Wales, broken down by prison establishment; [152320]

(2) how many prisoners of English or Welsh origin are serving sentences in Scottish prisons. [152319]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only by manually requesting every prisoner to identify their country of origin at a disproportionate cost.

Young Offenders: Restraint Techniques

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many inmates of young offender institutions received injuries requiring an overnight stay in hospital following restraint by prison officers in each of the last three years. [152037]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is held locally but not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. To obtain this information would require every prison that holds young offenders to check the record of every instance of use of force over the last three years to see if hospitalisation was involved.

Young Offenders: Smoking

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether juveniles held in *(a)* secure training centres and *(b)* secure children's homes are allowed to smoke cigarettes. [152039]

Mr. Hanson: Young people held in secure training centres and secure children's homes are not allowed to smoke.

TREASURY

Average Earnings: Cornwall

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average wage in Cornwall was at the latest date for which figures are available. [152107]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 24 July 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average wage in Cornwall was at the latest date for which figures are available. I am replying in her absence. (152107)

Levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all full-time employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom.

I attach a table showing the mean and median gross weekly earnings for all full-time employees in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly for the year 2006.

Gross weekly pay for employee jobs[a] by place of work: 2006—Cornwall and Isles of Scilly

£

	Full-time employees	*Full-time male*	*Full-time female*
Median	358	386	*321
Mean	412	446	366

[a] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.

Guide to quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an average of £200 with a CV of 5 per cent. (£10), we would expect the population average to be within the range £180 to £220.

Key:

* CV <= 5 per cent.
CV >5 per cent. and <= 10 per cent.

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

Capital Gains Tax

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will *(a)* update the estimates given for the cost of capital gains tax business paper relief in 2001-02 and 2002-03 in his Tax Ready Reckoner November 2002 and *(b)* give an estimate for the years from 2003-04 to 2007-08. [148562]

Jane Kennedy: The estimates of the cost of the relief as published in the Tax Ready Reckoners and in table A3.1 of Financial Statement and Budget Reports are for business and non-business assets combined. Taper relief is dependent upon the volume of disposals, which in turn is driven by changes in asset prices, particularly share prices. The movement between 2001-02 and 2002-03 was also influenced by the maturing of business asset taper relief.

The latest estimates of the Exchequer impact of taper relief for 2001-02 to 2006-07 are as follows.

	Estimated cost (£ million)
2001-02	550
2002-03	3,500
2003-04	2,750
2004-05	3,500
2005-06	4,620
2006-07	6,020

Figures for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are available in the 'Estimated costs of the principal tax expenditure and structural reliefs' table at http//www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-5.pdf. Figures for 2007-08 are not available.

The estimated costs are not the same as the yield from abolition of taper relief as they do not take into account any behavioural changes which would occur if taper relief was abolished.

Carbon Emissions: Pollution Control

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what cumulative cuts in carbon emissions measures outlined in the Budget were *(a)* predicted to be delivered and *(b)* delivered in each year since 1997. [151989]

Angela Eagle: The environmental impact of Budget measures (including carbon savings where appropriate) is set out in Table 7.2 of the Budget 2007 document. This information is included in the environmental section of each Budget and pre-Budget report since 1998.

Civil Servants: Poole

Mr. Syms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many civil service posts he expects to be moved to Poole in the next five years. [151585]

Andy Burnham: Departments are responsible for meeting their Lyons relocation targets and some have yet to finalise their plans for meeting the remainder of the 2010 target. HM Treasury does not hold comprehensive data on where Departments intend to move staff to over the next five years.

Civil Service: Norfolk

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many jobs have been moved into *(a)* Great Yarmouth and *(b)* Norfolk as a result of the Lyons review. [151952]

Andy Burnham: By December 2006 15 posts had been relocated from London and the south-east to Norfolk as part of the Lyons relocation programme. None of these posts had moved to Great Yarmouth.

Climate Change Levy

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the climate change levy in reducing carbon dioxide emissions. [151971]

Angela Eagle: The climate change levy is estimated to have reduced emissions by a cumulative 16.5 million tonnes of carbon up to 2005 and by 2010 it is estimated to deliver savings of over 3.5 million tonnes of carbon per year.

Council of Economic Advisers

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer who the members are of the Council of Economic Advisers. [152459]

Angela Eagle: The Chancellor has appointed Andrew Maugham to the Council of Economic Advisers.

Council Tax: Valuation

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) of 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 2138W, on council tax: valuation, which company provides the laser measuring devices; and what the total expenditure by the Valuation Office Agency on purchasing items from that firm was in each of the last three years. [151138]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency purchases its surveying equipment, including laser measuring devices, from a company called Survey Express Services Ltd. (SES) and is invoiced in bulk. It is not possible to identify individual purchases without incurring disproportionate cost.

Customs Officers: Complaints

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints were made against the behaviour of Customs officers during searches at British ports in each year since 1997. [151302]

Jane Kennedy: The total number of all types of complaint including staff behaviour made each year is published in the annual reports of HM Revenue and Customs, previously HM Customs and Excise. Centrally held records do not provide the further detail requested.

Departments: Agencies

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Department paid in fees to recruitment agencies for *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent staff in each year since 1997. [151672]

Angela Eagle: As explained in the answer given by the then Financial Secretary the hon. Member for Wentworth (John Healey) on 28 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 873W, the fees paid to recruitment agencies for the Chancellor's Department could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Information on spending on recruitment consultancy is not held in a format whereby it can be separated out from other external management consultancy, or from the cost of agency staff.

Departments: Flint Bishop Solicitors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have made payments to Flint Bishop Solicitors since 1997. [151391]

Angela Eagle: In 2001 HM Customs and Excise made two payments totalling £15,749 to Flint Bishop Solicitors, recorded under their former name of Flint Bishop and Barnett. HM Customs and Excise merged with the Inland Revenue in 2005 to form HM Revenue and Customs.

No other Chancellor's departments or their agencies have found any records of payments to Flint Bishop Solicitors within the last five years. Changes in accounting systems mean that a positive confirmation for all bodies over the whole period since 1997 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Legislation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Bills introduced by his Department in the last five years contained sunset clauses; and what plans he has for the future use of such clauses. [151845]

Angela Eagle: No Acts that received Royal Assent during this period contain sunset provisions, although by their nature the annual Appropriation and Consolidated Fund Acts, and many of the provisions of the Finance Acts and other tax legislation, are time limited or temporary in effect.

The appropriateness of a sunset clause for the whole or part of any proposed legislation is considered on a case-by-case basis. It is also addressed when a regulatory impact assessment relating to legislation is being prepared.

Departments: Sexual Harassment

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois) of 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 938W, on Departments: sexual harassment, what steps are being taken to tackle *(a)* sexual harassment and *(b)* sexual discrimination in the Valuation Office Agency. [151140]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency has a Gender Equality Scheme and Action Plan which includes impact assessing the agency's policies in relation to diversity strands including "gender" and an action plan specifically to address "gender" issues.

In addition to this the agency produces a monitoring report for diversity strands including "gender" and has a related consultative group chaired by a Management Board member.

The agency also promotes and runs a "Springboard" mentoring programme of positive action for women and conducts equal pay audits to monitor remuneration. The agency plans to incorporate the gender equality duty into all staff training.

Employment: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex residents were in employment in (i) April 1997 and (ii) the most recent period for which figures are available. [151413]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 24 July 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how many (a) Eastbourne and (b) East Sussex residents were in employment in (i) April 1997 and (ii) the most recent period for which figures are available. I am replying in her absence. (151413)

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

The attached table shows the number of people aged 16 and over, resident in the Eastbourne constituency, and for residents of East Sussex, who were in employment, for the 12 months ending February 1997, from the local area LFS and for the 12 months ending in December 2006 from the APS. Corresponding headline employment rates, for persons of working age (males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59), are also provided. The rates allow changes to be seen in the context of changing population numbers.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. In this case, the sample sizes are not sufficient to give an accurate estimate of even the direction of the change over the period.

Employment in the Eastbourne parliamentary constituency and the county of East Sussex

	Eastbourne		*East Sussex*	
	Level[1] *(thousand)*	*Rate*[2] *(percentage)*	*Level*[1] *(thousand)*	*Rate*[2] *(percentage)*
February 1997	40	73.6	207	75.8
December 2006	47	75.6	233	76.1

[1] Persons aged 16 and over.

[2] Persons of working age—males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59.

Notes:

1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
2. Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with particular caution.

Source:

Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population Survey.

Employment: Parents

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the employment rate is of non-resident parents where the parent with care is a lone parent receiving *(a)* income support and *(b)* working tax credit. [152071]

Jane Kennedy: This information is not available.

Employment: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were *(a)* employed (i) full-time and (ii) part-time and *(b)* unemployed in *(A)* City of York constituency, *(B)* City of York Council area, *(C)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(D)* the United Kingdom (1) at the latest date for which figures are available and (2) at the same date in each of the previous 10 years. [151614]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 24 July 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people were (a) employed (i) full-time and (ii) part-time and (b) unemployed in (A) City of York constituency, (B) City of York Council area, (C) Yorkshire and the Humber and (D) the United Kingdom (1) at the latest date for which figures are available and (2) at the same date in each of the previous 10 years. I am replying in her absence. (151614)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1 attached, shows the number of people, aged 16 and over, resident in the City of York constituency, who were in full-time and part-time employment, for the 12 months ending in February for 1997 to 2004 from the local area LFS and for the 12 months ending in March for 2005 and 2006, and for the latest period, the 12 months ending in December 2006, from the APS. The table also shows corresponding data for residents of the City of York Unitary Authority, Yorkshire and the Humber and Great Britain.

For unitary and local authorities, the ONS produces estimates of total unemployment, following ILO definitions, from a statistical model. Annual estimates for other areas are compiled from the annual local area LFS and the APS following ILO definitions.

Table 2 attached, shows the number of people, aged 16 and over, resident in the City of York constituency, who were unemployed, for the 12 months ending in February for 1997 to 2004 from the local area LFS and for the 12 months ending in March for 2005 and 2006, and for the latest period, the 12 months ending in December 2006, from the APS.

The table also shows corresponding data for residents of the City of York Unitary Authority, Yorkshire and the Humber and Great Britain. Corresponding headline employment rates, for persons of working age (males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59), are also provided. The rates allow changes to be seen in the context of changing population numbers.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. In this case, for the City of York constituency and the City of York Unitary Authority, the sample sizes are not sufficient to give an accurate estimate of even the direction of the change over the period.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). Table 3, attached, shows the annual average number of people, resident in the City of York constituency, the City of York Unitary Constituency, Yorkshire and the Humber and the United Kingdom, claiming JSA from 1997 to 2006. The number of claimants is also shown as a percentage of the resident working age population.

Table 1: Full-time and part-time employment: City of York constituency, City of York unitary authority, Yorkshire and the Humber and Great Britain

Thousand

	City of York constituency			City of York unitary authority		
	In employment			In employment		
12 months ending	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total
February 1997	32	12	44	59	23	82
February 1998	31	14	45	57	20	77
February 1999	33	15	48	59	24	83
February 2000	34	12	45	61	22	83
February 2001	36	15	51	64	29	93
February 2002	36	15	51	66	27	93
February 2003	37	16	54	65	28	93
February 2004	37	16	53	65	27	92
March 2005	39	16	55	65	27	92
March 2006	37	15	52	67	26	93
December 2006	36	17	53	67	28	95

Thousand

	Yorkshire and the Humber			Great Britain		
	In employment			In employment		
12 months ending	Full-time	Part-time	12 months ending	Full-time	Part-time	12 months ending
February 1997	1,590	560	2,151	18,974	6,379	25,355
February 1998	1,594	576	2,170	19,224	6,448	25,678
February 1999	1,616	595	2,212	19,454	6,520	25,981
February 2000	1,620	591	2,211	19,600	6,610	26,218
February 2001	1,634	624	2,259	19,743	6,739	26,492
February 2002	1,658	606	2,265	19,957	6,767	26,734
February 2003	1,664	616	2,280	19,931	6,902	26,848
February 2004	1,671	641	2,312	19,971	7,078	27,063
March 2005	1,696	623	2,320	20,274	7,019	27,313
March 2006	1,691	630	2,322	20,310	7,046	27,371
December 2006	1,706	624	2,331	20,415	7,099	27,527

Notes:
1. Data subject to sampling variability.
2. Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with particular caution.

Source:
Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population Survey.

Table 2: Unemployed aged 16 and over, resident in the City of York constituency; City of York unitary authority; Yorkshire and the Humber and Great Britain

Thousand

12 months ending	City of York constituency		City of York unitary authority		Yorkshire and the Humber		Great Britain	
	Level[1]	Rate[2] (%)	Level[3]	Rate[2,3] (%)	Level[1]	Rate[2] (%)	Level[1]	Rate[2] (%)
February 1997	4	8.0	5	5.9	198	8.4	2,136	7.8
February 1998	4	7.3	5	5.7	172	7.3	1,851	6.7
February 1999	3	6.4	5	5.2	164	6.9	1,673	6.1
February 2000	2	5.2	4	4.5	152	6.4	1,641	5.9
February 2001	3	4.9	4	4.0	140	5.9	1,468	5.3
February 2002	2	4.3	3	3.6	121	5.1	1,404	5.0
February 2003	2	3.9	3	3.4	119	5.0	1,450	5.1
February 2004	3	4.7	4	3.7	121	5.0	1,399	4.9
March 2005	2	3.1	3	2.8	105	4.3	1,343	4.7
March 2006	2	3.9	3	3.2	124	5.1	1,445	5.0
December 2006	4	7.4	[4]n/a	[4]n/a	136	5.5	1,555	5.3

[1] Annual local area Labour Force Survey and Annual Population Survey data subject to sampling variability.
[2] Unemployed as a percentage of the economically active population.
[3] Model-based estimates subject to random variability.
[4] Data unavailable until published on 31 July 2007.
Note:
Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with particular caution.
Source:
Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population Survey; ONS.

Table 3: Annual average number of claimants of jobseeker's allowance and proportions of working age population for residents of the City of York parliamentary constituency; City of York unitary authority; Yorkshire and the Humber and the United Kingdom.

	City of York constituency		City of York unitary authority		Yorkshire and the Humber		United Kingdom	
	Number of claimants	Proportion[1] (%)	Number of claimants	Proportion[1] (%)	Number of claimants	Proportion[1] (%)	Number of claimants	Proportion[1] (%)
1996	4,053	6.1	5,182	4.8	191,830	6.4	2,122,245	6.0
1997	3,002	4.5	3,786	3.5	151,995	5.1	1,602,442	4.5
1998	2,425	3.7	3,042	2.8	134,892	4.5	1,362,340	3.8
1999	2,190	3.3	2,762	2.5	124,675	4.1	1,263,001	3.5
2000	1,895	2.9	2,367	2.1	108,459	3.6	1,102,257	3.0
2001	1,676	2.5	2,120	1.9	97,453	3.2	982,998	2.7
2002	1,480	2.2	1,838	1.6	90,091	2.9	958,759	2.6
2003	1,437	2.2	1,808	1.6	84,995	2.8	945,894	2.6
2004	1,342	2.0	1,706	1.4	74,512	2.4	866,144	2.3
2005	1,331	2.0	1,689	1.4	77,309	2.5	874,417	2.3
2006	1,654	2.5	2,107	1.8	88,667	2.8	956,732	2.6

[1] Number of claimants expressed as a percentage of the resident working-age population.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative data

Forfeiture: Motor Vehicles

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cars were impounded by Customs officers in each year since 1997, broken down by reason for impounding. [151299]

Jane Kennedy: The number of vehicles seized is published in the annual reports of HM Revenue and Customs, previously HM Customs and Excise. Centrally held records do not provide the breakdown required.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many successful appeals there were against the impounding of vehicles by Customs officers in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [151300]

Jane Kennedy: Centrally held records do not provide the breakdown requested.

Futurebuilders Fund

Tim Loughton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which projects dealing with children's *(a)* physical and *(b)* mental health have received Futurebuilders funding; and how much was received by each. [150363]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

A total of £18,787,579 Futurebuilder investments in grant and loan finance have been made in 21 projects specifically dealing with children's physical and mental health. These are listed in the following table:

	£
(a) Children's physical and mental health	
Chiltern Centre for Disabled Children	14,000
Real Life Parenting	16,000
Nottingham Regional Society for Adults and Children with Autism	18,000
National Blind Children's Society	20,000
Makaton	513,000
British Institute for Brain Injured Children (BIBIC)	732,000
Bayis Sheli	3,200,000
TreeHouse	5,209,357
Bangladeshi Parents and Carers Association	1,209,000
First Step Opportunity Group	462,000

	£
Springboard Opportunity Group	130,900
Total	11,524,257
(b) Children's mental health	
Headliners (formerly Children's Express)	18,237
Pupil Parent Partnership	20,000
COASTS	58,335
Med Theatre	78,750
Bubble Theatre	104,000
Antidote	155,000
CHeCC (Cross-Herts Community Counselling)	385,000
St. Christopher's Fellowship	1,473,000
Place2Be	2,718,000
The Lighthouse Group	2,253,000
Total	7,263,322

HM Revenue and Customs: Great Yarmouth

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs staff employed in Havenbridge House Great Yarmouth *(a)* are female and *(b)* work flexitime. [151964]

Jane Kennedy: As at 1 July 2007, 145 HM Revenue and Customs staff were employed in Havenbridge House, Great Yarmouth, of whom 97 were female.

Flexitime is not a contractual right for any HMRC staff, but most staff are able to work flexibly within their contracted hours provided this does not conflict with local business need.

HM Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff HM Revenue and Customs employs; and how many more posts are planned to be lost to meet the targets set in the Gershon Review. [151955]

Jane Kennedy: As at 1 July 2007 HMRC employed 86,948 full-time equivalent staff and had reduced its workforce by 12,132 posts since 1 April 2004. This leaves a balance of 368 full-time equivalent posts to achieve the Department's efficiency target of a net reduction of 12,500 posts by 31 March 2008.

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how HM Revenue and Customs staff are encouraged to respond to consultations arising from the Gershon Review. [151956]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs is undertaking a major restructuring programme to enable it to meet the staffing reduction targets arising from the Gershon Review, and other PSA efficiency and customer service targets.

All staff have been encouraged to take part in consultation exercises both on business and accommodation restructuring proposals.

Housing

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many domestic properties in England have greenhouses according to Valuation Office Agency records. [151319]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, 1667W.

Housing: Prices

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion the average national income was of the average house price in *(a)* Cornwall and *(b)* England at the most recent date for which figures are available. [152106]

Angela Eagle: The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings reports that average male full-time earnings in 2006 were £32,744. Data from the Land Registry shows that in 2006 Q3 the mean house price in England was £214,471, and in Cornwall £217,776. Therefore the proportion of average national income to average house prices in Cornwall and England are 6.7 and 6.5 respectively.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the net difference in income tax revenue collected since 1997 if the top rate of income tax had been uprated in line with earnings. [152028]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* The estimated costs of uprating the threshold at which taxpayers start paying income tax at the higher rate in line with earnings from 1998-99 are in the table.

	£ million
	Cost
1998-99	40
1999-2000	340
2000-01	890
2001-02	1,020
2002-03	1,600
2003-04	1,830
2004-05	2,200
2005-06	2,470
2006-07	2,920
2007-08	3,240

These are based on the Survey of Personal Incomes, of which 2004-05 is the latest available. Estimates for later years are based on projections in line with Budget 2007 assumptions.

Infectious Diseases: Death

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths where the death certificate refers to healthcare-acquired infections there were in *(a)* hospital and *(b)* care homes in (i) Eastbourne and (ii) East Sussex in each of the last 10 years. [151498]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 24 July 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths where the death certificate refers to healthcare-acquired infections there were in (a) hospital and (b) care homes in (i) Eastbourne and (ii) East Sussex in each of the last 10 years. I am replying in her absence. (151498)

Death certificates record the place where a person dies, but not where any infections may have been acquired. It is not possible from the information on a death certificate to know whether an infection was acquired in the hospital or other place where a patient died. Patients are often transferred between hospitals, nursing homes and other establishments and may have acquired infections in a different place from where they died.

ONS does not receive information on 'healthcare-acquired infections' but special analyses of deaths involving two infections that are often associated with healthcare, MRSA and Clostridium difficile, are undertaken annually by ONS for England and Wales. The most recent figures were published in reports in Health Statistics Quarterly 33 in February of this year. This publication is available in the House of Commons library.

The table below provides data on the number of death certificates of persons normally resident in East Sussex on which MRSA and Clostridium difficile were mentioned, from 1996 to 2005, the latest year for which figures are available. Breaking these figures down to local authority lever risks identifying individuals, and so figures can not be provided for Eastbourne.

Figures are reported in Health Statistics Quarterly for deaths involving MRSA and Clostridium difficile by place of death, including general hospitals and nursing homes. These figures show that in England and Wales around 90 per cent of these deaths occur in NHS general hospitals. Breaking down the number of deaths in East Sussex by place of death would risk identifying individuals. Figures by place of death can therefore not be provided for either East Sussex or Eastbourne.

Number of death certificates where (a) Meticillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus[1] and (b) Clostridium difficile[2] was mentioned, in residents of East Sussex[3], 1996-2005[4,5]

	(a) MRSA	(b) Clostridium difficile
1996	[6]—	[5]n/a
1997	[6]—	[5]n/a
1998	9	[5]n/a
1999	10	23
2000	14	[5]n/a
2001	10	10
2002	15	17
2003	18	37
2004	14	19
2005	24	36

[1] Identified using the methodology described in Griffiths C, Lamagni TL, Crowcroft NS, Duckworth G and Rooney C (2004). Trends in MRSA in England and Wales: analysis of morbidity and mortality data for 1993-2002. Health Statistics Quarterly 21, 15-22.

[2] Identified using the methodology described in Office for National Statistics: Report: Deaths involving Clostridium difficile: England and Wales, 2001-2005. Health Statistics Quarterly 33, 71-75.

[3] Figures are provided for usual residents of the current county of East Sussex. Deaths of residents of Brighton and Hove unitary authority are therefore excluded.

[4] Data are for deaths occurring in each calendar year

[5] Deaths involving Clostridium difficile can only be identified using the Tenth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10). This has been used by ONS for coding mortality from 2001 onwards and in 1999 for a bridge coding study. Data are therefore not available for 1996-1998 and 2000 when the Ninth Revision of the ICD was in use.

[6] Where less than five deaths, numbers have been suppressed in line with ONS guidelines on disclosure and confidentiality.

Local Government Finance Funding Changes Independent Inquiry

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether representatives of his Department made any written submission or representation to the Lyons Inquiry on local government; [151324]

(2) whether *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency made any written submission or representation to the Lyons Inquiry on local government. [151327]

Angela Eagle: No submissions or representations were made on behalf of HMRC, VOA or HM Treasury. The inquiry published written submissions as part of its final report, archived at

http://www.lyonsinquiry.org.

Married People: Separation

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many married couples have separated but are still married; and if he will make a statement. [151192]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 24 July 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your request for how many married couples have separated but are still married. I am replying in her absence. (151192)

The Annual Population Survey (APS) combines results from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the English, Welsh and Scottish Labour Force Survey boosts. Marital status of individuals is asked, but the number of couples, according to whether they have separated or not, is not collected.

In 2006 the APS indicates that there were 1.2 million individuals in the UK who were married and separated from their husband or wife. This figure does not include those individuals who were in a legally recognised Civil Partnership and separated from their civil partner. The comparable figure for married individuals living with their husband or wife is 24.5 million.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Pensions

Martin Horwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the potential impact of extending the possibility of exchanging private pension rights for a cash sum of a value greater than 25 per cent. of the total to situations where the total of that person's pension rights is greater than one per cent. of the Lifetime Allowance; and if he will make a statement. [151332]

Kitty Ussher: The tax rules provide that where a member's total pension benefit rights in registered pension schemes do not exceed one per cent of the lifetime allowance then the member may commute some or all those benefits in return for receiving a taxable lump sum between age 60 and age 75. This process is known as "trivial commutation".

At PBR 2006 the Government announced that HMRC would discuss with interested parties the concerns raised regarding the administration costs of paying trivial

commutation lump sums under these rules. The Government will explore the way in which the current rules impact across a range of interests, bearing in mind both the potential impact on individual pensioners, pension savers, and pension providers and the way the rules fit with the Government's wider objectives in encouraging pension saving to produce an income stream in retirement.

Personal Income: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average wage for *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time (i) male and (ii) female employees is; and what the average household income for working age households was in City of York council area in (A) cash and (B) real terms in 2006. [151612]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 24 July 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average wage for (a) full-time and (b) part-time (i) male and (ii) female employee is and what the average household income for working age households was in City of York council area in (A) cash and (B) real terms in 2006. (151612)

Levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all full-time and part-time employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom.

I attach a table showing the mean and median Gross Weekly Earnings for all full-time and part-time employees in the city of York Unitary authority, for the year 2006.

Estimates of average household income for working age households by council area are not available. Household income statistics for all households in the UK, based on the Family Resources Survey, are produced by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Gross weekly pay for employee jobs[a] by place of work - 2006—City of York Unitary Authority

£

	Full-time employees	*Full-time males*	*Full-time female*	*Part-time employees*	*Part-time male*	*Part-time female*
Median	455	*491	*391	*134	[b]x	*145
Mean	529	*578	444	*167	**148	*174

[a] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.

[b] Figure not published for reasons of quality.

Guide to quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the duality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality.

The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an average of £200 with a CV of 5 per cent. (10), we would expect the population average to be within the range £180 to £220.

Key:

CV <= 5 per cent.

* CV> 5 per cent. and <= 10 per cent.

** CV> 10 per cent. and<=20 per cent.

x CV>20 per cent.

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

Police Informers: Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total value was of rewards paid to informers by HM Revenue and Customs in each year since 1997. [148916]

Jane Kennedy: Rewards have been paid to informers by the two former departments, HM Customs and Excise and the Inland Revenue, as follows:

	£
1997-98	1,670,812
1998-99	1,052,033
1999-2000	1,083,895
2000-01	1,603,301
2001-02	1,464,400
2002-03	984,422
2003-04	946,399

In line with an undertaking given during the debate on the Commissioners Revenue and Customs Bill, the amount of reward payments made by HMRC is published in our annual report. This was done in the 2004-05 HMRC Annual Report (page 69), the 2005-06 HMRC Annual Report (page 75) and Spring 2007 Departmental Report (the new format for our Annual Report, on page 45).

Private Finance Initiative

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much his Department has spent on legal advice for the private finance initiative credit guarantee finance pilots; [152428]

(2) what assessment he has made of the lessons of the private finance initiative credit guarantee finance pilots; [152430]

(3) whether the private finance initiative credit guarantee finance scheme will be rolled out nationally. [152431]

Angela Eagle: The Government continue to monitor and assess the Credit Guarantee Finance (CGF) scheme. The Government have previously announced that they do not intend to use CGF for more than a limited proportion of their PFI programme.

The total amount HM Treasury has spent on legal advice for CGF pilots is £361,000.

Public Expenditure

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the reasons are for the timing of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007; and if he will make a statement. [150673]

Andy Burnham: In July 2005, the Government announced its decision that, with the start of the next spending review period coming a decade after the first Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR), the time was right for a second CSR. In the context of a rapidly changing world, the CSR would undertake a fundamental examination of the balance and pattern of public expenditure, and identify the investment and reforms necessary to equip the UK for the decade ahead. The Government announced that Departments budgets for 2007-08 would be unaltered from those previously announced and that the next CSR would conclude in 2007, setting departments budgets for the years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11. As announced at Budget 2007,

the CSR will conclude by autumn 2007, at which point the Government will set out the final conclusions of the CSR.

Taxation: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when his Department first exchanged tax information in bulk about a class of taxpayers with another country; what sort of information has been exchanged in this way; whether such information is exchanged electronically; and if he will make a statement. [152042]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs' records indicate that such exchanges have taken place on a reciprocal basis since at least the mid 1970s. Most exchanges relate to payments of interest, royalties, pensions and commissions made from a source in one country to persons resident in the other country. Information is exchanged in secure electronic form.

Taxation: Domicil

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the cost to date has been of the review into non-domicile taxation, broken down into *(a)* staff costs, *(b)* administration costs, *(c)* office costs, *(d)* stationery costs, *(e)* entertainment costs and *(f)* other costs; and if he will make a statement; [150884]

(2) how many staff have worked on the review of non-domicile taxation carried out by his Department since 2002; and if he will make a statement. [150899]

Jane Kennedy: A number of HMRC and HMT staff have contributed directly or indirectly to the review since 2002, it is not possible to provide an exact number. The review is currently being managed by two HMT officials, supported by a number of other officials in HMT and HMRC who contribute to the review alongside other duties.

Information on costs of individual stands of policy work is not held centrally.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many investigations were undertaken into the income and assets held overseas by non-domiciled UK taxpayers in each of the last five years for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [150898]

Jane Kennedy: The information is not held centrally and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Teenage Pregnancy

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many teenage pregnancies there were in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* local authority. [151359]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply. A copy of his reply has been placed in the Library.

Terrorism: Finance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many organisations found to have terrorist links have had their assets frozen; how much funding was frozen in total; how much such funding was returned to legitimate authorities in each of the last 10 years for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [150519]

Kitty Ussher: Since 2001, a total of approximately £570,000 of suspected terrorist funds have been frozen in the UK including funds belonging to six designated organisations. All assets frozen remain the property of the designated individuals or organisations and are not disposed of by the Treasury. The Treasury reports to Parliament quarterly on the operation of its asset-freezing regime, including detail on the total amount of funds frozen. The latest such report was laid before Parliament on 12 July 2007.

Unemployment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number of economically inactive people who want a job; [151491]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of non-UK citizens who were economically active in the UK labour supply in each year since 1997; and what proportion of the labour force this represented in each year; [151490]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of individuals registered as inactive in the UK due to sickness and disability; and what benchmarking he has conducted of this number against numbers in other EU member states; [151489]

(4) how many and what proportion of people in the working age population were non-UK citizens in each year since 1997. [151470]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 24 July2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your four parliamentary questions about economic activity and economic inactivity. The replies to these four questions have been combined. I am replying in her absence. (151470, 151489, .151490, 151491)

Table 1 gives estimates of the numbers of UK and foreign nationals of working age and the numbers and rates of economic activity for the three months ending December in each year for 1997, 1999 and 2001 to 2006. Comparable estimates are not available for 1998 and 2000. These estimates are not seasonally adjusted. The data shown are based on labour force survey (LFS) household population and not the total UK population to enable consistent economic activity data to be shown. It should be noted the LFS data shown by nationality:

excludes those who have not been resident in the UK for six months

excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent

excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc.)

is consistent with population estimates that only includes migrants staying for 12 months or more

is consistent with population estimates published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates and also the headline labour market statistics published each month by the Office for National Statistics; LFS estimates by nationality for the period requested are not yet available consistent with latest population estimates.

Table 2 gives estimates of the economically inactive people split by those who want a job and those who do not want a job. A further disaggregation for those who are long term sick or disabled is also shown. These data are for the three months ending December 2006, and are not seasonally adjusted.

Estimates for economic inactivity for EU member states are available from the Eurostat website which is accessible via the House of Commons Library.

The LFS estimates at the detailed level required for this answer are only available consistent with the UK population estimates published in February and March 2003 and do not yet incorporate the more recent population estimates that are used in the headline labour market series.

Estimates are taken from the LFS. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

All persons of working age[1, 2] and economic activity for UK and foreign nationals, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

	All persons of working age [1, 2]			Economically active			
	Total	Non-UK nationals		UK nationals		Non-UK nationals	
Three months ending December each year	Numbers (thousand)	Numbers (thousand)	% of total	Numbers (thousand)	Rates (%)[3]	Numbers (thousand)	Rates (%)[3]
1997	35,209	1,604	4.6	26,504	78.9	1,082	67.5
1999	35,473	1,659	4.7	26,881	79.5	1,107	66.7
2001	35,897	1,929	5.4	26,896	79.2	1,300	67.4
2002	36,068	2,066	5.7	27,015	79.5	1,414	68.5
2003	36,213	2,130	5.9	26,968	79.1	1,460	68.5
2004	36,364	2,332	6.4	26,955	79.2	1,646	70.6
2005	36,510	2,451	6.7	26,908	79.0	1,767	72.1
2006	36,652	2,757	7.5	26,862	79.2	2,052	74.4

[1] LFS microdata for working age household population that excludes communal establishments, is consistent with population estimates first published in spring 2003.
[2] Men aged 16 to 64 and women age 16 to 59.
[3] Economically active people of working age as a percentage of all persons.
Notes:
1 Comparable data are not available for 1998 and 2000.
2 It should also be noted that the nationality question in the LFS is an undercount because: - it excludes those who have not been resident in the UK for six months. - it excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent. - it excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc). - it is grossed to population estimates that only include migrants staying for 12 months or more. - microdata is only grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates.
Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Table 2: Economically inactive people of working age 1, 2 want a job, and do not want a job, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

	All persons	Wants a job	Does not want a job
All inactive	7,739	2,025	5,714
of whom:			
Long-term sick or disabled	2,048	601	1,447

[1] LFS microdata for working age household population that excludes communal establishments, is consistent with population estimates first published in spring 2003.
[2] Men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.
Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Unemployment: Young People

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people aged 24 years or under were considered to be economically inactive in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each of the last 10 years. [151434]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 24 July 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people aged 24 years or under were considered to be economically inactive in (a) Eastbourne and (b) East Sussex in each of the last 10 years. I am replying in her absence. (151434)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of inactivity from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

The attached table shows the number of economically inactive persons, aged 16 to 24, resident in the Eastbourne constituency and the county of East Sussex, from the annual local area LFS, for the 12-month periods ending in February from 1997 to 2004 and from the APS for the 12-month periods ending in March 2005 and March 2006.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on very small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. In this case, the sample sizes are not sufficient to give an accurate estimate of even the direction of the change over time.

Economic inactivity of 16 to 24 year olds in Eastbourne parliamentary constituency and the county of East Sussex

Thousand

	Economically inactive 16 to 24 year olds	
12 months ending	Eastbourne	East Sussex
February 1997	3	11
February 1998	2	9
February 1999	2	6

Economic inactivity of 16 to 24 year olds in Eastbourne parliamentary constituency and the county of East Sussex

Thousand

12 months ending	*Economically inactive 16 to 24 year olds*	
	Eastbourne	*East Sussex*
February 2000	[1]—	8
February 2001	2	11
February 2002	1	10
February 2003	3	11
February 2004	2	8
March 2005	2	10
March 2006	3	10

[1] Sample size are too small to provide estimates.

Notes:

1. Data are subject to sampling variability.
2. Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with caution.

Source:

Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population Survey.

Valuation Office Agency

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings the Valuation Office Agency has had with the Australian Valuation Office in the last five years. [151322]

Jane Kennedy: There is no central record of meetings held between the Valuation Office Agency and the Australian Valuation Office and the information could not be obtained without disproportionate cost.

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which divisions of the Valuation Office Agency the secondees from the *(a)* Australian Valuation Office and *(b)* Hong Kong Valuation Office were working within. [151323]

Jane Kennedy: The secondees worked in the Valuation Office Agency's Chief Executive's Office (Non-Domestic Rating Section) and the London City Group and London District Valuer Service, respectively.

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 15 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1424W, on the Valuation Office Agency, if he will place in the Library a copy of the review. [150631]

Jane Kennedy: Office of Government Commerce (OGC) Gateway Reviews are conducted on a confidential basis for Senior Responsible Owners (SROs) of projects and programmes across government. To place this report in the public domain would put at risk an important process that has recorded £2.5 billion of value for money through avoided costs in central civil government since 2003.

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answers to the hon. Member for Meriden of 26 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 2134W, and 15 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1422W, on the Valuation Office Agency, how many flights and to which destinations were made in 2006-07; and what estimate he has made of how much carbon dioxide each contributed to the 83 tonnes of carbon dioxide. [151137]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency paid for 412 flights in the financial year 2006-07. Data are not held on how much each flight contributed to the 83 tonnes of CO_2 emissions.

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1424W to the hon. Member for Meriden, on the Valuation Office Agency, which organisation conducted the review. [151139]

Jane Kennedy: The review was conducted by the Office of Government Commerce.

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answers to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 26 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 2134W, and 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1500W, on the Valuation Office Agency, what conferences were attended during the visit to Japan. [151150]

Jane Kennedy: None.

Valuation Office Agency: HM Revenue and Customs

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what access the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) has to data held by HM Revenue and Customs to assist the VOA in its statutory functions. [150642]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 14 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 1851W.

Valuation Office Agency: Hong Kong

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1888W, on the Valuation Office Agency: Hong Kong, whether the Agency provided valuation advice on *(a)* domestic valuations and *(b)* business valuations. [150626]

Jane Kennedy: The valuation advice related to land for commercial development. No valuation advice was given relating to domestic property.

Valuation Office Agency: Optical Equipment

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many telescopic viewers the Valuation Office Agency has purchased in the last 36 months; and at what cost. [150629]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) on 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1877W. The Valuation Office Agency has not purchased any telescopic viewers in the last 36 months.

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what use the Valuation Office Agency is making of Ordnance Survey's pictometry oblique imagery. [151325]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 24 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1901W.

Valuation Office Agency: Digital Versatile Disks

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which DVDs have been produced by the Valuation Office Agency in the last 36 months; how many copies of such DVDs were produced; and what the cost was to the public purse of development, production and distribution. [151321]

Jane Kennedy: The VGA has produced no DVDs over the last 36 months.

Valuation Office Agency: Expenditure

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what expenditure the Valuation Office Agency has undertaken on *(a)* its import system and *(b)* infrastructure electronic billing authority reports since January 2005. [151329]

Jane Kennedy: The expenditure undertaken in providing and implementing the Electronic Billing Authority Reports application in the period January 2005 to 31 March 2007 was £1,478,352 (excluding VAT). The annual service charges in respect of the application are £31,929 (excluding VAT).

Valuation Office Agency: ICT

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many local authorities submit information to the Valuation Office Agency via electronic billing authority reports. [151330]

Jane Kennedy: The latest figures are that 160 local authorities have submitted information to the Valuation Office Agency via Electronic Billing Authority Reports.

Valuation Office Agency: Training

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 400W, on Valuation Office: training, from which company the media training was commissioned; and what the functions were of the staff who were trained. [151201]

Jane Kennedy: Media training was provided by the Government News Network. The staff trained were senior management whose function is to manage Valuation Offices.

Valuation Office Agency: Visits Abroad

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 400W to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar, on Valuation Office: visits abroad, how many staff visited each country; and at what cost; [151199]

(2) what the purpose was of each visit to *(a)* Australia, *(b)* Canada, *(c)* New Zealand, *(d)* the USA and *(e)* Lithuania. [151200]

Jane Kennedy: One member of staff attended conferences in Canada, New Zealand, USA and Australia. All costs were met by the conference organisers or by staff members. Four members of staff attended a conference in Lithuania. The total cost to the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) was £2,000. The Agency has also seconded staff to Australia. The cost to the VOA from 1 January 2007 was £8,481.

Valuation Office Agency: Non-domestic Rates

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency plans to collate value significant codes for the purposes of valuations of non-domestic dwelling for business rates. [151320]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency has no plans to collate Value Significant Codes for the purposes of valuations of properties for non-domestic rates.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* couples and *(b)* couples with household incomes of over £50,000 are claiming tax credits, broken down by region. [152317]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is provided in the following table.

Table 1: average number of families benefiting from tax credit awards in each country and each government office region of England, 2005-06 (couples only)

	All families	*Income used to taper in-work awards Over £50,000*
United Kingdom	3,643	139
England	3,024	117
North East	172	5
North West	439	15
Yorks and The Humber	344	10
East Midlands	290	10
West Midlands	360	11
East	333	15
London	321	14
South East	445	24
South West	320	11
Wales	196	5
Scotland	294	13
Northern Ireland	115	4
Foreign and not known	13	0

WORK AND PENSIONS

Antisocial Behaviour: Housing Benefit

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the timetable is for pilot schemes in respect of the withdrawal of housing

benefit as a sanction against households evicted for antisocial behaviour and who refuse to engage in a rehabilitation programme. [150850]

Mr. Plaskitt: We will pilot the scheme in eight local authorities, starting 1 November 2007, for a period of two years.

Child Support Agency: Fees and Charges

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons the Child Support Agency ceased its policy of charging a fee for use of its services in 1995; and if he will make a statement. [146434]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 24 July 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, for what reasons the Child Support Agency ceased its policy of charging a fee for use of its services in 1995; and if he will make a statement.

The Child Support Agency ceased to charge fees for its services in 1995. The Child Support Fees Regulations 1992 (S.I. 1992/3094) which covered the amount and circumstances in which fees could be charged were subsequently revoked in 1996.

As the 1998 Green Paper 'Children First' explained, the decision to firstly cease applying these regulations and to later revoke them was based on concerns about the unacceptable levels of service the Agency was providing. The regulation making power within the Act was retained to allow for the reintroduction of fees once the Agency could provide a level of service that would warrant it.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what amount of Child Support Agency arrears has been collected directly from non-resident parents' assets in each year since 1996-97; and if he will make a statement. [146435]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what amount of Child Support Agency arrears has been collected directly from non-resident parents' assets in each year since 1996-97; and if he will make a statement.

When enforcing the collection of child support arrears, all appropriate means of civil debt recovery proceedings will be considered to ensure effective, timely and efficient recovery of outstanding debt.

The attached table outlines what payments have been received directly by non-resident parents' assets in England & Wales and Scotland.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Payments received directly by non-resident parents' assets in England and Wales and Scotland

£

Payments received by process	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
England and Wales			
Bailiff	2,966,000	5,249,000	6,987,000
Order for recovery	90,000	120,000	101,000
Charging order/order for sale	1,027,000	1,493,000	2,357,000
Third party debt order	430,000	508,000	588,000
Scotland			
Attachment and exceptional attachment	26,000	54,000	118,000
Inhibition	72,000	306,000	242,000
Arrestment	28,000	53,000	147,000
Total	4,639,000	7,783,000	10,540,000

Notes:
1. Due to the implementation of a new management information system in 2003 the information requested is available only from 2004-05. The table details the amounts recovered by the various enforcement tools available to the agency.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the capacity of the private and voluntary sectors to provide low cost and free advice to separating parents on child maintenance issues; and if he will make a statement. [146703]

Mr. Plaskitt: From October 2008 we will have established an Information and Support Service where both parents can easily access free information and guidance in relation to child maintenance. To inform the design of this service we are actively engaging with voluntary sector organisations that have expertise in this area. The Department is also in the process of undertaking an assessment of the market capacity to deliver an information service from 2008 onwards. This assessment is necessary to inform our decision making regarding how the services can be most effectively delivered. We will not begin our procurement processes until this assessment is complete which we envisage will be late autumn 2007.

Counselling: Separation

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to introduce further advice and counselling services for separating couples with children. [147244]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Information and Support Service is a critical element of our reform programme. We will provide a national service available to all separate and separating parents who need help to think through their options or establish maintenance arrangements. A key aspect of this will be a national contact centre with web-based support and a face-to-face service where appropriate.

These services will provide high quality information products including a guide for parents and a standard maintenance agreement form and will signpost other

relevant parenting services. We will pro-actively direct low income families towards this service with the support of Jobcentre Plus and HMRC.

We also recognise that separating parents are not always clear about the issues they need to address and, likewise, the need to resolve wider separation issues first can act as a barrier to making maintenance arrangements. With this in mind, the Commission may also provide guides and links to key public and voluntary sector services and literature on non-maintenance related issues such as housing, benefits, debt and contact.

In order to fully understand what services separated or separating parents require we will carry out additional research that will help us develop further our understanding of what information and support services will be needed in the future.

Departments: Agencies

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Department paid in fees to recruitment agencies for *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent staff in each year since 1997. [151663]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many overseas visits were made by *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers within his responsibility, and at what cost, in each year since 1997. [151641]

Mrs. McGuire: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2006-07 is currently being compiled and will be published before the summer recess. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Disabled: Children

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps have been taken to promote inter-departmental working to help disabled children and their families following the former Prime Minister's overview, 'Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People', with particular reference to measures to help unemployed parents of disabled children who are seeking work; and if he will make a statement. [150853]

Mrs. McGuire: In January 2005, the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit published their report, 'Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People'. The report set out the Government's vision and made recommendations relating to disabled children, young people making the transition to adulthood, employment and independent living.

The Office for Disability Issues was established in December 2005 and is working across Government to improve outcomes for disabled people, including through a ministerial group and the board of management, both of which bring together a range of Departments to oversee delivery of the Government's strategy.

The chapter of the Life Chances report which considered employment did not make any specific recommendations relating to parents with disabled children. However, proposals set out in the July 2007 Green Paper, 'In Work, Better Off' are intended to make better use of the new deal approach for people who claim benefit as unemployed and are actively seeking work but who face significant barriers to finding work, including caring responsibilities at home.

More recently, the joint HMT/DfES children and young people's review, 'Aiming High for Disabled Children: Better Support for Families', published in May 2007, looked at how services can provide greater support for families with disabled children. The report's findings are feeding into the comprehensive spending review and will be implemented through a cross-Government framework.

Employment Schemes

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job applicants have undertaken a 15 day work trial since the inception of the trial programme; and how many of these have resulted in the applicant taking the position. [146558]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 24 July 2007:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to reply to your question about the number of job applicants undertaking a work trial and the number of these resulting in the applicant taking the position since the inception of the work trial programme. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Work trials were first introduced in 1989, since when they have formed part of an overall and constantly evolving package of measures to assist employers meet their recruitment needs. Until 2000 we did not routinely capture detailed management information on work trials. Since then, we have recorded information on the number of customers undertaking a work trial, but not the number of people confirmed permanently in the job. Our success in helping people into work is measured in terms of the number of people who leave benefit and move into work, but this is not broken down specifically to identify those securing a job through the help of a work trial.

The table below shows the number of work trial starts since April 2000.

April to March each year	*Work trial starts*
2000-01	6,580
2001-02	4,390
2002-03	3,340
2003-04	2,240
2004-05	1,700
2005-06	2,040
2006-07	3,640

Although we do not keep data on the number of people confirmed in post following a work trial, internal research suggests that up to 50% of those people who secured the job would not have done so without the help of a work trial.

I hope this is helpful.

Financial Assistance Scheme: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents of Peterborough constituency have been in receipt of funds under the Financial Assistance Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [151555]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As at 13 July 2007, there are 24 residents of Peterborough constituency in receipt of assistance from the Financial Assistance Scheme.

Housing Benefit

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the introduction of the local housing allowance; and what assessment he has made of the impact of its introduction on residents in rural areas. [150705]

Mr. Plaskitt: Local housing allowance (LHA) will be introduced nationally from 7 April 2008 and the preparation for its implementation is under way in all local authorities. It has been extensively evaluated in nine pathfinder areas and tested for operational readiness in a further nine. These local authorities were chosen to provide a range of different housing markets, geographical factors and labour markets.

One of the pathfinders, Teignbridge, is largely a rural area. As in the other eight evaluated LHA pathfinder areas, the implementation and delivery in Teignbridge was considered successful and the impact of the local housing allowance is covered in the local housing allowance evaluation publications.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of incapacity benefit claimants had been in receipt of incapacity benefit for five years or more in each year since 1997. [150848]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Incapacity benefit (IB)/severe disablement allowance (SDA) claimants with duration of five years or over, Great Britain

As at November each year:	*IB/SDA claimants with duration of five years or over*	*Percentage of IB/SDA claimants with duration of five years or over*
2000	1,233,030	44.6
2001	1,311,790	47.1
2002	1,392,350	49.4
2003	1,433,850	50.8
2004	1,468,620	52.2
2005	1,489,980	54.1
2006	1,500,380	55.3

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
2. 'Claimant' figures include credits only cases.
3. Figures for claimants with a duration of claim of five years or over are not available prior to 2000 as IB was not introduced until April 1995.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data

Incapacity Benefit: Mentally Ill

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of people claiming incapacity benefit did so due to mental and behavioural disorders in each year since 1997. [150052]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Percentage of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance (IB/SDA) claimants with a mental and behavioural disorder, Great Britain

As at November:	*Percentage*
1997	27.1
1998	29.1
1999	31.0
2000	32.7
2001	34.2
2002	35.7
2003	37.2
2004	38.5
2005	39.4
2006	40.6

Notes:
1. Caseload figures from 1999 onwards are rounded to the nearest 10. Some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
2. Caseload figures for 1997 and 1998 are rounded to the nearest 100.
3. Caseloads for 1997 and 1998 have been produced using 5 per cent. data and have been rated up in accordance with the Great Britain WPLS 100 per cent. IB/SDA totals.
4. 1997 and 1998 figures are from a 5 per cent. sample and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
5. From 6 April 2001, no new claims to SDA were accepted.
6. Figures include credits only cases.

Source:
1. DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, 1999 onwards.
2. Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent sample, 1997 and 1998.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have received jobseeker's allowance in the last 12 months. [150054]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the following table.

Jobseeker's allowance claimants, Great Britain June 2006 to May 2007

	Number
June 2006	927,300
July 2006	927,400
August 2006	925,800
September 2006	929,100
October 2006	927,400
November 2006	920,000
December 2006	912,300
January 2007	897,000
February 2007	894,200
March 2007	880,000
April 2007	864,400
May 2007	855,300

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Figures are taken from the second Thursday of each month.

Source:
Count of unemployment-benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems (including clerically held cases).

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of those claiming jobseeker's allowance in each year since 1997 had partners. [150060]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the following table.

Percentage of jobseeker's allowance claimants with partners[1], Great Britain

As at November at year	Percentage
1997	14.09
1998	13.96
1999	16.15
2000	15.14
2001	13.39
2002	12.53
2003	12.11
2004	11.05
2005	10.80
2006	11.14

[1] The figures for jobseeker's allowance with partners are based on cases where there is payment of additional benefit for a partner.

Notes:
1. There are a number of cases where partner status is unknown.
2. Figures for 1997 and 1998 are based on a five per cent sample, and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.

Source:
Department of Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample, 1997 and 1998, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, 1999 onwards.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will reply to the letter to his predecessor dated 29 May from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Muzzamal Hussain. [149156]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Secretary of State replied on 16 July 2007.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will answer the letter to his predecessor of 31 May from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Stephen Chetwyn. [150466]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Secretary of State replied on 19 July 2007.

National Insurance: Fraud

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in his Department and its agencies work on national insurance number fraud. [149973]

Mr. Plaskitt: We do not employ a specific number of staff to investigate national insurance number fraud. Benefit fraud investigators in the Department for Work and Pensions deal with allegations of benefit fraud relating to all aspects of benefits and services administered by this Department.

Pensions

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in *(a)* Eastbourne, *(b)* East Sussex, *(c)* England and *(d)* the UK are (i) eligible for and (ii) receive pension credits. [151411]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Estimates of pension credit eligibility are not available below the level of Great Britain. Latest estimates of the number of pensioners eligible for pension credit in Great Britain can be found in 'Pension Credit Estimates of Take-Up in 2005-06'. A copy of the report is available in the Library.

The following table shows the number of households in Eastbourne, the local authorities that make up East Sussex, England and Great Britain receiving pension credit at February 2007.

In Northern Ireland pension credit administration is a matter for the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Region	Pension credit household recipients
Eastbourne parliamentary constituency	5,410
East Sussex	
Eastbourne local authority	5,130
Hastings local authority	5,060
Lewes local authority	4,020
Rother local authority	4,630
Wealden local authority	5,330
England	2,283,630
Great Britain	2,729,490

Notes:
1. The figures provided are early estimates. The preferred data source for figures supplied by DWP is the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS). However, the figures provided are the latest available figures, which are taken from the GMS scan at 2 March 2007. These are adjusted using the historical relationship between WPLS and GMS data to give an estimate of the final WPLS figure.
2. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Households are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
4. Parliamentary constituencies are based on the 2005 parliamentary boundaries.
5. Figures at county level are not available from the early estimates, so we have provided the local authority figures that make up East Sussex county.

Source:
DWP 100 per cent. data from the Generalised Matching Service (GMS) pension credit scan taken as at 2nd March 2007.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the rates of basic state pension payable to *(a)* single pensioners and *(b)* couples were in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) 2006-07; and what the rates would have been in 2006-07 if they had been uprated in line with prices between 1996-97 and 2006-07. [151623]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is as follows:

	Single	£ Couple
1996-97	61.15	97.75
2006-07 (actual)	84.25	134.75
2006-07 (price uprated)	79.68	127.37

Notes:
1. All figures in cash terms.
2. Uprating calculations employ historic RPI series.
3. There is no such thing as a 'singles rate' though the maximum rate of the Category A pension is commonly referred to as the 'singles rate'. Similarly the sum of the Category A and Category B(L) pension is often referred to as the 'couples rate'.
3. Category B(L) pension is about 60 per cent. of the full-rate basic Category A pension. It is payable by virtue of a spouse's qualifying years or earnings.

Pensions: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average value of state pensions, benefits and other payments was to *(a)* single pensioners and *(b)* pensioner couples in York in 1996-97 and each year since then. [151530]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people *(a)* in the City of York local authority area and *(b)* City of York constituency receive (i) basic state pension and (ii) pension credit; and what the average weekly value of pension credit received is in each case. [151629]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The answer is in the following tables.

Basic state pension recipients at September 2006

	Number
York local authority	35,200
City of York parliamentary constituency	17,900

Notes:
1. Data is taken from 5 per cent. extract of the Pensions Strategy Computer System (PSCS), therefore figures are subject to a degree of sampling variation. They are also adjusted to be consistent with the overall caseload from the WPLS.
2. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
Source:
Five per cent sample, DWP Information Directorate

Number of households receiving pension credit and the average weekly amount of pension credit payments at February 2007

	Pension credit household recipients	*Average weekly amount*
York local authority	6,720	40.22
City of York parliamentary constituency	4,440	41.07

Notes:
1. The figures provided are early estimates. The preferred data source for figures supplied by DWP is the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS). However, the figures provided are the latest available figures, which are taken from the GMS scan at 2 March 2007. These are adjusted using the historical relationship between WPLS and GMS data to give an estimate of the final WPLS figure.
2. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Households are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
Source:
DWP 100 per cent. data from the Generalised Matching Service (GMS) Pension Credit scan taken as at 2 March 2007.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support his Department provides for people signed off incapacity benefit and awaiting jobseeker's allowance. [147461]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 24 July 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about support provided for people signed off Incapacity Benefit and awaiting Jobseeker's Allowance. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Payments to people who transfer between benefits, without a break, including from Incapacity Benefit to Jobseeker's Allowance, are not normally subject to delay, providing they meet all the conditions for benefit entitlement. If there are delays customers can request an interim payment, or apply for a crisis loan payment from the Social Fund.

I hope this is helpful.

Social Security Benefits: EC Nationals

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many EU citizens in the UK claiming *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* incapacity benefit have been in receipt of these benefits for more than (i) six months, (ii) 12 months and (iii) two years. [151632]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Social Security Benefits: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in City of York constituency were in receipt of each benefit administered by his Department *(a)* at the latest date for which figures are available and *(b)* on the same date in each of the previous 10 years; and how much was spent in the constituency on each benefit in each year. [151631]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available at constituency level and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Unemployment

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the numbers of people both looking for work and available for work who are not claiming either unemployment or incapacity benefit. [147943]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available.

However, the Office for National Statistics publishes an estimate of the number of people unemployed on the International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition— those who are not in employment but are actively seeking and available for work. This figure is derived from the Labour Force Survey, based on criteria set down by the ILO, and stood at 1.677 million in February to April 2007.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Adoption

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children in each local authority in England were *(a)* considered

and *(b)* successfully placed for adoption in (i) 2004-05 and (ii) 2005-06. [152325]

(2) how many children in the age groups corresponding most closely to the age group *(a)* under 12 months, *(b)* one to four years, *(c)* five to nine years, *(d)* 10 to 14 years and *(e)* 15 to 18 years registered with Isle of Wight council were adopted in the last period for which figures are available. [152326]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the number of children in each local authority in England who were considered for adoption is not collected centrally by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

Information on the number of children in each local authority in England who were placed for adoption in (i) 2004-05 and (ii) 2005-06 has been placed in the House Library. The data are also available in table 4 of the Statistical Volume on Children Looked After By Local Authorities Year Ending 31 March 2006 on my Department's website at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000721/TablesfinalRENAMED.xls

The number of children looked after by the Isle of Wight local authority who were adopted in the year ending 31 March 2006, is shown in the following table.

Children looked after who were adopted in the year ending 31 March 2006[1,2], England

Number

		Age at adoption				
	All children	*Under 1*	*1 to 4*	*5 to 9*	*10 to 15*	*16 and over*
Children adopted in England	3,700	190	2,300	940	180	20
Children adopted in the Isle of Wight	10	*	*	*	0	0

1. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements.
2. Figures are derived from the SSDA903 return.
3. To maintain the confidentiality of each individual child, data at national level are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 or to the nearest 10 otherwise. Data at local authority level are rounded to the nearest 5. Where the number was 5 or less (other than 0) this has been suppressed and replaced with an asterisk '*'.

Adoption: Standards

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were adopted in each local authority in England in each of the last three years; and what the target increases in adoption rates were in each case. [151066]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested has been placed in the House Library.

Classroom Assistants

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much has been allocated for the employment of teaching assistants in each year since 2000; and what funding has been allocated for each of the next three years; [151183]

(2) what average number of hours was worked per week by teaching assistants in *(a)* each government region, *(b)* each local education authority and *(c)* England, in the latest period for which figures are available. [151184]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The allocation of funds for the employment of teaching assistants is a matter for individual schools and local authorities.

Research commissioned by the Department into the deployment and impact of support staff in schools has looked at a range of characteristics of support staff as well as their deployment and impact on pupils. The first wave of the study, conducted in 2004, estimated that teaching assistants work an average of 26 hours per week. The report of the first wave can be found at http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RR776.pdf. The report of the second wave of the study, which will contain an updated estimate of average hours from fieldwork completed in 2006, will be published on Thursday 26 July.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what formal training is required for a person to obtain a post as a classroom assistant specifically working with special educational needs pupils. [151209]

Jim Knight: The employment and deployment of support staff, together with any training required in order to take up a post, is a matter for schools or local authorities to determine as the employer.

Support staffs, including teaching assistants, play an important role in schools, often working closely with pupils with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities. In recognition of this, the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA), which has responsibility for the training and development of the whole school workforce, has developed national occupational standards for teaching/classroom assistants. These contain elements relevant to working with pupils with SEN or particular educational needs. National Vocational Qualifications at level 2 and 3 are based on these standards.

In addition, the TDA has also developed induction training materials for teaching assistants and introductory training materials for other support staff working in primary and secondary schools. Both sets of materials contain discrete modules covering inclusion, SEN and disabilities.

The professional standards for higher level teaching assistants (HLTAs), for which the TDA is also responsible, require HLTAs to know how to support learners in accessing the curriculum, in accordance with the SEN code of practice.

All schools can use their own budget to fund the training and development of their staff. They also receive a school development grant which they are able to use to support improvements in any aspect of teaching and learning. This can include sending teaching assistants on specialised training courses. Local authorities may retain a proportion of this grant, in certain circumstances, to provide specific training and development in relation to SEN and disabilities. The TDA also provides local authorities with grant funding to support candidates through the HTLA training and assessment process.

Classroom Assistants: Pay

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average salary is of a teaching assistant. [151185]

Jim Knight: The salaries for all support staff are for local determination and are set either by local authorities (in the case of community and voluntary controlled schools) or governing bodies (in the case of foundation and voluntary aided schools). Due to the many variations in local pay across the country it is not possible to give an average salary.

Departments: Contracts

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which of his Department's contracts have been rewritten since 27 June; and what estimate he has made of the resulting cost. [148420]

Ed Balls: The Department does not maintain a central record of all contracts that have been or are about to be awarded. Contracts which are in the process of being awarded will have the name of the contracting authority changed from the Department for Education and Skills to the relevant new departmental title at little cost.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the annual value of private finance initiative projects within his responsibility was in each of the last five years, broken down by local education authority. [151540]

Jim Knight: Information on schools private finance initiative contracts, including balance sheet treatment and unitary charges, is included in HM Treasury's PFI Signed Projects List, which is available through:

www.hmtreasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats

This is a working document containing information on current signed PFI projects. It is updated on a 6-monthly basis to reflect the updates HM Treasury receives from Departments at Budget and pre-Budget report.

Digital Versatile Disks

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on the Y Touring Group's DVD production, "Every Breath"; and how many DVDs are being produced. [151598]

Jim Knight: The Department is working with the Y Touring Group, through the Central Office of Information, to produce a DVD version of their "Every Breath" play to be used as a teaching resource in schools. A total budget of £61,000 has been allocated to this project. An initial production run of approximately 2,000 DVDs is planned. These will be made available to schools via the Online Publication System. The level of demand will be monitored and stock managed accordingly.

Education and Skills Bill

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department will be the lead Department on the forthcoming Education and Skills Bill; and if he will make a statement. [151197]

Jim Knight: The Education and Skills Bill will be a joint bill between the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. The Bill will include provisions to raise to 18 the minimum age at which young people can leave education or training, and to implement recommendations of the recent Leitch review of skills. The Department will be the lead Department on the Bill, but I will be working closely with my ministerial colleagues in DIUS.

Family Courts: Counselling

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps his Department is taking to encourage mediation in family disputes in *(a)* publicly funded cases, *(b)* privately funded cases and *(c)* cases in which only one party is publicly funded; and whether his Department has set targets for mediation; [150032]

(2) what representations his Department and its predecessors have received from children's charities on mediation in family disputes; and if he will make a statement. [150035]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

The Government believe that mediation can offer considerable advantages over going to court in the settling of family disputes, especially where children are involved, irrespective of how cases are funded. To support and encourage mediation, we have established the Family Mediation Helpline and supporting website. The Helpline telephone number is 0845 60 26 627 and the website address is www.FamilyMediationHelpline.co.uk. We have sponsored a public awareness campaign; are facilitating judicial awareness seminars and supporting in-court referral schemes.

Provisions of the Children and Adoption Act 2006 will enable the court to direct parties in child contact disputes to attend a meeting about mediation. Referrals will also be encouraged through changes to court forms, particularly in relation to disputes over children.

The Legal Services Commission's revised Family Fee scheme will remove the financial disincentives for solicitors to make referrals to mediation. Under the scheme, it will be in the interests of the solicitor to make a referral to mediation and to do so at an earlier stage.

The Ministry does not set targets for mediation because we do not think that a target in this area would be desirable. There are certain cases which are unsuitable for mediation because there is an imbalance of power between the parties. We do not wish to see such cases, which include those where one of the parties has been subject to domestic violence, forced into mediation. In addition, while we can advise parties about the benefits of mediation it would be a breach of the parties' human rights to prevent them having their case heard in court.

Finally, neither this nor predecessor Departments have received any representations from children's charities regarding mediation in family disputes.

Health Education: Sex

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families at what pupil age schools begin teaching sex education in each local education authority. [151162]

Jim Knight: Certain aspects of sex and relationship education (SRE) are a statutory requirement as part of national curriculum science. This stipulates the issues that schools are required to cover at each of the four key stages. Beyond this, the Department's 'Sex and Relationship Education Guidance' outlines how schools can deliver a broader programme of SRE using the framework for Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE). The guidance provides information on the issues to be covered in both primary and secondary schools, but it is for individual schools to determine their own SRE policy, including how SRE is delivered and when. The Department does not collect information on this.

Primary Education

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many primary schools in each local education authority have voluntarily introduced classes in foreign languages, music or art. [151155]

Jim Knight: The following table details the proportion of schools in each local authority who reported in autumn 2006 that they were teaching languages in class time. These data were obtained from recent research commissioned by the Department, which estimated the proportion of schools teaching languages in class time based on a nationally representative sample.

Music and art and design are compulsory national curriculum subjects for all primary age pupils in maintained schools. All schools must teach the statutory programmes of study, but it is up to them to decide exactly how they deliver them. Schools may also provide extra-curricular activity in music and art, for example school choirs or art clubs that may be run after school, but no information is held centrally on the numbers of schools doing such activities.

Q1a: Do schools offer KS2 pupils the opportunity to learn a foreign language within class time?

	Yes	No	Percentage No response
Camden	100.00	—	—
Greenwich	78.57	21.43	—
Hackney	77.78	22.22	—
Hammersmith and Fulham	83.33	16.67	—
Islington	100.00	—	—
Kensington and Chelsea	83.33	16.67	—
Lambeth	81.25	18.75	—
Lewisham	50.00	42.86	7.14
Southwark	78.57	21.43	—
Tower Hamlets	25.00	66.67	8.33
Wandsworth	93.75	6.25	—
Westminster	100.00	—	—
Barking and Dagenham	100.00	—	—
Barnet	66.67	33.33	—
Bexley	100.00	—	—
Brent	71.43	28.57	—
Bromley	86.67	13.33	—
Croydon	63.16	36.84	—
Ealing	72.22	16.67	11.11
Enfield	86.67	6.67	6.67
Haringey	71.43	28.57	—
Harrow	100.00	—	—
Havering	86.67	6.67	6.67
Hillingdon	76.92	23.08	—
Hounslow	84.62	15.38	—
Kingston on Thames	66.67	33.33	—
Merton	91.67	8.33	—
Newham	90.91	9.09	—
Redbridge	57.14	42.86	—
Richmond upon Thames	100.00	—	—
Sutton	90.91	9.09	—
Waltham Forest	36.36	63.64	—
Birmingham	59.18	36.73	4.08
Coventry	88.89	11.11	—
Dudley	75.00	25.00	—
Sandwell	52.94	47.06	—
Solihull	88.89	11.11	—
Walsall	66.67	33.33	—
Wolverhampton	54.55	45.45	—
Knowsley	81.82	18.18	—
Liverpool	91.67	5.56	2.78
St. Helens	100.00	—	—
Sefton	83.33	16.67	—
Wirral	95.65	4.35	—
Bolton	96.00	4.00	—
Bury	94.44	5.56	—
Manchester	74.29	22.86	2.86
Oldham	81.25	18.75	—
Rochdale	80.00	20.00	—
Salford	100.00	—	—
Stockport	87.50	12.50	—
Tameside	90.48	9.52	—
Trafford	100.00	—	—
Wigan	96.15	3.85	—
Barnsley	47.06	41.18	11.76
Doncaster	76.92	23.08	—
Rotherham	100.00	—	—
Sheffield	96.55	3.45	—
Bradford	86.84	13.16	—
Calderdale	85.00	15.00	—
Kirklees	80.00	15.00	5.00
Leeds	79.37	19.05	1.59
Wakefield	87.10	12.90	—
Gateshead	100.00	—	—
Newcastle upon Tyne	92.00	8.00	—
North Tyneside	100.00	—	—
South Tyneside	100.00	—	—
Sunderland	60.00	33.33	6.67

Q1a: Do schools offer KS2 pupils the opportunity to learn a foreign language within class time?

	Yes	No	Percentage No response
Bath and North East Somerset	93.33	—	6.67
Bristol	71.43	28.57	—
North Somerset	94.12	5.88	—
South Gloucestershire	92.31	7.69	—
Hartlepool	90.91	—	9.09
Middlesbrough	83.33	16.67	—
Redcar and Cleveland	100.00	—	—
Stockton on Tees	76.47	23.53	—
Hull	83.33	16.67	—
East Riding of Yorks	97.22	2.78	—
North East Lincolnshire	78.57	14.29	7.14
North Lincolnshire	100.00	—	—
North Yorkshire	86.11	12.50	1.39
City of York	91.67	8.33	—
Bedfordshire	72.50	22.50	5.00
Luton	76.92	23.08	—
Buckinghamshire	95.24	4.76	—
Milton Keynes	100.00	—	—
Derbyshire	94.81	2.60	2.60
City of Derby	88.89	11.11	—
Dorset	54.05	35.14	10.81
Poole	100.00	—	—
Bournemouth	100.00	—	—
Durham	79.69	17.19	3.13
Darlington	100.00	—	—
East Sussex	75.76	24.24	—
Brighton and Hove	83.33	16.67	—
Hampshire	74.19	22.58	3.23
Portsmouth	16.67	83.33	—
Southampton	20.00	80.00	—
Leicestershire	91.04	8.96	—
Leicester	72.73	27.27	—
Rutland	100.00	—	—
Staffordshire	78.13	17.19	4.69
Stoke on Trent	50.00	42.86	7.14
Wiltshire	90.57	9.43	—
Swindon	90.91	9.09	—
Bracknell Forest	66.67	33.33	—
Windsor and Maidenhead	75.00	25.00	—
West Berkshire	92.86	7.14	—
Reading	100.00	—	—
Slough	80.00	20.00	—
Wokingham	75.00	25.00	—
Cambridgeshire	69.77	27.91	2.33
Peterborough City	80.00	20.00	—
Cheshire	77.97	20.34	1.69
Halton	100.00	—	—
Warrington	95.83	4.17	—
Devon	85.71	12.70	1.59
Plymouth	91.30	8.70	—
Torbay	88.89	11.11	—
Essex	69.66	23.60	6.74
Southend	100.00	—	—
Thurrock	71.43	28.57	—

Q1a: Do schools offer KS2 pupils the opportunity to learn a foreign language within class time?

	Yes	No	Percentage No response
Herefordshire	95.24	4.76	—
Worcestershire	77.50	20.00	2.50
Kent	91.51	7.55	0.94
Medway	81.25	18.75	—
Lancashire	77.19	21.05	1.75
Blackburn	55.56	44.44	—
Blackpool	100.00	—	—
Nottinghamshire	83.93	16.07	—
Nottingham City	50.00	25.00	25.00
Shropshire	81.08	18.92	—
Telford and Wrekin	81.82	18.18	—
Cornwall	76.77	23.23	—
Cumbria	94.83	5.17	—
Gloucestershire	94.44	5.56	—
Hertfordshire	68.67	25.30	6.02
Isle of Wight	92.31	7.69	—
Lincolnshire	67.74	27.42	4.84
Norfolk	71.21	27.27	1.52
Northamptonshire	86.89	13.11	—
Northumberland	87.50	12.50	—
Oxfordshire	87.14	11.43	1.43
Somerset	80.77	15.38	3.85
Suffolk	69.14	28.40	2.47
Surrey	84.00	14.00	2.00
Warwickshire	77.14	20.03	2.86
West Sussex	84.44	15.56	—
Total	81.38	16.83	1.80

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government have taken to promote the teaching of foreign languages, music or art at primary school level. [151166]

Jim Knight: One of the three overarching objectives in the National Languages Strategy, published in 2002, was an entitlement that by 2010 all 7 to 11-year-old pupils will be able to learn a language at least in part in class time. Already some 70 per cent. of schools are providing primary languages within class time, so are making excellent progress towards this goal. We have backed this by action on a range of fronts including: training over 2,000 primary teachers with a languages specialism and aiming to train 6,000 by 2010; committing £49 million over 2006-07 and 2007-08 to support the introduction of primary languages; developing new schemes of work for French, German and Spanish; and setting up the Primary Languages Training Zone, an interactive website for teachers, school leaders and trainers involved in the delivery of primary languages.

In October 2006, we commissioned a languages review, which was chaired by Lord Dearing and which reported in March 2007. We have accepted Lord Dearing's recommendation that languages should become a compulsory part of the primary curriculum when it is next reviewed. This will mean that all pupils will learn languages for seven years. We hope that learning languages earlier will inspire children with a love of languages and motivate them to continue learning languages post-14.

Music and Art and Design are compulsory National Curriculum subjects for all five to 14-year-olds. To begin to realise our aim that every primary pupil who wants to should have an opportunity to learn a musical instrument the Government have invested £30 million in primary instrumental and vocal tuition over the last two years. We are putting a further £10 million this year into a national singing programme aiming to make singing an integral part of every child's school day. The Government are investing £36.5 million this year in the creative partnerships programme which promotes schools working with creative artists.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the average capital cost per pupil of *(a)* an academy and *(b)* a local education authority controlled state secondary school; and if he will make a statement. [150813]

Jim Knight: The average capital cost per pupil of an academy is £20,400. This figure has been calculated by reference to the actual or estimated capital cost of establishing the first 91 academies in relation to their pupil capacity.

Comparable figures for maintained secondary schools constructed in recent years are unavailable centrally. But a typical cost per pupil for construction of a 1,000-pupil maintained secondary would be in the range of £18,750 to £22,900 per pupil, excluding site acquisition costs.

There are considerable variations in building costs according to region and the nature of sites.

Reading: Teaching Methods

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in each local education authority taught synthetic phonics in each of the last five years. [151236]

Jim Knight: Phonics has been part of the national curriculum since it was introduced in 1998. However, we do not hold information on the number of schools teaching synthetic phonics.

Schools

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in each local education authority have *(a)* expanded their capacity in each of the last 10 years and *(b)* are in the process of expanding their capacity. [151204]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the House Library.

Schools: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 119W, on schools: Chelmsford, for what reasons he did not provide the requested figures for the Chelmsford borough council area; and if he will do so. [151442]

Jim Knight: Figures were requested for Chelmsford local authority area and because Chelmsford is not a local education authority area the reply provided information for Essex local authority area. I apologise that this was not made clear. Figures for Chelmsford district council are provided in the following table:

All schools: number (headcount) of pupils[1], as at January 2007 (provisional), Chelmsford district council area

	Headcount of pupils
Maintained Nursery	291
Maintained Primary	12,351
Maintained Secondary	13,131
Maintained Special	450
Non-Maintained Special	[2]—
Pupil Referral Units	[2]—
Independent Schools	1,954
City Technology Colleges and Academies	[2]—

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[2] Not applicable, no schools of this type
Source:
School Census

Schools: Closures

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools closed in each of the last 10 years; and what the case for closure was in each case. [151237]

Jim Knight: The following table sets out the number of maintained, mainstream schools which have closed following decisions taken under local decision making arrangements, which were introduced in September 1999, including the reasons for their closure.

Reason for Closure

	Cease to maintain	Change religious character	Due to amalgamation	For an academy	For fresh start	To allow for a new establishment	Total
2000	13	—	96	—	8	—	117
2001	26	4	194	1	3	3	231
2002	33	9	181	3	1	1	228
2003	38	10	173	8	5	1	235
2004	53	6	192	6	7	—	264
2005	39	8	218	7	7	—	272
2006	41	4	222	17	3	1	288
2007	4	—	12	1	1	—	18
Total	247	41	1,281	43	35	6	1,653

Information held on proposals that were decided under the arrangements that operated prior to September 1999 is not reliable and has therefore been excluded. The figures for the early years of this table will therefore exclude closures that were decided before September 1999.

Schools: Construction

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many new *(a)* primary schools, *(b)* secondary schools and *(c)* academies were built in each of the last five years (i) with and (ii) without sprinklers. [151478]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not hold this information.

Schools: Fire Extinguishers

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance is given by his Department on the fitting of sprinklers in schools. [151479]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children, Schools and Families has advised all local authorities and fire brigades that we expect new schools to be fitted with sprinkler systems in future. However, the decision as to whether or not to install sprinkler systems will be based on a risk analysis and there may be a few cases where new schools are at a low risk of fire and where sprinklers would not represent good value for money. The risk analysis and cost benefit analysis tools we have recently published to help clients decide whether or not to install sprinkler systems in schools can also be used to determine whether or not an existing school should have sprinklers fitted, as part of a refurbishment project.

In the autumn we will be publishing a standard specification for sprinkler systems in schools in our Standard Specifications Layouts and Designs series of guidance documents. Also, in August, we will be publishing the new Building Bulletin 100 Designing and Managing against the Risk of Fire in Schools which will be the normal means of compliance with Building Regulations Part B. This will include comprehensive guidance on when to install sprinkler systems in schools.

Schools: Fires

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many fires there were in schools in each of the last five years. [151481]

Jim Knight: The latest figures we have are from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) for England and Wales and cover 2000-04, with provisional figures for 2005.

	Number of fires	*Total costs (£ million)*	*Arson (Percentage)*
2000	1,275	45	63
2001	1,529	67	58
2002	1,332	67	55
2003	1,313	61	60
2004	1,291	52	56
2005[2]	1,166	[1]—	45

[1] Not available
[2] Provisional

The costs are rounded to the nearest £1 million and are derived from the (then) ODPM's cost of Fire Estimates, published last year. They cover property damage and the costs of the fire and rescue services attending the fires.

Schools: First Aid

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps the Government are taking to encourage the teaching of first aid to students and members of school staff; [151158]

(2) how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each local education authority area taught first aid to their students in each of the last 10 years. [151160]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect information on when schools cover first aid teaching with pupils.

The Department's Safety Education: Guidance for schools DFS/0161/2002 provides information on how the framework for personal, social and health education (PSHE) can address the issue of accidental injury in children and young people. The framework includes teaching young people at primary school level about school rules relating to health and safety issues, and at secondary school level to develop skills to cope with emergencies, including first aid and resuscitation techniques. Beyond this, the guidance also highlights how other parts of the national curriculum can be used to develop children's ability to recognise hazards and respond appropriately to risky situations.

The Department encourages schools to develop strategies that are effective at a local level in raising the profile of safety education and dealing with medical emergencies, working with suitable partners where appropriate to do so. We are aware of the valuable support that organisations such as the British Red Cross offer individual schools or groups of schools at a local level to enrich curriculum work in this area.

Advice on first aid training for school staff is included in the Department's Guidance on First Aid for Schools by means of which we encourage first aid provision for schools and their pupils.

Schools: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many private finance initiative funded schools closed prematurely in each of the last five years; and what the cost was to the public purse of *(a)* establishing and *(b)* closing those schools. [151471]

Jim Knight: The Department is only aware of one public finance funded school which has closed prematurely in the last five years. (College of Media, Arts and Technology in Brighton and Hove). All detailed cost information for establishing and closing this school is held at the local authority level.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools have been funded via the private finance initiative in the last five years, broken down by local education authority area. [151472]

Jim Knight: Since April 2001, 457 schools have been funded via the private finance initiative. The following table gives a breakdown by local authority area.

LEA name	*Project name*	*Number schools*
Barking and Dagenham	Barking and Dagenham—Two Schools	2
Barnsley	Barnsley—Thirteen schools	13
Bedfordshire	Mid-Bedfordshire Schools Upper Schools Project	2
Bexley	Bexley—Three Schools	3
Birmingham	Birmingham 2—Twelve Schools	12
Bolton	Bolton—Castle Hill School	1
Bradford	BSF Pathfinder/Wave 1	3

LEA name	Project name	Number schools
Brighton and Hove	Brighton and Hove—four schools	4
Bristol	Bristol—Grouped Schools Project (Phase 1A)	4
Bristol	BSF Pathfinder/Wave 1	4
Calderdale	Calderdale—Grouped Schools Project	5
Camden	Camden—Haverstock School	1
Cheshire	Cheshire—Ellesmere Port and Neston Schools	6
Cornwall	Cornwall 2—Truro schools	17
Coventry	Coventry—Caludon Castle School	1
Croydon	Croydon—Ashburton School	1
Darlington	Darlington—Five Schools Project	4
Derby	Derby—Grouped Schools	5
Derbyshire	Derbyshire 1—Grouped Schools PFI Project	2
Derbyshire	Derbyshire 2—Long Eaton and Newbold Replacement Schools Project	2
Devon	Devon—Six Schools Project	6
Doncaster	Doncaster—Two schools	2
Dudley	Dudley 2—Paragon Project	2
Ealing	Ealing 1—Ealing Schools Project	4
Eating	Ealing 2—Three schools	3
Enfield	Enfield—Joint Schools Project	3
Essex	Essex 2—NDS—Tendring Schools	12
Essex	Essex 3—Clacton-on-Sea Education Project	3
Gateshead	Gateshead—Group of Schools	7
Harrow	Harrow—Special Schools PFI	3
Havering	Havering—Frances Bardsley School	1
Herefordshire	Herefordshire—Whitecross High School	1
Kent	Kent—Six schools (including Hugh Christie Technology College)	6
Kent	Kent—Swanscombe Schools	2
Kirklees	Kirklees 2—Special Schools Reorganisation	4
Lambeth	Lambeth—Lilian Baylis School and Resource Centre	1
Lambeth	Lambeth ICT—Connected Learning Project	1
Lancashire	BSF Wave 1	10
Leeds	BSF Wave 1	5
Leeds	Leeds 1—7 Schools	7
Leeds	Leeds 2—Ten Primary Schools	10
Leeds	Leeds 3 and 4—Secondary and Post 16 PFI Project	6
Leicester City	BSF Wave 1	6
Lewisharn	Lewisham—Grouped Schools Modernisation (PFI) Project	7
Lincolnshire	Lincolnshire—Seven Schools Project	7
Liverpool	Liverpool—Grouped Schools Project	18
Liverpool	Liverpool—Speke/Garston Lifelong Learning Centre	1
Manchester	Manchester 2—Wright Robinson Sports College	1
Merton	Merton—Age of Transfer	6
Newcastle upon Tyne	BSF Wave 1	3
Newcastle upon Tyne	Newcastle 1—Six schools	6
Newham	Newham—Joint Schools Project	1
Norfolk	Norfolk 2—Norwich Area Grouped Schools PFi Project	12
North Tyneside	North Tyneside—Four schools project	4
Northamptonshire	Northamptonshire 1—Wooldale Centre for Learning	1
Northamptonshire	Northamptonshire 2—Northampton Review	41
Nottinghamshire	Nottinghamshire 1—East Leake Schools	2
Nottinghamshire	Nottinghamshire 2—Bassetlaw Phases 1 and 2	8
Oldham	Oldham—Grouped Schools	2
Peterborough	Peterborough—Secondary Schools Scheme	3
Plymouth	Plymouth 1and 2-Whitleigh Community Campus and Replacement Primaries	9
Redbridge	Redbridge—Oaks Park School	1
Redcar and Cleveland	Redcar and Cleveland—Grouped schools	5
Richmond upon Thames	Richmond upon Thames—Primary Schools	6
Rochdale	Rochdale—Aiming High	4
Rotherham	Rotherham—Grouped Schools	15
Salford	Salford 1—Special Schools Project	3
Salford	Salford 2—High Schools PFI Project	3
Sandwell	Sandwell—Five Schools PFI Project	5
Sheffield	BSF Pathfinder/Wave 1	3
Sheffield	Sheffield Schools Phase 2	2
Sheffield	Sheffield Schools Phase 3	4
Slough	Slough—Three schools	3
Solihull	BSF Wave 1	3
South Tyneside	South Tyneside—Boldon High School	1
Southampton	Southampton—Three Secondary Schools	3
Stockton-on-Tees	Stockton on Tees—Community Campus at Ingleby Barwick	2
Sunderland	Sunderland—Sandhill View School	1
Swindon	Swindon—North Swindon Schools PFI	7
Tameside	Tameside—Hattersley Schools	3
Telford and Wrekin	Telford and Wrekin—Hadley Learning Community Incorporating Jigsaw	3
Tower Hamlets	Tower Hamlets—Grouped Schools	25
Tower Hamlets	Tower Hamlets—Mulberry School	1
Walsall	Walsall—St. Thomas More VA School	1
Waltham Forest	BSF Wave 1	2
Waltham Forest	Waltham Forest 2—Grouped Schools Project	8
West Sussex	West Sussex—Crawley schools scheme	3
Worcestershire	Worcestershire—Bromsgrove Schools	7
York	York—Four schools	4
Total schools	—	457

This is the most up-to-date information that the Department holds, but there may be more current information held at LA level.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of all school building projects was financed through *(a)* private finance initiative funding and *(b)* capital funding in each of the last 10 years, broken down by local education authority. [151536]

Jim Knight: The Department holds information on central Government allocations to local education authorities each year for conventional capital funding, and for PFI credits, but not on all school building projects. Local authorities have considerable flexibility to decide how to use their investment, for instance on the number, size and type of project, and we collect only some information on how capital allocations are used.

I am arranging for information on PFI and conventional funding allocations to authorities over the past 10 years to be placed in the House Library.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many of the schools procured under private finance initiative since 1997 are now conventional capital projects using design and build contracts. [151537]

Jim Knight: The Department does not routinely collect this information. To the best of our knowledge none of the schools procured under PFI since 1997 are now conventional capital projects using Design and Build contracts.

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many statements of special educational needs were issued in each year since 1994-95, broken down by local authority; and what proportion of children in each authority had statements in the latest year for which information is available. [150695]

Jim Knight: Information on statements of special educational needs from 2000 onwards by local authority as at January each year has been placed in the Library. Figures for earlier years are not readily available.

Young People: Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children and young people (1) were sent to a penal establishment for breaching their antisocial behaviour order in each of the last three years; [150738]

(2) received an antisocial behaviour order in each of the last three years. [150739]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

The Home Office has the lead responsibility for antisocial behaviour policy.

The number of persons aged 10-17 who received an antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) in the last three years is as follows:

625 in 2003,

1,320 in 2004 and

1,558 in 2005.

The latest data available for breaches of ASBO and custody are for 2003. The figures show that 30 young people in total between 2000 and 2003 were sentenced to custody for breach of ASBO alone—in all other cases, they were convicted for other offences at the same time.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Learning Disability

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he plans to take to ensure that adults with a learning disability have access to learning opportunities to acquire and maintain life skills including literacy and numeracy. [150917]

Mr. Lammy: Adult learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LLDD) remain an important priority for the Government, as set out in the Learning and Skills Council's "Annual Statement of Priorities and in Progression through Partnership" the Government's strategy for improving outcomes for LLDD learners, which was published in June 2007.

In 2004/05, expenditure on LLDD provision rose by 15 per cent. from the previous year to £1.5 billion. Funding per learner is expected to continue to rise.

LLDD learners are one of the priority groups targeted by the Skills for Life strategy, which offers free literacy and numeracy provision to adults.

In response to the report, "Freedom to Learn", the Skills for Life Strategy Unit in the Department produced a range of materials to support the teaching and learning infrastructure for adults with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. These include tailored curriculum frameworks, guidance for teachers, assessment materials, teaching and learning materials, and a framework for understanding dyslexia. We have also tested the entire Skills for Life learning infrastructure to ensure it properly supports LLDD learners, and commissioned a training programme for staff in the sector.

The Quality Improvement Agency is now working to further improve the quality of LLDD teaching and learning.

Apprentices: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many apprenticeship places there are for 16 and 17 year olds in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex; and what plans he has for the provision of such places in the future. [151353]

Mr. Lammy: (i) The following table shows the number of apprenticeship starts for 16 to 18-year-olds in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in 2005-06.

	Eastbourne	*East Sussex*
Apprenticeship starts for 16 to 18-year-olds	130	560
Advanced apprenticeship starts for 16 to 18-year-olds	40	170

Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Work Based Learning (WBL) Individualised Learner Record (ILR)

(ii) We want to continue the expansion of apprenticeships so that by 2013 every suitably qualified young person will be able to take up a place on the programme.

We are working with the LSC to promote apprenticeships to employers of all sizes and so increase their take-up. Many employers are already on board with 130,000 offering apprenticeships in England with over 180 apprenticeships available across more than 80 industry sectors.

We have increased the completion rate to 59 per cent. and rising—up from only 24 per cent. five years ago. We plan to increase this further in the next three years to match that of other top competitors. The Government

are working with the LSC and key partners to deliver provider incentives; foster provider collaboration; improve staff training; and develop with Sector Skills Councils guidance for individual sectors.

Diplomas will also provide clear progression routes into apprenticeships and, indeed, contain apprenticeship components within their content where specified by the Diploma Development Partnerships.

We are also building stronger links with higher education to ensure that apprentices who have the ambition and capacity to do so can enter higher education.

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many apprenticeship schemes are operating in the Poole area. [151579]

Mr. Lammy: Figures for those participating in apprenticeships can be derived from the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) Individualised Learner Record (ILR). There were 380 learners on apprenticeships and 180 on advanced apprenticeships in Poole parliamentary constituency (based on home postcode of the learner) in 2005-06.

Note:

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Work Based Learning (WBL) Individualised Learner Record (ILR)

Apprentices: Gravesham

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many apprenticeship schemes are operating in the Gravesham area. [149996]

Mr. Lammy: Figures for those participating in apprenticeships can be derived from the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) Individualised Learner Record (ILR). There were 340 learners on apprenticeships and 190 on advanced apprenticeships in Gravesham parliamentary constituency (based on home post code of the learner) in 2005/06.

Note:

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Work Based Learning (WBL) Individualised Learner Record (ILR)

Apprentices: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many apprenticeships there were in York in 2005-06. [151625]

Mr. Lammy: Figures for those participating in apprenticeships can be derived from the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) Individualised Learner Record (ILR). There were 640 learners on apprenticeships and 280 on advanced apprenticeships in City of York parliamentary constituency (based on home post code of the learner) in 2005/06.

Note:

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Work Based Learning (WBL) Individualised Learner Record (ILR).

Degrees: Ethnic Groups

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what percentage of students from *(a)* Asian Bangladeshi, *(b)* Asian Chinese, *(c)* Asian Indian, *(d)* Asian Pakistani, *(e)* other Asian, *(f)* Black African, *(g)* Black Caribbean, *(h)* Other Black, *(i)* White and *(j)* other ethnic backgrounds received (i) a first class, (ii) an upper second, (iii) a lower second, (iv) a third class, (v) another pass and (vi) a fail in undergraduate honours degrees in each year since 1997. [148118]

Bill Rammell: The available information on students obtaining first degree qualifications is given in two tables which have been placed in the Libraries.

A new ethnicity classification was introduced on the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record in 2001/02 which allowed those students of mixed ethnicity to be classified in more detail. Additionally for the earlier figures, students qualifying from dormant modes of study are excluded, whereas such students are included in the population count for 2001/02 onwards. As such, figures for 2000/01 and earlier are not strictly comparable with those for 2001/02 onwards.

Information for 2006/07 will be available in January 2008.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of universities with a *(a)* financial deficit, *(b)* diminishing budget surplus and *(c)* risk of insolvency. [150526]

Bill Rammell: There are no universities at imminent risk of insolvency, although six institutions were judged by the Higher Education Funding Council for England to be "at higher risk" in March 2007 and are being supported by the council. Higher education institutions will also be able to draw on new funding streams we have introduced such as income from variable tuition fees and voluntary giving to strengthen their financial position, and the number of institutions with historical cost deficits is forecast to fall from 14 per cent. now to 5 per cent. in 2010.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what discussions his Department and its predecessor have held with university representatives or vice-chancellors on raising university tuition fees. [151333]

Bill Rammell: Whenever this issue has been raised either by university representatives, vice-chancellors or student unions we have consistently said that before any changes could even be considered there will be an independent commission in 2009 which will examine the evidence from the first three years of the new fees regime, and which will report directly to Parliament. That remains the case. Draft terms of reference for the commission were published in January 2004. It would be premature to speculate now about what the commission

might recommend or indeed whether Parliament would agree with any recommendations.

Higher Education: NHS

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how premises on which leases had been taken for the NHS University were disposed of. [150524]

Ann Keen: I have been asked to reply.

The handover report produced by the chief executive of the national health service university (NHSU) on closure of the organisation states that the NHSU did not own land or buildings.

All leases were terminated by October 2005 in accordance with the lease for each property.

Nanotechnology

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what Government-funded research and development support has been given to the development of UK nanotechnology companies. [150718]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Science and Innovation at DTI on 21 June concerning overall Government spend on nanotechnology. Estimated Government support for nanotechnology work over the last 10 years amounts to around £408 million.

The Technology Strategy Board (an Executive NDPB of DIUS) invests to support nanotechnology companies through two initiatives:

(i) A portfolio of 26 Nanotechnology Collaborative R and D projects is being supported, which brings together business and academia to undertake joint research that has a future commercial use. Funding of £14 million since 2004 (against £32 million total project costs) has been provided to consortia involving business and academia, with business providing just over half of the funding; and

(ii) The network of 24 UK-based Nanotechnology Centres, with a total budget of £54 million over five years, provides open access facilities to enable companies (particularly SMEs) to use expensive pieces of equipment to test new ideas and prototypes.

Additionally, EPSRC currently funds 167 research grants classified as having a significant nanotechnology component that have a formal collaboration with UK industry. These grants have a total value of £86 million.

Student Wastage

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the non-completion rate was of students who took *(a)* A-levels, *(b)* other academic level 3 qualifications and *(c)* vocational level 3 qualifications in each of the last five years. [149789]

Bill Rammell: Projected non-completion rates are released by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) each year within the Performance Indicators in Higher Education publication. The latest available non-completion projections are shown in table 1.

Table 1: Proportion of UK-domiciled entrants to full-time first degree courses in UK higher education institutions (HEIs) who are projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another institution

Academic year	Percentage
1999/2000	15.9
2000/01	15.0
2001/02	14.1
2002/03	14.4
2003/04	14.9

Source:
"Performance Indicators in Higher Education", published by HESA

The 2004/05 figure will be released by HESA on 19 July 2007. These non-completion rates are not available broken down by entry qualification.

Drop-out is more likely to occur during the first year of higher education. The performance indicators also include non-continuation rates, which show the proportion of entrants who are not detected in higher education after their first year. The latest available non-continuation rates are shown in table 2.

Table 2: Proportion of UK-domiciled young entrants to full-time first degree courses at UK HEIs not continuing in higher education after their first year

Academic year	Percentage
1999/2000	7.8
2000/01	7.1
2001/02	7.3
2002/03	7.8
2003/04	7.7

Source:
"Performance Indicators in Higher Education", published by HESA

The 2004/05 figure will be released by HESA on 19 July 2007. The 2002/03 and 2003/04 non-continuation rates are available broken down by entry qualification, as shown in table 3.

Table 3: Percentage of UK-domiciled young entrants to full-time first degrees in UK HEIs in 2002/03 and 2003/04 not continuing in higher education after their first year

Entry qualification categories/tariff points	Entrants 2002/03	Entrants 2003/04
A-levels or highers:		
Unknown	11.3	12.6
Up to 200	11.7	11.9
201 to 290	7.9	8.1
291 to 380	4.9	5.3
Above 380	2.6	2.8
Other qualifications	11.4	11.6
All qualifications	7.8	7.7

Source:
Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)

Student Wastage: Age

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the non-completion rate was of students who entered higher education between the ages of *(a)* 18 and 20, *(b)* 21 and 25, *(c)* 25 and 30 and *(d)* 30 years and above in each of the last five years. [149784]

Bill Rammell: Projected non-completion rates are released by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) each year within the Performance Indicators in Higher Education publication. The latest available non-completion projections are shown in table 1.

Table 1: Proportion of UK-domiciled entrants to full-time first degree courses in UK higher education institutions (HEIs) who are projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another institution

Academic Year	Percentage
1999-2000	15.9
2000-01	15.0
2001-02	14.1
2002-03	14.4
2003-04	14.9
2004-05	14.2

Source: "Performance Indicators in Higher Education", published by HESA.

These non-completion rates are not available broken down by age group.

Drop-out is more likely to occur during the first year of higher education. The performance indicators also include non-continuation rates, which show the proportion of entrants who are not detected in higher education after their first year. The latest available non-continuation rates are shown in table 2.

Table 2: Proportion of UK-domiciled entrants to full-time first degree courses at UK HEIs not continuing in higher education after their first year

Academic year	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Young (under 21)	7.8	7.1	7.3	7.8	7.7	7.2
Mature (21 and over)	15.9	14.5	14.9	15.4	15.6	14.4
All entrants	9.7	8.7	9.0	9.5	9.5	8.8

Source: "Performance Indicators in Higher Education", published by HESA.

A more detailed age breakdown is not available.

Student Wastage: Gender

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what estimate he has made of the non-completion rate of *(a)* male and *(b)* female students, broken down by number of UCAS tariff points on entry; [149782]

(2) what the non-completion rate was of *(a)* female and *(b)* male students who entered higher education between the ages of (i) 18 and 20, (ii) 21 and 25, (iii) 25 and 30 and (iv) 30 years and above in each of the last five years, broken down by ethnicity; [149785]

(3) what the non-completion rate was of *(a)* female and *(b)* male students in each of the last five years, broken down by ethnicity; [149787]

(4) what the non-completion rates were of *(a)* UK domiciled, *(b)* non-UK but EU domiciled and *(c)* non-EU domiciled (i) males and (ii) females in each of the last 10 years. [149790]

Bill Rammell: Table 1 contains the latest available projected non-completion indicators for entrants to full-time first degree courses.

Table 1: Proportion of UK-domiciled entrants to full-time first degree courses at UK higher education institutions who are projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another institution

Academic year	Percentage
1999/2000	15.9
2000/01	15.0
2001/02	14.1
2002/03	14.4
2003/04	14.9
2004/05	14.2

Source:
"Performance Indicators in Higher Education", published by HESA

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) publishes these projected non-completion indicators in its Performance Indicators in Higher Education publication each year. These indicators are not available broken down by gender or entry qualification.

HESA also publishes non-continuation indicators, which show the proportion of entrants to full-time first degree courses not continuing in higher education after their first year. Table 2 contains the latest available non-continuation rates.

Table 2: Proportion of UK-domiciled entrants to full-time first degree courses at UK higher education institutions not continuing in higher education after their first year

Academic year	Young (under 21)	Mature (21 and over)	All entrants
1999/2000	7.8	15.9	9.7
2000/01	7.1	14.5	8.7
2001/02	7.3	14.9	9.0
2002/03	7.8	15.4	9.5
2003/04	7.7	15.6	9.5
2004/05	7.2	14.4	8.8

Source:
"Performance Indicators in Higher Education", published by HESA

A more detailed age breakdown is not available.

Table 3 contains the available information for non-continuation indicators broken down by entry qualification.

Table 3: Proportion of UK-domiciled young entrants to full-time first degree courses at UK higher education institutions not continuing in higher education after their first year 2002/03 and 2003/04

Entry qualification categories/tariff points	2002/03	2003/04
A-levels or highers:		
Unknown	11.3	12.6
Up to 200	11.7	11.9
201 to 290	7.9	8.1
291 to 380	4.9	5.3
Above 380	2.6	2.8
Other qualifications	11.4	11.6
All qualifications	7.8	7.7

Source:
Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)

Table 4 contains the available information for non-continuation indicators broken down by gender.

Table 4: Proportion of UK-domiciled young entrants to full-time first degree courses at UK higher education institutions not continuing in higher education after their first year—2003/04

Gender	Proportion
Female	6.7
Male	8.8
Total	7.7

Source:
Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)

Figures for non-continuation indicators broken down by ethnicity are not available.

Figures for non-completion and non-continuation indicators are available for UK-domiciled students only.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Angola: Democracy

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the attitude of the Government of

Angola towards *(a)* a free press, *(b)* unbiased judiciary, *(c)* freedom for opposition groups to operate without harassment and *(d)* institutionalised corruption; and if he will make a statement. [151624]

Meg Munn: In Angola there is an independent press and a few radio stations that are free to voice criticism of the Government. However, in the provinces the Government-run media largely dominates media coverage. There is only one independent nationwide broadcaster, Radio Vorgan (run by the main opposition party, União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA).

The Government of Angola is taking measures to reform the judiciary and associated legislation, much of which pre-dates the civil war, which ended in 2002. Our embassy in Luanda has sponsored three projects in conjunction with the Bar Association of Angola to assist in the development of the judiciary. We welcome the Government's introduction of a new press law, which is currently in preparation and will provide more scope for independent reporting. Both the Constitutional Law and the Penal Code are also under review.

There is complex legislation relating to the registration of political parties which is rigorously enforced. There are 12 opposition parties represented in Parliament. The UNITA congress is currently under way in Luanda and has received coverage in the independent and Government-run media. Representatives of other smaller political parties and members of the Diplomatic Corps have also attended the congress. We welcome the Government's announcement that legislative and presidential elections will be held in 2008 and 2009 respectively and continue to monitor the political landscape closely.

The Government of Angola have taken several steps to improve transparency in public financial management. Internationally qualified auditors conduct rigorous cost and fiscal audits for all oil companies, including the national oil company, Sonangol. A new procurement law is being drafted. A Court of Auditors was created in 2001, which helps to review and audit public expenditure allocations and has handed down embezzlement sentences. However, much still needs to be done, not only on transparency of public financial management, but also on strengthening Government accountability to the people. We continue to encourage the Government of Angola to sign up to the principles of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

Departments: Air Conditioning

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on the hire of mobile air conditioning units in each of the last five years. [151974]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has spent the following amounts on the hire of air conditioning units in the last five years:

	£
2006-07	0
2005-06	4,235.00
2004-05	2,492.00
2003-04	4,632.52
2002-03	9,958.00

All sums aforementioned are net of VAT.

The information provided is applicable to the FCO's UK estate only.

Departments: Flint Bishop

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have made payment to Flint Bishop Solicitors since 1997. [151398]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not made any payments to Flint Bishop Solicitors in this period.

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what legislative provisions introduced by his Department since 1997 have not yet been brought into force. [149559]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has been responsible for the introduction of 12 Acts of Parliament since 1997 of which the Nuclear Explosions (Prohibitions and Inspections) Act 1998 and the Arms Control and Disarmament (Inspections) Act 2003 have not yet been brought into force.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what legislative provisions introduced by his Department since 1997 have been repealed. [149588]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has been responsible for the introduction of 12 Acts of Parliament since 1997, none of which have been repealed.

Departments: Private Education

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent on providing education in independent schools for the children of employees of his Department *(a)* who are based in the UK and *(b)* in total in the last year for which figures are available. [150916]

Meg Munn: It is a condition of employment that members of the Diplomatic Service must be prepared to serve anywhere in the world at any time during their career, sometimes at very short notice. Those with children also have a legal obligation as parents to ensure that their children receive full-time education from the age of five years. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) provisions for children's education are intended to help staff meet these potentially conflicting obligations.

We expect children who accompany their parents on postings overseas to use free state schooling if it is available locally and suitable. If suitable English-language schooling is not available free of charge

locally, but is available at fee-charging schools, we refund fees to enable children to receive the education they would be entitled to in the UK.

With staff and their families having to move at regular intervals, sometimes at short notice and at times which may disrupt schooling for their children, and education facilities at posts overseas varying (or not being available at all), continuity of education can be problematic particularly during the important exam years. The FCO's continuity of education allowance addresses this problem by enabling children to board at schools in the UK as long as their parents remain subject to the world-wide mobility obligation and take up postings overseas.

The amount we spent in the financial year 2006-07 on providing education in independent schools for children whose parents are temporarily based in the UK is £7.6 million. The total amount we have spent on continuity of education allowance for staff in the UK and overseas during the financial year 2006-07 is £13 million.

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many overseas visits were made by *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers within his responsibility, and at what cost, in each year since 1997. [151642]

Mr. Jim Murphy: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2006-07 is currently being compiled and will be published before the summer recess. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Civil Service Management Code", the "Ministerial Code" and "Travel by Ministers".

Entry Clearances: Health Professions

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many medical students from non-EEA countries applied for visas to complete training in the UK in each of the last five years; how many were accepted; and if he will make a statement. [151142]

Meg Munn: Subject to satisfying the relevant paragraph of the immigration rules, overseas qualified medical personnel can enter the UK in either the postgraduate doctor, PLAB test (Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board Test), or clinical attachment categories. We do not distinguish between undergraduate and graduate students.

Applications recorded in each category are:

	Received	*Issued*	*Refused*
2006			
Clinical Attachment	873	111	72
Nurses—Supervised Practice	1,136	695	393
PLAB Test	758	698	83
Post Graduate Dentist	7	7	1
Post Graduate Doctor	638	589	51
Post Graduate GP	4	2	2
Student Nurse	1,305	840	600
2005			
Clinical Attachment	304	284	13
Nurses—Supervised Practice	4	0	0
PLAB Test	581	502	41
Post Graduate Dentist	20	17	0
Post Graduate Doctor	1,423	1,352	44
Post Graduate GP	1	1	0
Student Nurse	5,128	3,554	1,518
2004			
PLAB Test	1	0	1
Post Graduate Dentist	11	10	0
Post Graduate Doctor	1,079	1,058	12
Student Nurse	7,468	5,444	1,904
2003			
Post Graduate Dentist	12	12	0
Post Graduate Doctor	989	970	6
Student Nurse	4,614	3,977	605
2002			
Post Graduate Dentist	23	20	0
Post Graduate Doctor	847	848	2
Student Nurse	1,583	1,410	169

Prior to 2005 data were not kept on all categories. These statistics have not been published and should be used for information purposes only.

The total number of applications issued and refused may not equal the number of applications received due to applications being withdrawn or lapsed. Additionally, applications can be carried forward from one year to the next before being resolved, for example if they have been referred to the Home Office for a decision or deferred for further inquiries.

EU Reform: Treaties

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in which areas he expects qualified majority voting to replace unanimity under the new European Constitutional Treaty. [148188]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe is now defunct. The mandate for a Reform Treaty agreed by the European Council states clearly:

"The constitutional concept, which consisted in repealing all existing Treaties and replacing them by a single text called "Constitution", is abandoned."

The Government expect the new Reform Treaty to contain extensions of Qualified Majority Voting (QMV) under 50 Articles. However, the number of extensions that will apply to the UK will be significantly less than 50. We expect 13 extensions will not apply to the UK. Nine of these relate to Justice and Home Affairs (where we have secured an extension of

our existing opt-in mechanism). Three relate to the euro (where our opt-out applies). One relates to social security (where we will have an emergency brake including a veto power).

Existing areas of policy activity moved from unanimity to QMV

1. Immigration and frontier controls (UK opt-in)

2. Judicial co-operation in criminal matters (UK opt-in)

3. Minimum rules for criminal offences and sanctions (UK opt-in)

4. Eurojust (structure, operation, field of action and tasks) (UK opt-in)

5. Police co-operation (data sharing and training) (UK opt-in)

6. Europol (structure, operation, field of action and tasks) (UK opt-in)

7. Social security (measures to facilitate free movement of workers) (emergency brake including a veto power)

8. Co-ordination of provisions for self-employed persons (measures to facilitate self-employment in other member states)

9. Transport (removes existing limited derogation)

10. Culture (incentive measures to promote cultural awareness and diversity)

Existing institutional/procedural measures moved from unanimity to QMV

11. Appointment of European Central Bank executive board (UK opt-out)

12. Comitology (rules enabling member states to oversee the Commission's exercise of its implementing powers)

13. Financial regulations (rules on budgetary and accounting procedures)

14. Specialised courts (establishment of specialised first instance courts)

15. European Court of Justice statute

16. Amendments to certain parts of the statute of the European System of Central Banks

17. Presidency of Council configurations (arrangements for rotation)

Existing areas of policy activity where there is a new specific legal base subject to QMV

18. Use of the euro (UK opt-out)

19. Measures relating to the broad economic guidelines and excessive deficit procedure (applicable only to eurozone members) (UK opt-out)

20. Border checks (establishment of integrated management system for external borders) (UK opt-in)

21. Mechanism for peer review of member states' implementation of policies in the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) area (UK opt-in)

22. Crime prevention (UK opt-in)

23. Implementation of own resources decisions

24. Provisions enabling repeal of the aspects of an Article related to state aids policy and the effect of the past division of Germany

25. Procedure for entry into the euro

26. Provisions enabling repeal of an Article on transport policy as it affects areas of Germany affected by its past division

27. Authorisation, co-ordination and supervision of intellectual property rights protection

28. Services of general economic interest (clarification of EU rules/principles applying public services)

29. Diplomatic and consular protection

30. Humanitarian aid operations

31. Energy (measures on energy markets, energy security and energy saving)

32. Tourism (promotion of competitiveness and best practice)

33. Civil protection (assistance to prevent or protect against natural or man-made disasters)

34. Implementation of solidarity clause (assistance, if requested, in the event of a natural or man-made disaster)

35. Urgent financing of Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) measures (start up measures for 'Petersberg' tasks)

36. Urgent aid to third countries

37. Aspects of the Common Commercial Policy (definition of general framework for its implementation)

New areas of EU policy activity subject to QMV

38. European Research Area (removal of barriers to free flow of research)

39. Space policy (measures to promote joint initiatives and research and development)

40. Sport (incentive measures to promote sport)

41. Administrative co-operation (capacity building measures)

42. Membership of structured co-operation in defence (procedural issues relating to its establishment)

New institutional/procedural measures subject to QMV

43. Election of European Council President

44. Appointment of High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

45. Council review of general rules on composition of the Committee of the Regions and European Economic and Social Committee

46. Citizens' initiatives (petition procedure)

47. Principles of European administration (staff regulation measures)

48. Negotiation of withdrawal agreement

49. Judicial appointments panel (composition and operation)

50. Role of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy in CFSP implementing measures (measures proposed by the High Representative following a specific request from the European Council)

European Council

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether a document containing proposals relating to the decisions taken at the European Council on 21 and 22 June, referred to in Presidential Conclusions (Doc. 11177/07), was available to his predecessor prior to 7 June; and if he will make a statement. [150841]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The German presidency first released a draft mandate for the Inter-Governmental Conference on the evening of 19 June. This document was discussed at the European Council.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 251W, on the European Council, when the Presidency Conclusions were received by the Government. [151878]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Presidency Conclusions were received by the Government at the European Council.

Iraq: Oil

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has consulted major UK oil companies on contracts for them in Iraq. [151847]

Meg Munn: The Government have not held discussions on oil contracts in Iraq with any major British oil companies.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when officials from his Department first received a copy of the draft Iraqi oil law. [151848]

Meg Munn: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials first obtained a copy of a draft of the hydrocarbons law at the end of October 2006.

Iraq: Peace-keeping Operations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the Iraq Commission's report on the future of British policy in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [151086]

Meg Munn: We welcome all constructive contributions to the ongoing debate on policy in Iraq. Many of the recommendations in the Iraq Commission's report are in line with the policies we are already pursuing. We continue to work hard to support the Government of Iraq in its efforts to establish security, deliver basic services and make progress on national reconciliation. The most important figures in determining the future of Iraq are Iraqis themselves, but we believe the international community and states in the region have a key role to play in supporting the Iraqi government.

Italy: Diplomatic Service

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to *(a)* the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 37W, on Italy: diplomatic service, and *(b)* evidence taken before the Foreign Affairs Committee on 17 July 2004 from former ambassador Sir Ivor Roberts, if he will now place in the Library a copy of Sir Ivor's valedictory telegram following its circulation to about 4,000 recipients; and if he will make a statement. [152424]

Mr. Jim Murphy: As my right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary (Margaret Beckett) outlined in her answer to my hon. Friend on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 37W, Sir Ivor Roberts provided advice in his valedictory telegram on a confidential basis. Placing a copy of this telegram in the Library of the House would be likely to inhibit the frank and confidential provision of advice.

Russia: Sanctions

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to inform the House when he *(a)* relaxes and *(b)* varies any of the sanctions against Russia to which he referred in his statement on 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 22, on Alexander Litvinenko (case update). [152462]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave him on 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 710W.

Sudan: Sanctions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the current UK and EU sanctions against Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [151991]

Meg Munn: Sanctions are most successful when implemented multilaterally. The EU has an effective arms embargo in place covering the whole of Sudan. The existing UN arms embargo, established in UN Security Council Resolution 1591, applies to rebels in the whole of Sudan, but to the Government of Sudan (GoS) in Darfur only. Amnesty International and the Panel of Experts have reported that all sides are violating the UN arms embargo. Such reports highlight the limitations in the UN arms embargo.

Sanctions are an important tool for applying pressure on the Sudanese Government. We consider that it was the threat of further UN sanctions that persuaded the Sudanese Government to agree to the hybrid AU-UN peacekeeping force on 12 June. This is a significant achievement and an important step towards restoring stability, the protection of civilians and ensuring full humanitarian access in Darfur.

We will maintain pressure on the GoS and rebels, and will pursue further targeted sanctions against any party that obstructs progress on the peacekeeping force, ceasefire, political process or humanitarian access.

Taiwan: Nuclear Power

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the government of Taiwan on its plan to expand its civil nuclear energy programme. [150715]

Meg Munn: The UK does not recognise Taiwan as a state or country, nor its authorities as a government.

However, we have strong commercial, educational and cultural links with Taiwan and discussions have taken place between UK Trade and Investment, including an export promoter from London, and the Taiwanese Atomic Energy Council. No commercial prospects were found. We have a good dialogue with the Bureau of Energy on renewable sectors. We have been asked about the prospects for further nuclear development in the UK.

Tibet: Passports

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK recognised the validity of Tibetan passports for travel to the UK before the Chinese invasion of Tibet. [151001]

Meg Munn: A Tibetan trade delegation entered the UK on passports issued by the autonomous Tibetan authorities on 20 November 1948. Official records of whether other Tibetan passports were accepted by the UK during this period are not readily available.

Uganda: Politics and Government

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he made of the transition to multi-party democracy in Uganda; what reports he has received that the old one-party ideological training institute at Kyankwanzi is still used to instil the ruling National Movement Organisation political ideologies in Ugandan civil servants, police and military personnel; and if he will make a statement. [152151]

Meg Munn: In February 2006 Uganda held its first multi-party elections in 25 years. The reintroduction of a multi-party system was an important achievement. However there is still much to be done, particularly with regard to respect for the independence of the judiciary and political space for the opposition.

It is essential, therefore, that the government and the opposition parties continue to work together to embed the evolving multi-party democracy and ensure transparency. The UK, along with other international partners, has a regular dialogue with the Government of Uganda on all aspects of developing multi-party democracy.

We are aware that the Kyankwanzi National Leadership Institute remains in use and is responsible for preparing senior government officials. We have no specific reports on what training is provided.

UK Membership of EC: Ethnic Groups

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what campaigns her Department has commissioned to raise awareness of the effect of membership of the European Union for the United Kingdom among *(a)* ethnic minority and *(b)* immigrant groups in the United Kingdom. [146101]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government are committed to engaging with the UK public on EU issues.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office hosts the www.europe.gov.uk website and has produced a "Guide to the European Union" publication. Working with colleagues across Government, we continue to support activities to generate greater public awareness of EU issues and a more mature debate about them.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Departments: Equality

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what response his Department has made to the Commission for Racial Equality's assessment of its Race Equality Scheme; and how his Department plans to continue to monitor its Race Equality Scheme. [151304]

Mr. McFadden: On 31 October 2006 we responded to the Commission for Racial Equality stating that the detailed comments provided will be used to inform our work to review the race equality scheme in the future.

Progress against the action plans detailed in the race equality scheme is reviewed as part of our annual departmental report and we will publish the first report on the equality schemes in 2008.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what action his Department has taken to mainstream the impact assessment and consultation arrangements set out in the Race Equality Scheme; [151305]

(2) how race equality impact assessments and departmental consultation exercises are taken into account in his Department's policy making process; [151306]

(3) whether any new mechanisms for *(a)* monitoring, *(b)* consultation and *(c)* responses to consultation in relation to the Race Equality Scheme have been put in place by his Department; [151307]

(4) how his Department ensures that existing policies are assessed in accordance with the Race Equality Duty; and whether his Department has identified any adverse implications for some racial groups resulting from departmental policies. [151308]

Mr. McFadden: BERR follows Government-wide guidance on the conduct of consultations and impact assessment. A new impact assessment process was launched in May 2007. Equality impact assessments are an integral part of that process.

Officials from across BERR are being trained in the new procedures. We aim to ensure that equality impacts are properly considered as part of the evidence base in the policy development process.

BERR and its Agencies recognise the importance of monitoring our policies and services for impacts on race equality and obtaining feedback from stakeholders.

When BERR published its race equality scheme in June 2006 we reviewed and updated guidelines first issued in 2003 and incorporated them into a 'Toolkit for Equality Duties'. This includes advice on different monitoring methods including statistical analysis, qualitative analysis and customer surveys. No departmental policies to date have been assessed as having adverse implications for racial groups.

Progress against the action plans detailed in the race equality scheme is reviewed as part of our annual departmental report and we will publish the first report on the equality schemes in 2008.

Energy Supply: Meters

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what consideration will be made in the forthcoming consultation on smart meters of the potential introduction of meters with internal communications and displays instead of pure real time displays; and what assessment he has made of the effect such an introduction would have on the UK's implementation of the Energy Services Directive; [150878]

(2) whether gas supplies will be considered as part of the forthcoming consultation on smart meters; [150879]

(3) if he will meet industry representatives to discuss the forthcoming consultation on smart meters. [150880]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 19 July 2007]:* The Government will shortly issue a consultation on its approach to billing, smart metering and display devices. This consultation will cover electricity, gas and heat. My Department, as part of that consultation process, will continue to have further discussions with interested parties, including energy suppliers, meter manufacturers, and consumer and environmental groups. Information from the consultation and other work being undertaken by the Government, Ofgem and energy suppliers will inform the Government's approach on smart meters as a whole, including implementation of article 13 of the energy service directive.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how the roll-out of smart meters in the UK is planned to be funded. [151171]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government will shortly issue a consultation document on metering and billing, including smart metering. Information from the consultation and other work being undertaken by the Government, Ofgem and energy suppliers will inform the Government's approach on smart meters.

Energy Supply: Russia

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the net value of traded energy stocks was between Russia and the UK in the latest year for which figures are available. [151548]

Malcolm Wicks: Estimates of the quantities and value of British trade specifically with Russia of coal and oil during 2005 are available electronically in Annex G of the current "Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics" http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/statistics/source/trade/page18526.html and are reported as follows.

	Crude oil		*Steam coal*	
	Imports	*Exports*	*Imports*	*Exports*
Quantity (million tonnes)	7.05	—	16.75	—
Value (£ billion)	1.46	—	0.65[1]	—

[1] Based on average import value per tonne.

It is not possible to ascertain what share of gas or electricity imports passing through third countries may have originated in Russia.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of energy used in the UK is imported from Russia; and what types of energy are imported from that country. [151550]

Malcolm Wicks: Based on data published in Annex G of the "Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics" http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/statistics/source/trade/page18526.html, direct energy imports from Russia during 2005 consisted of coal (11.5 Mtoe) and crude oil (7.0 Mtoe), which in total represented approximately 7.5 per cent. of primary energy demand in the UK. It is not possible to ascertain how much gas or electricity passing through third countries may have originated in Russia.

It should be noted that, as a result of commercial decisions, around two-thirds of the UK's crude oil production is exported annually such that UK "net" imports of crude oil in 2005 were only 0.9 million tonnes.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much has been refunded by firms of solicitors who abused the terms of payment in respect of the Miners' Compensation Scheme, broken down by firm. [151757]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department meets the costs of claimants' legal representatives under the terms of both the Vibration White Finger and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease schemes. However, we would not be privy to any additional agreement reached between claimants and their solicitors.

Despite this, the Department understands that solicitors have repaid well over £2.5 million to date as a result of actions taken by the Department to draw attention to these issues as well as actions taken by the Legal Complaints Service and Solicitors Regulation Authority. The Department is unable to provide a breakdown of this figure by firms of solicitors.

Industrial Disputes: Arbitration

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate his Department has made of the cost to *(a)* the Government, *(b)* businesses and *(c)* employees of making mediation a compulsory step in employment disputes. [151289]

Mr. McFadden: The Department has made no estimate of these costs. The arguments for and against compulsory mediation were assessed by Michael Gibbons in his independent review "A review of Employment Dispute Resolution in Great Britain", published in March 2007. The review concluded that

"the Government should adopt a voluntary approach to encourage and enable more use of alternative dispute resolution techniques in order to settle disputes early".

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations his Department has received from trade unions on mediation in employment disputes. [151291]

Mr. McFadden: The Department has received a number of representations in response to its consultation, "Resolving disputes in the workplace", which closed on 20 June. These include representations from trades unions. We are currently assessing all responses to the consultation and the Government will publish its plans for the way forward in due course. Responses will be made available in the public domain.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department holds figures on the proportion of employees which work for the same company following the resolution of an employment dispute *(a)* through mediation and *(b)* through other forms of resolution. [151296]

Mr. McFadden: The information is as follows:

(a) The Government do not hold records on the outcome of private mediation, which is a confidential process between the parties concerned.

(b) Statistics on disputes which Acas helps to resolve through providing conciliation services are included in the Acas annual report. Statistics on disputes resolved through employment tribunals may be found in the employment tribunal service annual report. This includes figures for the number of orders of reinstatement made by tribunals. There is no system for tracking the employment history of claimants to tribunals after the end of the tribunal process and so the Government have no figures for the proportion of employees who remain with the same employer following the resolution at tribunal of their dispute.

Industrial Disputes: Small Businesses

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the costs and benefits of compulsory mediation in employment disputes involving small firms. [151294]

Mr. McFadden: The arguments for and against compulsory mediation were assessed by Michael Gibbons in his independent review "A review of Employment Dispute Resolution in Great Britain", published in March 2007. The review concluded that:

"the Government should adopt a voluntary approach to encourage and enable more use of alternative dispute resolution techniques in order to settle disputes early".

Post Office Card Account

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many adults without access to a bank account have a Post Office Card Account. [150170]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 17 July 2007]:* As Minister in DWP with responsibility for the Post Office card account I have been asked to reply.

There are just over four million customers currently using Post Office card accounts. Research for the Financial Inclusion Taskforce[1] showed that around 73 per cent. of people with a Post Office card account also had access to a bank account. This suggests that around one million Post Office card account customers do not have access to a bank account.

[1] "Access to Financial Services by those on the Margins of Banking", published in November 2006.

Regional Development Agencies: Flint Bishop

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether each regional development agency has made payments to Flint Bishop solicitors since 1997. [151379]

Mr. Timms: I am informed that the Regional Development Agencies have made no payments to Flint Bishop Solicitors.

Severn Barrage

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether primary legislation will be required to implement any proposal to build a Severn tidal barrage. [151705]

Malcolm Wicks: There is a distinct possibility that primary legislation will be required. This will be dependent on the nature of the proposal.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 25 July 2007

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Radioactive Materials

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information her Department holds on the numbers and movements of flights involving radioactive materials carried within UK airspace. [151924]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There is no regulatory requirement for consignors of radioactive material routinely to notify this Department of shipments. Consequently this Department does not hold detailed information on the numbers of flights or materials carried.

In 2003 the National Radiological Protection Board (now the Radiation Protection Division of the Health Protection Agency (HPA)), acting under contract to the Department for Transport carried out a survey into the radiological consequences of the transport of radioactive material by air. This survey involved gathering data on the numbers of flights transporting radioactive material and hence will provide picture of operations during one particular year (2001).

The report of this work 'Survey into the Radiological Impact of the Normal Transport of Radioactive Material by Air—Final Report March 2003 (NRPB-W39)' has been placed in the House Library and is available on the HPA website at the following address:

http://www.hpa.org.Uk/radiation/publications/w_series_reports/2003/nrpb_w39.htm

Departments: Land

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what land she expects to be disposed of by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* Network Rail between 2007 to 2011; and whether she plans to require that land to be used for social housing. [149895]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Information on current and expected surplus Department for Transport land, covering the next three years, has been placed in the Library of the House. Information on 2011 is not yet available and not all of the sites would necessarily be suitable for housing.

Network Rail is a private sector company whose activities are governed by the regulatory regime and general law. The independent Office of Rail Regulation regulates and monitors the disposal of Network Rail's land.

It is the responsibility of local planning authorities to identify and release land for housing as part of the planning process. This means that the requirement for the provision of social housing will need to be negotiated and agreed with the local planning authority. The Government have implemented a number of initiatives to assist with land supply for housing. A register of surplus public sector land held by central Government bodies has been established.

English Partnerships review the sites on the register to identify those which could have the potential for housing development. As at June 2007 there were over 700 sites on the register. Sites are continually being added as they are identified as surplus by landowners and removed once expressions of interest are received after a site has been marketed.

Departments: Legislation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which Bills introduced by her Department in the last five years did not contain sunset clauses; and if she will make a statement. [152491]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Of the enacted Bills introduced by the Department for Transport in the last five years, for the following Acts did not contain any sunset clauses.

The Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003

The Traffic Management Act 2004

The Railways Act 2005

The Civil Aviation Act 2006

The Merchant Shipping (Pollution) Act 2006

The appropriateness of a sunset clause for the whole or any part of any proposed legislation is considered on a case-by-case basis. It is also addressed when a regulatory impact assessment relating to legislation is being prepared.

Driving Offences: Mobile Phones

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department has allocated in each of the next two years to raising awareness of the dangers of using a mobile phone while driving; and if she will make a statement. [152769]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Our communications activity to raise awareness of the dangers of using a mobile phone while driving, forms part of the Department's £16 million THINK! road safety campaign, which conveys messages/advice on issues such as drink-driving, speed, motorcycling, use of seat belts and child/teen road safety. Priorities within the campaign are informed by the killed and seriously injured statistics.

In financial year 2006-07, we allocated £1.6 million to raise awareness of the dangers and changes in penalties for using a mobile phone while driving. A high profile campaign was launched in January 2007 using a mix of television, press, radio and online advertising. There was also an enforcement element to the campaign which was supported by the work of the police.

Expenditure allocated to the campaign for financial year 2007-08 is £1 million. We are planning an advertising campaign in February 2008 to mark the one-year anniversary of the change in legislation. It is expected that the campaign will comprise television, radio, online and PR activity.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment she *(a)* has made and *(b)* plans to make on the effectiveness of section 41D of the Road Traffic Act 1988 in reducing the number of (i) males and (ii) females driving while using a mobile telephone; [152863]

(2) what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect on driving standards if persons guilty of an offence under section 41D of the Road Traffic Act 1988, in lieu of a fine, attend a driving safety course paid for by the offender that includes instruction on the dangers of driving while using a mobile telephone; and if she will make a statement. [152864]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department undertakes observational surveys of the number of drivers using mobile phones while driving on a regular basis. The survey for 2007 is under way at the moment and the results will be published later this year. The survey does not differentiate the gender of drivers using mobile phones. The most recent survey published in August 2006 is TRL Leaflet 2100 which is available online at www.trl.co.uk/store/report_list.asp?pid=211

Research has not been specifically undertaken or commissioned on the effect on driving standards if drivers who would otherwise be prosecuted were to attend driver improvement courses that explained the dangers of using mobile phones while driving.

London Underground: Repairs and Maintenance

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what future maintenance arrangements for the London Underground are being considered by her Department following the entering into administration of Metronet. [152620]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is for the PPP administrators, working with Transport for London and London Underground, to identify the best long-term outcome in terms of the continuance of Metronet's tube maintenance activities. It would be premature to comment on what form this may take while the administration process is still in its early stages.

Lorries

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 520W, on lorries, what level of heavy goods vehicle movements per day on *(a)* A-class roads and *(b)* motorways causes significant structural or surface wear effects. [152704]

Mr. Tom Harris: The effect on the structural and surface conditions of a road as a result of an increase in heavy goods traffic is dependent on the prior condition of the road. A detailed survey of a particular road would be necessary to establish the prior structural and surface conditions in order to assess the impact of future traffic. However, motorways in England are well built and typically a busy motorway carries 20,000 heavy goods vehicles per day. A doubling of this flow is likely to have a significant effect on the structural and surface conditions. On the A class roads, the type of construction and the structural and surface conditions are extremely variable. It is not possible to produce a similar estimate.

Metronet: Finance

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what public sector finance commitment is expected to be incurred following the entering into administration of Metronet. [152621]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Transport for London and London Underground are in discussions with PPP administrators to identify the best long term financial outcome resulting from the administration of Metronet's activities. It would be premature to comment on any public sector finance commitment while those discussions are still in their early stages.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the MOT failure rate is for cars at *(a)* three, *(b)* four, *(c)* five, *(d)* six, *(e)* seven, *(f)* eight, *(g)* nine and *(h)* 10 years old. [151465]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The data held by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) for the failure rate for class 4 vehicles (cars) completed MOT tests carried out from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 is shown in the following table. VOSA does not hold these records by vehicle age but by the year of registered first use.

Year of first use	*Total MOT tests*[1] *(number)*	*Failure rate (percentage)*
2004	782,616	20.51
2003	2,679,600	21.56
2002	2,671,415	24.58
2001	2,538,661	28.57
2000	2,245,549	33.52
1999	2,109,115	37.81
1998	2,025,417	41.64
1997	1,813,091	44.58

[1] Excludes retests

VOSA publishes the overall failure rate for vehicles in an effectiveness report which is available from the House of Commons Library, Business and Transport section. This is also available online at:

www.vosa.gov.uk .

Railway Stations: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the proposals to build a railway station at the Ricoh Arena in Coventry; what discussions she has had with Coventry city council on the proposals; and what estimate she has made of the cost of the establishment of such a station. [151908]

Mr. Tom Harris: It is for the local authority to develop a proposal for a new station which is deliverable, affordable and has a business case. Discussions took place over three years ago following a report which was submitted to the Strategic Rail Authority. The report concluded that the business case was low and there were questions over its deliverability.

The Department would consider any further work showing that such a station was feasible, fundable and offered value for money.

Roads: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many roads originally built under private finance initiative contracts have had to undergo reconstruction in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost was to the public purse for the reconstruction of these roads. [152472]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No roads originally built under private finance initiative contracts have had to undergo reconstruction in the last 10 years.

Shipping: Radioactive Materials

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times nuclear flasks were shipped from *(a)* Torness, Hunterston and Hartlepool power stations and *(b)* Bradwell, Sizewell and Dungeness power stations to Sellafield in each of the last five years. [151926]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The total number of flasks shipped from each power station were as follows:

(a) AGR stations

	Torness	Hunterston B	Hartlepool	Dungeness B
2002	50	50	50	24
2003	47	60	63	49
2004	42	43	48	48
2005	46	51	35	41
2006	51	55	52	44
2007 (to July)	27	14	12	35

(b) Magnox stations

	Bradwell	Sizewell A	Dungeness A
2002	43	59	77
2003	34	75	53
2004	52	72	50
2005	75	25	24
2006	36	48	48
2007 (to July)	0	31	20

Transport: Radioactive Materials

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents there were involving the transportation of radioactive material by *(a)* air, *(b)* road, *(c)* rail and *(d)* ship in each year since 1977. [151931]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Since 1989, annual reports detailing all abnormal events involving the transport of radioactive material in the UK have been prepared by the Health Protection Agency (HPA), working under contract to the Department for Transport. In addition, periodic reports have been produced examining trends in events since the late 1950s. The latest reports in these series are:

Radiological consequences resulting from accidents and incidents involving the transport of radioactive materials in the UK - 2005 review (HPA-RPD-021)

Review of events involving the transport of radioactive materials in the UK, from 1958 to 2004, and their radiological consequences (HPA-RPD-014)

A full list of earlier reports can be found in the reference section of each report. The report detailing events that occurred during 2006 will be published later this year.

Copies of these reports have been placed in the House Library and recent ones are available on the HPA website. A list of recent reports is also available on the Department's website at the following address.

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/freight/dgt1/publications/notes/theradiologicalimpactofthetr1178

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency: Manpower

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff were employed by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency in each of the last three years; and what percentage of these were employed on *(a)* a supply, *(b)* a temporary and *(c)* an agency basis. [152436]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) publishes the average number of staff employed (full time equivalent) in its annual report and accounts which is available on line at www.vosa.gov.uk and from the House of Commons Library, Business and Transport Section.

(a) VOSA does not employ any staff on a supply basis.

(b) The average number of VOSA staff employed on a casual/fixed term contact, i.e. temporary basis, is shown in the following table:

	Average number of Staff	Percentage average total staff
2004-05	86	3.2
2005-06	76	2.9
2006-07	88	3.5

(c) VOSA's annual report and accounts gives the average number of agency and consultancy staff. It is not possible to separately determine agency support.

Vehicle Data Recording Devices

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the merits of requiring the installation of event data recorders in all new vehicles. [152612]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has not conducted a detailed assessment of this technology; however, there is significant international interest in this subject and research for the European Commission recently reported on the competing technologies, their compatibility with all classes of vehicle and their usefulness in accident reconstruction. The programme also reviewed the legal implications for their use. The European Commission has extended their research to consider the drafting of technical, legal and administrative standards for use as mandatory or as recommended requirements for electronic data recorder implementation in Europe.

We have held discussions with the European Commission and intend to contribute to the development of the standards for this technology.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

National Audit Office

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission if the Commission will publish *(a)* all papers originally supplied to it on the Comptroller and Auditor General's travel expenses and related Inland Revenue payments made by the National Audit Office and *(b)* any subsequent revisions or amendments to those papers. [151172]

Mr. Alan Williams: All papers supplied to the Commission on the Comptroller and Auditor General's travel expenses and related Inland Revenue payments made by the National Audit Office have been published on the Commission's website

http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/public_accounts_commisison.cfm.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Manpower

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* regular military personnel, *(b)* Territorial Army and other part-time military personnel and *(c)* civilian personnel were employed by his Department in (i) total, (ii) Yorkshire and the Humber, (iii) North Yorkshire and (iv) City of York in each year since 1979. [152184]

Derek Twigg: The following table shows total UK Regular Forces and Civilian Personnel Strength at 1 April, in each year since 1979.

As at 1 April:	*UK regular forces*	*Civilian personnel*
1979	315,000	[1]—
1980	320,600	[1]—
1981	333,800	[1]—
1982	327,600	[1]—
1983	320,600	[1]—
1984	325,900	[1]—
1985	326,200	[1]—
1986	322,500	[1]—
1987	319,900	[1]—
1988	316,900	[1]—
1989	311,700	[1]—
1990	305,800	[1]—
1991	299,500	[1]—
1992	293,500	[1]—
1993	274,800	159,600
1994	254,500	149,100
1995	233,300	141,300
1996	221,900	135,400
1997	210,800	133,300
1998	210,100	126,300
1999	208,600	123,000
2000	207,600	121,300
2001	205,600	118,200
2002	204,700	110,100
2003	206,900	107,600
2004	207,000	109,000
2005	201,100	108,500
2006	195,900	103,900
2007	[2] 190,400	98,000

[1] denotes not available. Civilian data prior to 1993 are not available in centrally held databases. As a result it is not possible to produce a consistent time series since 1979 without incurring disproportionate cost.

[2] denotes provisional. Due to the introduction of a new Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system, armed forces data at 1 April 2007 are provisional and subject to review. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 100.

Notes:

1. UK regular forces includes Nursing services and excludes Full Time Reserve Service personnel, Gurkhas, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists. It includes trained and untrained personnel.
2. Civilian strengths are based on the revised definition of MOD civilian personnel introduced in April 2004. MOD civilian total includes locally engaged civilians, Royal fleet auxiliary personnel and overseas personnel outside UK.

The strength of UK Reserve Forces (including Volunteer and Regular Reserves) from 1990 to 2006 is available in table 2.14 of United Kingdom Defence Statistics (UKDS) 2006 and is available at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/ukds/2006/c2/table214.html

Data on the Reserve Forces are not available in centrally held databases. As a result it is not possible to produce a consistent time series since 1979 without incurring disproportionate cost.

The strength of UK Regular Forces posted in the Yorkshire and Humber Government Office Region (GOR) is available in table 4 of Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 10—UK Regular Forces distribution across UK. The most recent tri-service publication is at 1 April 2006 and is available at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/tsp 10/tsp_10_apr06.pdf

Copies of TSP 10 are available in the Library of the House and are also available at

www.dasa.mod.uk.

TSP 10 data are not available in centrally held databases. As a result it is not possible to produce a consistent time series since 1979 without incurring disproportionate cost.

Data on the posted location of Volunteer Reserve forces are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The following table shows civilian personnel strength in Yorkshire and the Humber, North Yorkshire and the City of York.

	Civilian Personnel		
As at 1 April:	*Yorkshire and the Humber*	*North Yorkshire*	*City of York*
1993	5,320	n/a	
1994	5,080	n/a	n/a
1995	4,670	n/a	n/a
1996	3,860	n/a	n/a
1997	3,750	n/a	n/a
1998	3,510	n/a	n/a
1999	3,490	n/a	n/a
2000	3,300	n/a	n/a
2001	3,290	n/a	n/a
2002	3,410	n/a	n/a
2003	3,560	n/a	n/a
2004	3,910	n/a	n/a

	Civilian Personnel		
As at 1 April:	Yorkshire and the Humber	North Yorkshire	City of York
2005	3,910	n/a	n/a
2006	3,690	2,000	760
2007	3,590	1,980	650

n/a = not available

Note:

Civilian data by local authority for North Yorkshire and City of York is only available for April 2006 onwards. Prior to this it is not possible to produce a consistent time series without incurring disproportionate cost.

Bombs

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the minimum number of submunitions is which a weapon must carry for it to be defined as a cluster munition. [151751]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There is no international definition of a cluster munition, nor of the number of sub-munitions a weapon must carry in order to be classed as a cluster munition. An element of the UK's own understanding is that a weapon should carry more than 10 sub-munitions in order to satisfy the definition of a cluster munition.

British Merchant Fleet

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the implications of likely future numbers in UK Merchant Navy officers for future military operations. [151523]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There has been no specific research commissioned or evaluated recently by the Department on the implications of the likely future numbers of UK Merchant Navy officers on future military operations.

Defence Export Services Organisation

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans the Government have for the future of the Defence Export Services Organisation; and if he will make a statement. [151758]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence on 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 13W, to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable).

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff are employed by the Defence Export Service Organisation (DESO); what estimate he has made of the volume of UK defence exports which are principally attributable to the work of DESO since 1995; and if he will make a statement on the future of DESO. [152014]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* For the number of staff employed in the Defence Exports Services Organisation (DESO), I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my predecessor on 1 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1542W, to the hon. Member for Totnes (Mr. Steen). On the future of DESO, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence on 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 13W, to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable).

The annual value of total export orders won in recent years is given in UK Defence Statistics, published annually. These reflect a number of factors, including the contribution made by support from DESO.

Defence Medical Services: Manpower

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* requirement and *(b)* percentage of required personnel in post is in the medical corps of the (i) Army, (ii) Royal Navy and (iii) Royal Air Force. [148272]

Derek Twigg: The information for uniformed medical and dental professional (i.e. a total of doctor, dentist, nurse and allied health professional cadres) is set out in the following table. The numbers are as at 1 April 2007.

	RN	Army	RAF
Requirement	1,529	4,803	1,919
Manning	1,242	3,417	1,527
Percentage in post	81.22	71.14	79.57

The Department is taking active steps to address the shortfalls, through a range of pay and non-remunerative initiatives including:

(a) Payment of "Golden Hellos" to direct entrants into specialist areas where there is greatest shortfall.

(b) Payment of Financial Retention Initiatives to encourage individuals in operational pinch point specialities to return to and remain in speciality.

(c) Managing medical deployments on a tri-Service basis allowing the workload to be shared more evenly and maximising capabilities.

(d) Prioritising resources to support operations.

(e) Establishing alternative means of meeting operational commitments (e.g. use of Reserves and civilian agency contractors and working closely with allies on operations.

(f) Continued development of military career pathways. For example, we are implementing the Defence Nursing Strategy to enhance the career pathway for military nurses. As part of this initiative, Defence Specialist Nursing Advisors have been appointed for each specialism, to plan and manage recruitment and retention in their own specialism.

(g) Encouraging personnel to train and remain in operational pinch point specialities.

The Department has met all the operational requirements and the level of medical care remains extremely high.

Departments: Land

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what land he expects to be disposed of by his Department between 2007 to 2011; and whether he plans to require that land to be used for social housing. [149896]

Derek Twigg: This Department keeps its estate under constant review to meet present and planned future requirements, with a view to disposing of surplus assets as quickly as possible. A list of the sites in the present programme and those earmarked for future disposal is available in the Library of the House of Commons.

The MOD welcomes the Government's latest housing initiative and will assist with the (draft) Housing Green Paper by continuing to work closely with English Partnerships, the Regional Development Agencies, local authorities and other key stakeholders when considering its disposal strategy. This will often include an assessment of development and regeneration opportunities, including the need for social housing, through the preparation of a planning briefer outline planning application.

Departments: Public Transport

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what incentives he has considered to encourage staff in his Department to use public transport. [148806]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence encourages the use of more sustainable travel as part its work on sustainable development. The Department offers civilian staff interest free loans to purchase bicycles and public transport season tickets for commuting to and from their place of work.

Depleted Uranium

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the number of blue on blue incidents in which UK forces have been hit by depleted uranium munitions; and if he will make a statement. [151764]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence is aware of one friendly fire incident on 28 March 2003 in Iraq in which British troops were injured or killed by depleted uranium based ammunition.

Gulf War Syndrome

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received from the Royal British Legion on Gulf War illnesses. [152370]

Derek Twigg: The Royal British Legion (RBL), Gulf War Group, recently published a policy paper entitled "Gulf War: a legacy of suspicion" on concerns with respect to 1990-91 Gulf veterans' illnesses. I was sent a copy of this following my attendance at their conference to consider the points raised by the report. I will provide them with a formal response, explaining our position on the policy priorities set out in the document.

Gulf War Syndrome: Ex Gratia Payments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make an ex gratia payment to Gulf War veterans who have suffered illnesses; and if he will make a statement. [152367]

Derek Twigg: Gulf veterans receive compensation proportionate to the seriousness of their disablement in the form of war pensions and attributable armed forces pensions, in the same way as other ex-servicemen or women who suffer illness or injury as a result of their service. The Ministry of Defence has no plans to make an ex gratia payment to Gulf War Veterans.

Iraq: Bombs

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research the UK has undertaken to assess the humanitarian impact of the use of cluster munitions containing M85 submunitions in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Lebanon. [150990]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* The UK does not carry out post-conflict humanitarian impact assessments after munitions, including cluster munitions, have been used; there is no requirement to do so under International Humanitarian Law. The priority following operations is to clear unexploded ordnance in order to provide freedom of movement for our forces and conduct the highest priority clearance operations that threaten civilian lives.

We recognise that Explosive Remnants of War, caused by unexploded ordnance, including cluster munitions, are a humanitarian problem. That is why the UK has played an active role at the UN in creating a new legally binding protocol containing a number of new legally binding provisions that will provide significant humanitarian benefit to those civilians in areas affected by Explosive Remnants of War. We are urging all states to sign and ratify this protocol as soon as possible. We are in the process of ratifying this and the MOD is in the process of implementing its provisions. The universal implementation of this will drive a significant reduction in the post-conflict effects of Explosive Remnants of War.

We are still waiting for the outcome of the Israeli inquiry into their use of cluster munitions in Lebanon. To date the UK has contributed £2.7 million towards the clearance of unexploded munitions, including cluster munitions, in Lebanon. This is specifically intended to minimise the humanitarian impact of unexploded submunitions and other Explosive Remnants of War.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to increase the number of operationally deployable helicopters. [149468]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 17 July 2007]:* We announced on 30 March the purchase of six new Merlin helicopters, which will be available within a year, and the conversion of existing Chinook Mk 3 helicopters currently estimated to be available in two years. We keep our equipment requirements under constant review to ensure the appropriate number of platforms is available for operational deployment. In addition, work under the Future Rotorcraft Capability programme will ensure we are able to meet our battlefield support helicopter capabilities in the long-term.

Navy: Career Structure

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether there has been *(a)* a freeze *(b)* a slowdown in the rate of promotion of (i) officers and (ii) other ranks in the Royal Navy; and if he will make a statement. [152062]

Derek Twigg: There has not been a freeze in the rate of promotion numbers in the naval service. There is a temporary reduction in promotion, primarily officers for the period 2007-10 recovering to present levels by 2012. There has been a slight temporary reduction in overall promotion numbers for warrant officers but other senior rate promotions currently remain steady.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers received *(a)* up to £50,000, *(b)* £50,001 to £100,000, *(c)* £100,001 to £150,000, *(d)* £150,001 to £200,000, *(e)* £200,001 to £250,000, *(f)* £250,001 to £300,000, *(g)* £300,001 to £350,000, *(h)* £350,001 to £400,000, *(i)* £400,001 to £450,000 and *(j)* £450,001 to £500,000 in single payment scheme payments for 2006. [150877]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 19 July 2007]:* The number of claimants who have received payments to date for the Single Payment Scheme year 2006 are as follows:

	Number
Up to £50,000	100,704
£50,001 to £100,000	4,990
£100,001 to £150,000	1,024
£150,001 to £200,000	303
£200,001 to £250,000	118
£250,001 to £300,000	52
£300,001 to £350,000	24
£350,001 to £400,000	22
£400,001 to £450,000	11
£450,001 to £500,000	9

The assessment of claims paid has been updated from my earlier response given to the hon. Gentleman on 10 July 2007, *Official Report,* column 1365W, and reflects additional payments made in the intervening period, moving certain claimants into the >£50,000 banding.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the potential effect of funding withheld by the EU in relation to the Single Farm Payment scheme on resources available for flood defences; and if he will make a statement. [151146]

Jonathan Shaw: There has been no effect on resources dedicated to flood defences as a result of EU penalties (disallowance) made by the EU in relation to the Single Farm Payment scheme as these payments have been met from a separate ring-fenced budget. This arrangement will continue for future years.

The Government are committed to effective management of flood risk. Over £4 billion has been invested across England on flood and coastal erosion risk management since 1996-97. Around £600 million is to be spent by DEFRA and local authorities this year compared to £307 million in 1996-97 and this is set to increase to £800 million in 2010-11.

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many outstanding single farm payments there are from *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006 to be made to farmers in the South West. [151569]

Jonathan Shaw: As of 18 July 2007, 15 claimants have not received a payment for the 2005 single payment scheme (SPS).

Under the SPS for 2006 107,279 customers have received either a full or partial payment. This represents 98.4 per cent. of the estimated total claimant population of 109,000.

We are not at this stage in a position to advise when the detailed analysis of payments made under SPS will be made available.

Air Conditioning: Energy

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the environmental impact of recent trends in the use of residential air conditioning in the UK. [150213]

Joan Ruddock: Data from the Energy Saving Trust indicates that sales of domestic air conditioners increased from 32,800 in 2005-06 to 72,300 in 2006-07.

In 2005-06, about 73 per cent. of the units sold were "B" rated under the EU Council directive 92/75/EEC, and only 0.85 per cent. were "A" rated. In 2006-07, the share of "A" rated air conditioning appliances had increased to 15 per cent., and the share of "B" rated appliances dropped to 50 per cent. However, a small number of new air conditioners, which also act as heaters, have appeared on the market. These are less efficient.

A domestic "A" rated air conditioner is expected to use around 320 kWh/year of electricity. For comparison, a three bed-roomed semi-detached house built to 2005 Building Regulations and without electric heating, is expected to use around 4,250 kWh/year of electricity. The purchase of an "A" rated air conditioner, and its associated energy consumption would therefore result in additional carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions of around 138 kgCO_2 /year. The 72,300 domestic air conditioners purchased in 2006-07 would therefore be expected to increase CO_2 emissions by at least 9,900 tonnes CO_2 per year.

Domestic air-conditioning equipment is also likely to use fluorinated greenhouse gases as the refrigerant. If this is emitted it will contribute towards global warming. Under the EC Regulation No 842/2006 on certain fluorinated greenhouse gases, users of air-conditioning equipment must ensure that any detected leakage is repaired as soon as possible. More complex domestic equipment will need to be installed by a qualified person once further European Commission proposals currently under discussion are agreed and implemented.

Under the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations (2006), consumers are able to return their residential air conditioning units to a designated collection facility free of charge at end of life, and producers are responsible for financing their subsequent treatment and recycling.

Animal Welfare: Research

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list the research projects funded by his Department into issues related to animal health and welfare in each of the last 10 years; and how much funding was allocated to each project. [150632]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of animal health and welfare research projects funded by DEFRA in the last 10 years can be found in the following table:

Project area	*Number of R and D projects*
Animal Welfare	264
BSE and other TSEs	128
Disease Prevention	286
Endemic Disease and Zoonoses	175
Veterinary Medicines	73

A full breakdown and funding for each of these projects can be found on the DEFRA website.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance he has issued on the measures that cattle farmers can undertake under EU Council Directive 58/98/EC of 20 July 1998 Annex paragraph 12, to prevent tuberculosis reactors originating from wildlife contaminating cattle on farms; and if he will make a statement. [150567]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA, in partnership with the Bovine TB Husbandry Working Group, has produced guidance for farmers to reduce the risk of TB transmission. This includes a number of measures to reduce the risk of contact between cattle and badgers, one of which is being aware of the risk areas at pasture such as badgers setts and latrines.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle have been slaughtered as a precaution against bovine tuberculosis in the last five years; and what proportion of those cattle were confirmed to have been infected with the disease. [150625]

Jonathan Shaw: Following a bovine TB (bTB) breakdown we aim to confirm the presence of the disease at herd level by post-mortem inspection and culture of Mycobacterium bovis in the laboratory. We do not culture samples from every single animal slaughtered, and so it is not possible to identify the proportion of slaughtered animals with confirmed TB. It is also important to note that failure to confirm the disease by post-mortem examination at the slaughterhouse or by culturing the causative bacterium in the laboratory does not mean that an animal was not infected with bTB. In the early stages of this infectious disease, it is not always possible to see lesions with the naked eye, and due to the fastidious nature of the organism, it is not possible to culture it from tissue samples in every case.

The following table shows cattle TB data for Britain between 2002 and 2006.

Bovine TB in Britain

	Number of cattle slaughtered under bTB control measures[1]	*Number of cattle in which bTB confirmed*
2006	22,242	7,472
2005	30,081	8,714
2004	23,064	6,422
2003	23,821	6,308
2002[2]	23,744	6,993
Total	122,952	35,909

[1] TB reactors, inconclusive reactors and direct contacts.

[2] In 2001, the TB testing and control programme was largely suspended due to the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak. When testing resumed in 2002, resources were concentrated on herds with overdue TB tests which would have had a longer period in which to contract the disease. Also the proportion of high risk herds tested immediately after the FMD outbreak was greater than that prior to the outbreak. As a result, the number of confirmed TB reactors in 2002 is not comparable with other years.

Note:

The table shows provisional data, as downloaded from the Animal Health Data Warehouse. This is subject to change as more data becomes available.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cases of bovine TB were recorded in each English region in each year since 2000. [151303]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of confirmed new bovine tuberculosis (bTB) incidents in each Animal Health region in England for each year since 2000 are shown in the following table:

Number of confirmed new TB incidents[1] *by Animal Health region*

	West	*North*	*East*	*England total*
1 January to 30 April 2007	500	76	17	593
2006	1,308	199	57	1,564
2005	1,440	207	31	1,678
2004	1,228	165	30	1,423
2003	1,126	159	27	1,312
2002	1,318	203	22	1,543
2001[2]	332	47	4	383
2000	840	45	9	894

[1] Table shows provisional data, as downloaded from the Animal Health Data Warehouse. This is subject to change as more data becomes available.

[2] In 2001, the TB testing and control programme was largely suspended due to the foot and mouth disease (FMD) outbreak. When testing resumed in 2002, resources were concentrated on herds with overdue TB tests which would have had a longer period in which to contract the disease. Also the proportion of high risk herds tested immediately after the FMD outbreak was greater than that prior to the outbreak. As a result, the number of confirmed TB incidents in 2001 and 2002 are not comparable with other years.

Note:

When interpreting these statistics, it is important to bear in mind that a proportion of bTB incidents remain unclassified, awaiting the results of culture tests which can take several months. Therefore the number of confirmed incidents will currently be under-recorded. For instance, 21.6 per cent. of new bTB incidents in January to April 2007 were unclassified when the data were extracted.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Angela Browning: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to make a decision on measures to tackle bovine tuberculosis following the final report of the Independent Scientific Group on Cattle Tuberculosis. [150761]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 19 July 2007]:* There is no timetable for an announcement on this issue. We are carefully considering the issues that the Independent Scientific Group (ISG) on Cattle Tuberculosis report raises, and will continue to work with the industry, Government advisers and scientific experts in reaching a final policy decision on this issue.

Bovine Tuberculosis: South West Region

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many new cases of bovine tuberculosis in the South West were recorded since 1997. [151567]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of confirmed new bovine tuberculosis (bTB) incidents in South West England for each year since 1997 are shown in the following table:

Confirmed new TB incidents in South West England[1]

	Number
2007 (January to April)	382
2006	971
2005	1,101
2004	958
2003	857
2002	1,047
2001[2]	252
2000	676
1999	543
1998	459
1997	326

[1] Provisional data, as downloaded from the Animal Health Data Warehouse is subject to change as more data becomes available.

[2] In 2001, the TB testing and control programme was largely suspended due to the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak. When testing resumed in 2002, resources were concentrated on herds with overdue TB tests which would have had a longer period in which to contract the disease. Also the proportion of high risk herds tested immediately after the FMD outbreak was greater than that prior to the outbreak. As a result, the number of confirmed TB incidents in 2001 and 2002 are not comparable with other years.

Note:
South West England comprises Avon, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire

When interpreting these statistics it is important to bear in mind that a proportion of bTB incidents remain unclassified, awaiting the results of culture tests which can take several months. Therefore the number of confirmed incidents will currently be under-recorded. For instance, 21.6 per cent. of new bTB incidents in January to April 2007 were unclassified when the data were extracted.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in developing a vaccine against bovine tuberculosis for *(a)* badgers and *(b)* cows; and if he will make a statement. [150623]

Jonathan Shaw: The research programme for producing an effective vaccine against tuberculosis in *(a)* badgers and *(b)* cattle remains broadly in line with the timetable outlined in the Krebs report (1997). This estimated:

Years 1 to 5: Identification of candidate vaccines and development of differential diagnostic tests;

Years 5 to 10: Experimental investigations of vaccination protocols;

Years 10 to 15: Field trials.

The first stage started in 1999 and is ongoing. The second stage has started and work on badger vaccines includes a three and a half year vaccine field trial to gather safety data and assess efficacy on injectable Bacille Calmette-Guerin, and a project on developing oral formulations. The cattle vaccine research programme includes a natural transmission study looking at various candidate vaccines.

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what level of carbon emissions resulted from large commercial and public sector organisations in the latest year for which figures are available. [151572]

Joan Ruddock: The Public Sector was responsible for 4 per cent.[1] of UK CO_2 emissions. Electricity consumption accounted for approximately 10.2 Mt of CO_2 emissions in 2005—about 47 per cent. of the public sector's total emission.

The energy service directives to be implemented by 17 May 2008 set a national indicative target of 9 per cent. energy savings in member states by 2017. Article 5 requires the public sector to fulfil an exemplary role in delivering the directive. In fulfilling this role the Government will implement measures relating to the procurement of energy using products and/or buildings. These will be applied across the public sector alongside published guidance on how energy efficiency and energy savings can be used as a possible assessment criterion in procurement.

Emissions from the commercial sector amounted to 9 per cent. of total UK emissions in 2005, including 39.5 Mt CO_2 from electricity use, around 76 per cent. of total emissions from this sector.

[1] All percentages and emissions are quoted on a final user basis—emissions from the energy supply (power stations, refineries, mining etc) sector are reallocated to the sector where the electricity or fuels are used. Emissions from the UK Overseas Territories are excluded from these figures.

Crops: Disease Control

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent research he has evaluated on Tilletia Indica and Karnal Bunt disease of wheat; and if he will undertake a new pest risk analysis of the fungus. [150323]

Jonathan Shaw: Karnal Bunt disease (Tilletia Indica) is not known to be present in Europe. Originally found in south Asia, it has more recently spread to the USA and South Africa. The disease is difficult to treat and can affect grain quality.

An EU funded research project, which has drawn upon the expertise of scientific experts from a number of member states and from outside the EU, has recently completed a pest risk analysis (PRA) of the implications which the entry and establishment of this organism poses to the EU. A revised UK PRA which takes account of this work is currently subject to public consultation. Details are available on the DEFRA plant health website.

All replies received in response to the consultation process will be considered.

Departments: Common Purpose

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department paid to Common Purpose in each of the last five years; for what purpose; and what the outcome of the expenditure was. [147595]

Jonathan Shaw: Common Purpose is a leadership development organisation that aims to improve the way society works by running a variety of educational programmes for leaders of all ages, backgrounds and sectors.

Since DEFRA came into being in June 2001 and from information held centrally, the core-Department has spent £658 with Common Purpose.

Departments: Crime

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criminal offences have been created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since October 2006. [149593]

Jonathan Shaw: Most of the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 came into force on 6 April 2007. The Act largely consolidates and updates predecessor legislation in the field of animal welfare and most of the offences are not "new" in this sense. The following offences in the Act have come into force:

	Offence
Section 4	Causing and allowing unnecessary suffering of animals
Section 5	Mutilation of animals
Section 6	Docking of dogs' tails
Section 7	Administration of poisons to animals
Section 8	Various offences relating to animal fighting
Section 9	Breach of duty to ensure welfare
Section 10	Improvement notices
Section 11	Selling animals or giving as prizes to children under 16
Section 13(6)	Activities which must be licensed or registered under the section (none yet provided for in secondary legislation)
Section 18(12)	Obstruction of a person exercising powers in relation to animals in distress
Section 20(7)	Obstruction of a person exercising powers relating to court orders regarding animals in distress taken into possession
Section 34(9)	Breach of disqualification order
Section 41(7)	Selling or parting with animal subject to a suspended deprivation order
Section 46(2)	Breach of disqualification order in Scotland
Section 50(1)	Selling or parting with an animal subject to a suspended deprivation or seizure order in Scotland
Section 50(2)	Obstructing a person carrying out a deprivation, seizure or interim order in Scotland
Section 56(3)	Failure to deliver documents or carry out directions pursuant to court order
Schedule 2, paragraph 16	Obstructing a person exercising various powers or failing to give assistance to a person exercising various powers where assistance is required

Departments: Databases

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the annual budget is of the open access database; how many hits it has had per month since it came into operation; and what plans he has to expand its use. [151083]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 19 July 2007]:* I am not aware that an open access database exists.

However, Natural England's Open Access website is part of a service contracted out to IBM which also covers the operation and maintenance of the Open Access Restrictions Casework System and the Open Access Contact Centre. The total cost of the contract is £1,704,577 but not all of that amount relates to the website. It is not possible to break this figure down further.

The average number of hits to the website between April 2005 and January 2007 is 7,868 per month.

Natural England is currently reviewing the website's use as well as the contract with IBM.

Departments: Ministerial Red Boxes

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many ministerial red boxes his Department bought in each of the last five years; what the cost of each was; who the suppliers were: and what tendering process was used in selecting them. [150478]

Jonathan Shaw: During the last five years DEFRA has purchased two ministerial red boxes, both were in financial year 2005-06, at a cost of £750.00 each. They were supplied by Banner Business Supplies.

As the value of orders was below the minimum HM Treasury threshold for competition, the orders were placed on a single tender basis with Banner Business Supplies.

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants within his Department's areas of responsibilities in the last 12 months. [149044]

Jonathan Shaw: From information held centrally, the core Department spent £1,354,759 on overnight accommodation for civil servants in the last 12 months. Information on such expenditure by Defra's executive agencies and NDPBs is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Publicity

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the cost-effectiveness of advertising commissioned by his Department in the last 12 months. [148518]

Jonathan Shaw: For details of the expenditure on advertising and marketing campaigns conducted by the Department, I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1665W, and on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 67W.

The Department regularly carries out research and evaluation into the effectiveness of its advertising as part of the marketing process. In the last 12 months, the following research and evaluation into advertising effectiveness has been commissioned by the Department's Communication Directorate:

1. Animal Welfare Act communications—research was commissioned to test the changes in awareness of, and attitudes to, the Animal Welfare Act following a range of communications activity including press advertising. The research was conducted by BMRB.

2. Personal Food Imports campaign—research was commissioned to test the changes in awareness of legislation on importing food into the UK, and awareness and attitudes to the campaign, among BME audiences, following a range of communications activity including poster, phone booth and radio advertising. The research was conducted by IFF Research.

3. Act on CO_2 Climate Change campaign—research has been commissioned to test awareness and impact of the advertising, awareness of the branding and recall of messages. The campaign comprises a range of communications activity including TV, press and online advertising. The research will be conducted by BRMB.

In the last year DEFRA's expenditure on recruitment advertising was £332,000. In the main this was for board level appointments to DEFRA and its partner organisations and specialist posts. The contract for this work was re-tendered at the beginning of the financial year to provide better value for money and a focus on use of the most effective channels to reach potential recruits.

Disadvantaged: Rural Areas

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of the 23 recommendations of the Commission for Rural Communities in the report Rural Disadvantage and Priorities for Action have been implemented. [152081]

Jonathan Shaw: The Commission for Rural Communities "Rural Disadvantage and Priorities for Action" report does not present a list of recommendations as such.

The report states:

"these are not detailed recommendations of how and when action is needed, nor who should take forward the work".

The report was intended to identify priorities for action to form the start of a debate on how they should be achieved and provide a foundation to help shape the future work of the Commission itself.

Many of the issues identified in the report are already the focus of significant Government attention through a range of existing mechanisms.

We welcome the lead taken by the Commission in taking stock of issues affecting rural people and communities, and in identifying priority work to pursue with a wide range of partners, including those living in rural areas.

Dogs: Animal Welfare

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he has evaluated on the use of electric shock collars on dogs; when his Department will begin such research; how much this study is expected to cost; and if he will make a statement. [152334]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 24 July 2007]:* DEFRA has now evaluated the single proposal received in response to the limited tender call circulated in July 2006. We very much hope that a three-year programme of research will begin in September 2007. As soon as any DEFRA research is commissioned, details, including likely costs, will be put in the public domain.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answers my predecessor the hon. Member for Exeter (Mr. Bradshaw) gave on 6 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 420W and 8 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 272W.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reason previously planned flood defence schemes for areas at risk did not go ahead in 2007. [150616]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA and local authority spending on flood and coastal erosion risk management has increased markedly, from £307 million each year in 1996-97 to some £600 million this year, and will rise to £800 million in 2010-11.

Food: Retail Trade

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to encourage retailers to sell locally-grown food. [151079]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 19 July 2007]:* The DEFRA-funded quality regional food programme is delivered on our behalf by Food From Britain (FFB).

It includes a number of initiatives aimed at encouraging retailers to stock more quality regional and local foods. These include both regional and national 'meet the buyer' events and support for a series of guides aimed at making it easier for regional and local food producers to supply both supermarkets and the food service sector. In addition, we have helped facilitate more local sourcing of food by providing funding to address issues such as distribution, marketing and the encouragement of new outlets.

Livestock Industry: Research

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list the research projects which have been funded by his Department into the impact of livestock husbandry on climate change. [150633]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA (and previously MAFF) has, since 1990, funded a specific programme of research on measuring and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture—including the contribution of livestock husbandry. I have arranged for the list of all current and recently completed projects under DEFRA's existing agriculture and climate change research programme to be placed in the Library of the House. A list of projects going back to 1997 will also be placed in the Library of the House.

As an example of the work in which we are investing under this programme, we have recently commissioned a three-year project to identify nutritional strategies for ruminants that will reduce methane and nitrogen emissions.

There are other relevant projects outside the agriculture and climate change research programme that also explore the impacts of livestock on climate change. These include a study on environmental burdens and resource use in the production of agricultural and horticultural commodities '(Determining the environmental burdens and resource use in the production of agricultural and horticultural commodities. DEFRA project report IS020);' a report on the Environmental Impacts of Food Production and Consumption; and a life-cycle assessment of certain food commodities, including beef and lamb '(Comparative life-cycle assessment of food commodities procured for UK consumption through a diversity of supply chains (FO0103)).' We are also working in partnership with the dairy sector to produce a "Milk Roadmap", which will help us collectively to identify and work to reduce some of the environmental impacts associated with the production and consumption of milk.

The complete catalogue of DEFRA and MAFF-funded research on agriculture and the environment was recently summarised in the report 'DEFRA Research In Agriculture and Environmental Protection 1990-2005, Summary and Analysis (ES0127)' pages 122 to 149 of the report look specifically at research into greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture.

Natural England: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was allocated to Natural England for 2007-08. [151786]

Jonathan Shaw: Natural England's grant in aid funding for this financial year (2007-08) is currently £180.47 million. Some further funding remains to be finalised as part of establishing "steady state" costs following the organisational changes. The figure is exclusive of the budgets for the agri-environment programmes administered by Natural England.

Nature Conservation: EC Action

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 17 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 887W, on nature conservation: EC action, if he will list the information on compensatory measures supplied to the European Commission as required under Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive. [150920]

Joan Ruddock: According to our records there have been several habitat compensation schemes secured as compensatory measures, under Article 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive. This is to ensure that the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network is protected. These are as follows.

Project	*Year consent given*	*Type of consent*	*European site affected*
Harwich Haven to Felixstowe approach channel deepening by dredge	1998	The Coast Protection Act, 1949 and the Food and Environment Protection (FEPA) Act 1985	Stour and Orwell SPA Hamford Water SPA
A249 Iwade to Queensborough road improvement scheme	2000	Highways Act 1980	Medway Estuary and Marshes SPA
Humber Estuary flood management scheme	2001	Planning consent under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990	Humber Flats, Marshes and Coast Phase 1 SPA
Hullbridge tidal flood scheme	2003	Planning consent under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990	Couch and Roach Estuaries SPA Essex Estuaries SPA
Pett frontage tidal defence scheme	2004	Planning consent under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990	Dungeness to Pett Levels SPA Dungeness SPA
Morecambe coastal defence works	2005	Planning consent under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990	Morecambe Bay SAC and SPA
Road improvement to A830 trunk road from Mallaig to Lochailort	2007	Highways Act	Glen Beasdale SAC

In addition, there were two consents granted subject to compensatory measures being secured as and when ongoing monitoring identified adverse effects on the European sites concerned. These are as follows:

Project	Year consent given	Type of consent	European site affected
MOD Remote Ammunitioning Facility in the Tamar Estuary Plymouth	2000	Planning consent under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990	Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC
Water abstraction at North Pickenham, Norfolk	2002	Water Resources Act 1991	Norfolk Valley Fens SAC

A review of the relevant records reveals some uncertainty as to the schemes in respect of which information has been sent to the Commission formally in accordance with Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive. We are therefore in the process of sending them information on all those listed.

Nature Reserves: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the monies for the recently opened Cranham National Nature Reserve in Gloucestershire will be paid. [151084]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 19 July 2007]:* I understand that this money was released by Natural England to the landowner on 17 July.

Organic Farming: Yorkshire and Humberside

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was paid to farmers in Yorkshire and the Humber to convert to organic farming in each year since 2003; how many acres of land were farmed organically in Yorkshire and the Humber in 2004; and how many are now. [151564]

Jonathan Shaw: Please see the following table showing the conversion aid payments made to farmers in Yorkshire and the Humber, under the Organic Farming Scheme, since 2003.

There were 9,754 hectares of land farmed organically (organic and in conversion) in 2004 and according to the latest figures available, 11,319 hectares in January 2006.

Sum of total amount paid

Calendar year paid	Holding county	Total
2003	Humberside	61,518.68
	Lincolnshire	134,911.31
	North Yorkshire	228,684.59
	South Yorkshire	11,488.40
	West Yorkshire	10,412.94
2003 total		447,015.92
2004	Humberside	44,717.41
	Lincolnshire	167,733.19
	North Yorkshire	197,270.43
	South Yorkshire	13,191.30
	West Yorkshire	2,744.15
2004 total		425,656.48
2005	Humberside	33,747.08
	Lincolnshire	75,560.48
	North Yorkshire	84,882.99
	South Yorkshire	4,298.97
	West Yorkshire	3,203.95
2005 total		201,693.47
2006	Humberside	10,015.78
	Lincolnshire	21,991.59
	North Yorkshire	35,099.85
	South Yorkshire	585.20
	West Yorkshire	702.90
2006 total		68,395.32
2007	Humberside	2,751.15
	Lincolnshire	7,697.42
	North Yorkshire	12,744.60
	South Yorkshire	370.20
2007 total		23,563.37
Grand total		1,166,324.56

Potatoes: Supermarkets

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage British supermarkets to buy British potatoes. [150457]

Jonathan Shaw: The sourcing of food is a matter for the commercial judgement of retailers. It is against international trade rules for the Government to promote only British produce.

Potatoes: Weather

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much of the potato crop has been destroyed by the recent adverse weather conditions; and if he will make a statement; [150452]

(2) what provisions are in place to provide compensation for potato farmers who have suffered losses as a consequence of the recent flooding; and if he will make a statement; [150461]

(3) what discussions he has had with the British Potato Council on levy relief for potato farmers who have lost crops during the recent flooding; and if he will make a statement. [150462]

Jonathan Shaw: It is estimated that less than 1 per cent. of the national potato crop has been destroyed by the recent adverse weather conditions.

Compensation will not be available for farmers who have lost crops as a result of the recent flooding. Farmers who have taken out insurance for such damage should, of course, make a claim against their policy. We have great sympathy for those who are uninsured but there is no general right to compensation, since that would undermine the decision of those who did take out insurance and in the longer term undermine the competitive insurance market in this area that the UK currently benefits from.

I have held no discussions with the British Potato Council about levy relief for potato farmers who have lost crops during the recent flooding. I understand however that the BPC look sympathetically at situations where individual growers are suffering genuine hardship.

Research: Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list the published papers resulting from research funded by his Department at Woodchester Park into aspects of *(a)* badgers and *(b)* bovine tuberculosis; in which journal each was published; and on what date. [150634]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA funds a range of research work with the Central Science Laboratory's (CSL) research team based at Woodchester Park. CSL have published 104 research papers following from their research into aspects of badgers and/or bovine tuberculosis. A full list of the published papers from 1979 to July 2007 has been placed in the Library of the House.

Slaughterhouses: Transport

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the average distance that *(a)* pigs, *(b)* sheep, *(c)* cows and *(d)* poultry travel between farm and abattoir. [150874]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 19 July 2007]:* The average 'as the crow flies' distance from an agricultural holding to an abattoir in 2006 in Britain can be found in the following table:

Animal	*Batched distance (Kilometres)*	*Individual distance (Kilometres)*
Pig	55.6	82.6
Sheep	49.5	90.8

These figures have been derived from the Animal Movements Licensing System (AMIS) which records batch movements of sheep and pigs in England and Wales.

In November 2002 and October 2003, the median estimated distance travelled by cattle from agricultural holdings to abattoirs was 55.42 km. This figure was derived from a Veterinary Laboratories Agency research project which analysed data from the Cattle Tracing System of Great Britain and represents distance travelled along the road network.

Information on poultry is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

WALES

Departments: Air Conditioning

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on the hire of mobile air conditioning units in each of the last five years. [151979]

Mr. Hain: Nil.

Departments: Flint Bishop Solicitors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have made payments to Flint Bishop solicitors since 1997. [151374]

Mr. Hain: There were no payments made to Flint Bishop solicitors by the Wales Office, and we do not have any agencies.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many people are employed in his Department to work on ministerial correspondence. [152838]

Mr. Hain: No staff are employed specifically to work on ministerial correspondence.

Due to the nature of our role, most people in the Wales Office will have some part in dealing with ministerial correspondence during the year.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent on hospitality by his Department in the financial year 2006-07. [13326]]

Mr. Hain *[pursuant to the reply, 20 April 2007, Official Report, c. 866W]:* The actual cost for hospitality in the financial year 2006-07 was £12,265. The initial figure provided included costs incurred in 2005.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on hospitality events in each of the last five years. [152837]

Mr. Hain: Prior to April 2004 the Wales Office did not hold data in the format requested; it could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost

Hospitality spend in the Wales Office 2004-05 to 2006-07 is as follows:

	£
2004-05	7,383
2005-06	4,957
2006-07	12,265

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many overseas visits were made by *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers within his responsibility, and at what cost, in each year since 1997. [151643]

Mr. Hain: In respect of overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers, since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. Where non-scheduled aircraft are used this is shown in the list. Information for 2006-07 is currently being compiled and will be published before the summer recess. Copies of the lists are available in the Library for the reference of Members.

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers, copies of which are available in the Library for the reference of Members. All official travel is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code, a copy of which is also available in the Library for the reference of Members.

Detailed information requested in respect to the number of overseas trips and cost taken by Officials can be provided only at a disproportionate cost, for the years 1999 to 2003-04 as records not held in this format

The cost of official overseas travel since 2004 where officials accompanied Ministers was:

2004-05: £18,238 for one overseas trip.

2006-07: £8,284 for two overseas trips.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Price Fixing: Drugs

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Solicitor-General what the costs have been so far of the Serious Fraud Office's ongoing Operation Holbein investigation. [150722]

The Solicitor-General: The Serious Fraud Office is currently prosecuting nine individuals and five companies for conspiracy to defraud the Department of Health by fixing the prices and manipulating the supply of certain generic drugs, namely, penicillin-based antibiotics, warfarin and the branded drug, Marevan.

The total expenditure for this case up to 31 March 2007, which is the end of the last financial year is as follows:

Financial year	*Expenditure (£)*
2000-01	26,122
2001-02	417,536
2002-03	2,778,565
2003-04	3,384,928
2004-05	3,950,023
2005-06	5,448,558
2006-07	4,341,732
Total	20,347,464

Prosecutions

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Solicitor-General if she will ask the Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate to review the decision to prosecute in R v. Payne and Others. [149569]

The Solicitor-General: The Royal Military Police, as is routine practice when defendants are acquitted following a prosecution, is currently reviewing the circumstances that led to the death of Mr. Baha Mousa and the ill-treatment of other detainees by the British Army. The review will assist the police to determine whether there should be a further investigation of the death and ill-treatment. During their review, the police, quite properly, are obtaining legal advice from the Army Prosecuting Authority (APA). It would be inappropriate to review the decision to prosecute Corporal Payne and Others at a time when the APA continues to advise the police on their review. This is in accordance with the CPS Inspectorate's standard procedure of not reviewing cases which are subject to an ongoing review.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Solicitor-General how many cases the Crown Prosecution Service has re-presented to court which had initially been dismissed due to a technical error in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [150864]

The Solicitor-General: Where a case is tried summarily or on indictment and the charges are dismissed by the court, this has the effect of an acquittal. In these circumstances, the prosecution has no opportunity of re-presenting the charges to the court.

Where charges are discharged at the magistrates court in the course of committal proceedings, then the prosecution may, as a matter of law, recommence the proceedings if appropriate.

Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) records include no distinct record of the number of cases in which these circumstances arise. The information is held on individual case files, and could be retrieved by locating and examining every relevant file in each CPS office, which would only incur disproportionate cost (Code of Practice on Access to Information, part 2, clause 9).

SCOTLAND

Genetics: Databases

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many Scottish people of 18 years and under have their DNA details retained on a national database. [146239]

David Cairns *[holding answer 28 June 2007]:* As at end June 2007 there were a total of 15,517 profiles of persons aged 18 years and under on the Scottish DNA database. This represents just over 7 per cent. of the total number of profiles on the Scottish database. Any further questions on this matter should be addressed to the Home Office.

Ministerial Duties

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many meetings his predecessor had with *(a)* voluntary groups and charities, *(b)* businesses or business representatives, *(c)* Scottish parliamentary officials, *(d)* Members of the Scottish Parliament and *(e)* political party leaders in his capacity as Secretary of State for Scotland. [152292]

Des Browne: My predecessor has had a range of discussions with voluntary groups and charities, businesses or business representatives, Scottish parliamentary officials, Members of the Scottish Parliament and political party leaders.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many meetings he has had with *(a)* the First Minister of the Scottish Executive, *(b)* leaders of the Conservative, Liberal Democrats, Labour and other parties in Scotland, *(c)* members of the Scottish Parliament and *(d)* public servants in Scotland; and how many meetings his predecessor had with each between 3rd May 2005 and 27th June 2007. [152293]

Des Browne: Since my appointment I have spoken with the First Minister on two occasions and met leaders of the Scottish Conservative, Liberal Democrats and Labour parties, members of the Scottish Parliament and public servants in Scotland on at least one occasion. My predecessor had numerous discussions with the First Minister, leaders of the Scottish Conservative, Liberal Democrats and Labour parties, members of the Scottish Parliament and public servants in Scotland between 3 May 2005 and 27 June 2007.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many meetings he has had with representative organisations since his appointment [152294]

Des Browne: I have had no meetings with representative organisations since my appointment as Secretary of State for Scotland on 28 June 2007 but a range of meetings are planned during summer recess.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many times he has visited Scotland on official business since his appointment. [152295]

Des Browne: I have been in Scotland for five days on official business since my appointment as Secretary of State for Scotland.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many meetings he has had with business and business representatives in his capacity as Secretary of State since his appointment. [152296]

Des Browne: I have had no meetings with business and business representatives in my capacity of Secretary of State for Scotland since my appointment on 28 June 2007 but a range of meetings are planned during summer recess.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Departments: Air Conditioning

Chris Huhne: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much was spent by the House on the hire of mobile air conditioning units in each of the last five years. [151988]

Nick Harvey: Expenditure on the hire of mobile air conditioning units is only readily available for the last four years following a change in the accounting system in 2003. Expenditure was as follows:

Hire of mobile air conditioning units

	Expenditure (£)
2003-04	68,470
2004-05	98,638
2005-06	65,943
2006-07	8,140

Paint

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the *(a)* brand and *(b)* chemical composition is of the wall primers and paints (i) usually used for routine maintenance and (ii) being used in the course of the major summer works being undertaken in the House; and what their cost is per litre. [151894]

Nick Harvey: Dulux trade paint is used during the routine maintenance of the Palace. With regards to summer works projects we do not use a standard specification, just individual specifications on each project depending on requirements. The following is a breakdown of the main paints used by maintenance.

Dulux trade high gloss price: £5.87 per litre

				Composition
EC number	*CAS number*	*Hazardous ingredients*	*Percentage*	*Classification*
265-150-3	64742-48-9	Naphtha (petroleum), Hydrated Heavy	25-50	Xn R10-65-66
265-150-3	64742-48-9	Naphtha (petroleum), Hydrated Heavy	1.0-25	Xn R65-66
202-496-6	96-29-7	Ethyl Methyl Ketoxime	<1.0	Xn R21-40-41-43 Carc. Cat 3
270-066-5	68409-81-4	Cobalt Carobxylate	<1.0	R22-38-73-51/53

Dulux trade vinyl silk price: £4.11 per litre

				Composition
EC number	*CAS number*	*Hazardous ingredients*	*Percentage*	*Classification*
202-859-9	100-51-6	Benzyl Alcohol	1.0-2.85	Xn R20/22
—	—	Fatty Alcohol, Ethoxylated	<1.0	N, Xn R22-51/53

Dulux trade vinyl matt price: £3.35 per litre (white) £3.85 per litre (magnolia)

EC number	CAS number	Hazardous ingredients	Percentage	Composition Classification
All except light base				
265-150-3	64742-48-9	Naphtha (petroleum), Hydrotreated Heavy	1.0-2.5	Xn R10-65-66
Light base				
		Fatty Alcohol, Ethoxylated	<1.0	N, Zn R22-51/53

Dulux trade quick drying wood primer undercoat price: £9.89 per litre

EC number	CAS number	Hazardous ingredients	Percentage	Composition Classification
238-877-9	14807-96-6	Talc, Magnesium Silicate	2.5-10	—
208-915-9	546-93-0	Magnesium carbonate	2.5-10	—
2002-859-9	100-51-6	Benzyl Alcohol	1.0-2.5	Xn R20/22

Waste Disposal: Electronic Equipment

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many electronic items were disposed of by the House in each year since 2001; how many were in working order when they were disposed of; and how many were *(a)* recycled and *(b)* donated to charitable organisations. [151998]

Nick Harvey: Information is held on the disposal of *(a)* electronic desktop equipment and *(b)* telephones, including mobile telephones.

Members' IT equipment was provided centrally for the first time in 2001 and became due for disposal only from mid-2005. A total of 4,053 items of desktop equipment used by Members and staff of the House of Commons were disposed of between May 2005 and December 2006 as part of the periodic refresh programme. A further 812 items were disposed of between January and June 2007.

The disposal of all these items was managed by a third-party contractor, responsible for secure data removal and onward recycling or sale as appropriate. The House received the residual value of sales, after the deduction of costs. Information from the supplier is presented to the House in order to meet its asset management responsibilities, but this does not provide detail on whether individual items were still in working order. The contractor does not make charitable donations.

Telephone handsets are re-used within the House if possible and otherwise assigned for safe disposal. Since June 2004 redundant mobile telephones have been sent for recycling and the proceeds are donated to charity. Detailed records have been kept since May 2006 and these show that 221 items have been sent for recycling since that date.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Employment: Training

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what incentives are in place to encourage employers to spend money on on-the-job training; [151849]

(2) what steps the Government are taking to improve on-the-job training. [151850]

Mr. Lammy: Employers invest very substantial time and resources in the skills of their employees. In 2005 employers reported that they spent around £33 billion on training (including the wage costs of trainees). However, Lord Leitch's review of skills last year set out the major challenge ahead if the UK is truly to be a world leader in skills by 2020. The Government have recently published 'World Class Skills', setting out how we will implement the Leitch review in England. This says that achieving the change in culture that the Leitch ambitions demands, will require a major new investment of time, effort and money by employers and individuals. But it also says that Government have a responsibility to support them, and 'World Class Skills' sets out how we will meet that responsibility.

Government have a range of support in place designed to motivate employers to invest in the skills of their employees. This includes Train to Gain, Apprenticeships and Foundation Degrees. Train to Gain is a major new service that will raise skills levels and the quality of training across England.

Train to Gain offers a holistic service to employers. Independent and impartial skills brokers work with the employers to identify how skills might help them meet their business goals, including increased productivity. The Skills Brokers help the employer identify possible sources of public funding available, as well set out the employer investment, in both cash and in paid time off for employees to study for the relevant qualification. Training when appropriate is often held on the employers premises.

In its first year of operation it has already engaged more than 40,000 employers with some 70 per cent. of those defined as hard to reach (i.e. not recognised as an Investor in People and no recorded investment in training).

From 2008-09, employers will be able to access matched funding for level 3 programmes as part of the package they put together with skills brokers, and we will continue to develop the higher level skills offer in the light of the current Higher Level Skills Pathfinders. We will also support discrete Skills for Life programmes as well as those embedded within level 2 programmes for those who do not already have a level 2 qualification.

Industrial Training

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what measures are in place to identify skills shortages and train workers to address any shortages. [151851]

Mr. Lammy: Sector Skills Councils are on target to complete Sector Skills Agreements by March 2008 in England. These agreements identify the priority skill needs of industry sectors and how training provision can become more responsive to employer and learner needs.

There are a range of measures to support individuals to improve their skills including Apprenticeships, Train to Gain, National Skills Academies, Foundation Degrees and Union Learning. In addition, there are targeted programmes to address skill shortages. For example the Women and Work programme helps women enter occupations where they are under-represented and where specific skills shortages exist.

Science: Recruitment

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what *(a)* recruitment procedures and *(b)* arrangements to choose members of the selection boards are in place for the appointment of (i) the Director General of Research Councils and (ii) the Chief Scientific Adviser. [150219]

Ian Pearson: Civil service recruitment is managed by individual Departments in accordance with the rules and procedures laid down by the Office of the Civil Service Commissioners. This is to ensure that all recruitment is dealt with in a fair and open manner. Recruitment processes for senior appointments are clearly set out by the Commissioners and these processes are followed at all times.

Selection boards for senior positions are chaired by a Civil Service Commissioner, and for the most senior posts such as the Government Chief Scientific Adviser the panel is always chaired by the First Civil Service Commissioner. The rest of the panel will comprise the relevant Permanent Secretary, an external representative such as someone from business or academia and usually a senior representative from another Government Department.

Skilled Workers: Foreigners

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which 10 employment sectors employ the largest number of foreign skilled labourers in the UK; and from which 10 countries the greatest numbers of such workers come to the UK. [148205]

Bill Rammell: The following tables show estimates from the Annual Population Survey (APS), 2006, for the United Kingdom. The data relate to foreign workers employed at the time of the survey who arrived in the UK since the start of 2003, who hold some kind of qualification, and who were not full-time students at the time of the survey.

Employment by nationality

Country	*Number employed from foreign countries who have arrived in the UK since 2003 with some qualifications, excluding full-time students**
Poland	109,000
India	58,000
Former USSR etc.	30,000
South Africa	30,000
Former Czechoslovakia	23,000
USA	20,000
Australia	20,000
France	18,000
Philippines	13,000
Germany	12,000
Top 10 total	333,000
All other countries	182,000
Grand total	515,000

Employment by sector

Sector	*Number employed from foreign countries who have arrived in the UK since 2003 with some qualifications, excluding full time students**
Manufacturing	81,000
Real estate, renting and business activities	76,000
Health and social work	76,000
Hotels and restaurants	56,000
Wholesale, retail and motor trade	55,000
Transport, storage and communication	35,000
Construction	32,000
Education	26,000
Financial intermediation	25,000
Other community, social and personal	22,000
Top 10 total	484,000
All other sectors (inc. not identified)	31,000
Grand total	515,000

Notes:
The number of foreign workers presented here is likely to be understated, because the APS:
1. Excludes those who have not been a resident in the UK for 6 months
2. Excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc.)
3. Is grossed to population estimates that only include migrants staying for 12 months or more
4. Is only grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003, which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates.

Source:
Annual Population Survey, 2006

Unemployment: Poole

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many 16 to 24 year olds in Poole are not in employment, education or training. [151576]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

We estimate from data provided by the Connexions Service that 174 16 to 18-year-olds (i.e. young people aged 16, 17 or 18) were not in education, employment or training (NEET) in the Poole local authority area at

the end of June 2007. Equivalent information is not available for 19 to 24-year-olds.

These NEET measures are those used for setting and monitoring Local Authority NEET targets. The definition differs from that used to measure the national departmental PSA NEET target. The Connexions NEET measure does not cover the entire population, for example it excludes those on gap years and those in custody. The PSA measure is for academic rather than calendar age 16-18.

Unemployment: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of 16 to 19 year olds in York were in education, training or work in 2005-06. [151626]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

We estimate from data provided by the Connexions Service that 91 per cent. of 16 to 18-year-olds (i.e. those aged 16, 17 or 18) were in education, employment or training (EET) in the City of York local authority area in 2005-06.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: North East Region

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the Arts Council England North East's work in contributing to the renaissance of the North East region since 1997. [149966]

Margaret Hodge: Arts Council England North East has made a very significant contribution to the renaissance of the region since 1997. Iconic projects in which they have been involved include the Sage Gateshead, the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art and the Angel of the North. Arts Council England North East currently provides regular funding to over 80 organisations in the region including Dance City, a national dance agency in Newcastle upon Tyne and Arc, a community arts and education centre in the Tees Valley. Arts Council England North East also supports events such as Stockton International Riverside Festival.

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what legislative provisions introduced by his Department's predecessors since 1997 have been repealed. [149591]

Margaret Hodge: My Department has been responsible for the introduction of 15 Acts since 1997 all of which remain in force.

Digital Broadcasting

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1428W, on digital broadcasting, whether the data released in accordance with the Digital Switchover (Disclosure of Information) Act 2007 will be available before the Whitehaven and Copeland switchover begins. [148979]

James Purnell *[holding answer 11 July 2007]:* We expect the information covered by the Digital Switchover (Disclosure of Information) Act 2007 about people who may be eligible for assistance from the Help Scheme in Whitehaven and Copeland will be released by DWP later this week.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* equipment and *(b)* upgrades people are entitled to under the programme of assistance in relation to digital switchover. [149754]

James Purnell: In most cases, people eligible for the Digital Switchover Help Scheme will be entitled to receive a digital set-top box which meets the Scheme's Core Receiver Requirements. Where digital terrestrial signals are not available, they will be provided with the most cost-effective platform available in their area.

They can also choose other types of digital terrestrial television equipment, such as an integrated digital TV or a personal video recorder (PVR), for an additional payment. Similarly, they can choose an alternative platform such as satellite, cable or TV via a telephone line, in which case the scheme will make a contribution towards their costs.

Museums and Galleries: Yorkshire and Humberside

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the national museums in *(a)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(b)* City of York received in Government grants in each year since 1997. [152185]

Margaret Hodge: Grant in aid for the national museums which fall within *(a)* Yorkshire and Humber and *(b)* the City of York is as follows.

£000

Museum	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
National Coal Mining Museum of England[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,152	1,332	2,073	2,408	2,445	2,539[2]	2,528	2,659
National Media Museum[3,4]	2,977	2,969	3,907	3,723	3,683	4,180	4,523	4,187	4,214	4,979	4,661
National Railway Museum[3]	9,126	3,647	3,758	3,932	4,708	5,664	6,759	6,967	6,598	7,753	7,605

£000

Museum	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Royal Armouries Leeds[5]	5,223	3,723	4,807	5,227	5,945	6,157	6,286	6,887	7,276	7,654	8,312
Total	11,515	10,036	11,599	14,000	15,568	17,967	19,150	20,179	20,479	22,057	23,863

[1] The Government started providing grant funding to the National Coal Mining Museum England through the National Museum of Science and Industry in 2000-01.
[2] This figure differs from the one given in the answer of 20 October 2004, *Official Report*, column 732W, as it includes an additional £113,000 in capital funding.
[3] Formerly the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television.
[4] The Government provide grant in aid to the National Museum of Science and Industry (NMSI) of which the National Media Museum and the National Railway Museum are branch museums. Funding to its branch museums is allocated by the NMSI. The figures shown here differ from those given in the answer of 20 October 2004, *Official Report*, column 732W, as they include capital allocations and, from 2002-03 to 2006-07, also contain outturn figures for resource grant in aid as opposed to the estimates used in the previous answer.
[5] This is the total allocation for the Royal Armouries, which includes its Leeds, Fort Nelson and the Tower of London branches. Royal Armouries in Leeds is the headquarters.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people visited each of the national museums in Yorkshire and the Humber in each year since 1997. [152200]

Margaret Hodge: Visit numbers for the national museums which fall within the Yorkshire and Humber region are as follows. Table 1 shows figures from 1997-98 to 2001-02. Table 2 covers 2002-03 to 2006-07.

Table 1

Museum	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
National Coal Mining Museum for England[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	65,802	60,032
National Media Museum[2]	298,901	83,613	962,899	969,822	823,309
National Railway Museum	420,079	434,566	467,880	485,785	587,862
Royal Armouries Leeds	349,000	296,000	173,500	185,710	280,867
Total	1,067,980	814,179	1,604,279	1,707,119	1,752,070

Table 2

Museum	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
National Coal Mining Museum for England	107,282	121,822	116,553	119,627	128,960
National Media Museum	768,161	723,273	658,991	615,431	677,029
National Railway Museum	767,299	740,217	885,406	744,472	903,188
Royal Armouries Leeds	302,527	277,105	301,809	244,469	225,417
Total	1,945,269	1,862,417	1,962,759	1,723,999	1,934,594

[1] Visit figures for National Coal Mining Museum England for years prior to 2000-01 are not available.
[2] The National Media Museum was partially closed in 1997-98 and 1998-99 for refurbishment.

National Lottery: Play

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what will happen to any unallocated monies from the Big Lottery Fund funding for play projects when the September deadline for applications passes. [152089]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In March 2007, The Big Lottery Fund wrote to the Chief Executives of all local authorities asking them to inform them if they were not planning to take up their allocation for the play programme. However, none of the local authorities have informed the Big Lottery Fund of not taking up their allocation.

After the September 2007 application window, the Big Lottery Fund will ascertain any underspend and a decision on how to allocate this will be taken by the Fund's Board in due course.

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the rules governing the application process for grants from the Big Lottery Fund for play projects. [152090]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No assessment has been made by DCMS on the effectiveness of the rules governing the application process for the play initiative. This is an internal operational matter for the Big Lottery Fund. The application process for this programme is consistent with the Fund's practices and procedures.

The Big Lottery Fund have funded Play England, an England-wide support and development infrastructure, to provide support to local authorities to develop appropriate play strategies. In addition, the Big Lottery Fund has carried out regional workshops to help local authorities with the application process.

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of the money available under the Big Lottery Fund children's play initiative has been *(a)* committed and *(b)* spent. [152092]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The figures in the table reflect the proportion of money which has been committed and spent under Big Lottery Fund's children's play initiative.

£

Programme name	Current award value (committed)	Total paid to date (spent)
Play infrastructure	14,663,933	4,359,562
Playful ideas	4,884,167	310,616
Children's play	46,209,437	708,413
Total	65,757,537	5,378,591

The total money available for the Children's Play initiative is £155 million. 42 per cent. of it has been committed and 3.5 per cent. has been spent.

Planning: Broadcasting Reception

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the account taken in planning decisions of the effect of proposed developments on existing television signals. [151423]

James Purnell: I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a range of issues.

Management of the spectrum, including matters of reception and interference, is for Ofcom. Ofcom recommends that planning authorities take potential disruption to TV reception into account when considering planning applications for large structures, but has no formal role in the planning process.

Royal Opera House: Directors

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in the appointment of the *(a)* chairman and *(b)* chief executive of the Royal Opera House what account was taken of the recommendation of the 2003 Higgs review of the effectiveness of non-executive directors that the role of chairman and chief executive should be separated; and if he will make a statement. [152177]

Margaret Hodge: The roles of chair and chief executive of the Royal Opera House are separate. My Department plays no part in either of these appointments.

Tourism: Poole

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* date and *(c)* location was of each tourism event attended by Ministers in his Department in the constituency of Poole in the last 12 months; which Ministers attended each event; and if he will make a statement. [151583]

Margaret Hodge: We are not aware of any tourism events in Poole attended by Ministers from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in the last 12 months.

PRIME MINISTER

10 Downing Street: Charity Receptions

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Prime Minister if he will list the official and charity receptions held at 10 Downing street in the financial year 2006-07. [153392]

The Prime Minister: I have today published a list of official and charity receptions held at 10 Downing street for the financial year 2006-07.

The total cost of official and charity receptions held by my predecessor at 10 Downing street and Chequers for the financial year 2006-07 was £87,000.

Official and charity receptions hosted by the then Prime Minister (right hon. Tony Blair) and Mrs. Blair 2006-07

Date	*Event*	*Number*	*Host*
28 March 2007	Charity—Westminster Cathedral Building Appeal	40	Mrs. Blair
27 March 2007	Charity—Royal Court Theatre	40	Mrs. Blair
20 March 2007	Charity—Wiener Library	40	Mrs. Blair
13 March 2007	Charity—National Museums Liverpool	40	Mrs. Blair
12 March 2007	Government—Britain's Younger Researchers in Science	150	Prime Minister and Mrs. Blair
8 March 2007	Charity—Women In Sports Foundation	40	Mrs. Blair
6 March 2007	Government—Press Gallery Essay Competition	40	Prime Minister
1 March 2007	Charity—World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts	40	Mrs. Blair
7 February 2007	Charity—Motor Neurone Disease	40	Mrs. Blair
6 February 2007	Charity—Get Ahead Charitable Appeal	40	Mrs. Blair
30 January 2007	Charity—Music for Autism	40	Mrs. Blair
22 January 2007	Government—Commemoration of the Abolition of the Slave Trade	150	Prime Minister
17 January 2007	Charity—Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust	40	Mrs. Blair
16 January 2007	Charity—Rainbow Trust	40	Mrs. Blair
15 January 2007	Government—Children's Centres Extended Schools	150	Prime Minister and Mrs. Blair
11 January 2007	Charity—FSID	40	Mrs. Blair
18 December 2006	Charity—Pulmonary Hypertension Association	40	Mrs. Blair
13 December 2006	Government—Women's Own Children of Courage Award Winners	40	Prime Minister and Mrs. Blair
12 December 2006	Government—Voluntary Sector	150	Prime Minister
12 December 2006	Charity—Iain Rennie Hospice at Home	40	Mrs. Blair
6 December 2006	Charity—Rights and Humanity	40	Mrs. Blair
6 December 2006	Charity—Christmas Party—Kirsty Howard Appeal	40	Mrs. Blair
5 December 2006	Charity—NSPCC	40	Mrs. Blair
22 November 2006	Charity—Fence Club	40	Mrs. Blair
22 November 2006	Government—Pledgebank	150	Prime Minister
21 November 2006	Charity—Arrhythmia Alliance	40	Mrs. Blair

Official and charity receptions hosted by the then Prime Minister (right hon. Tony Blair) and Mrs. Blair 2006-07

Date	*Event*	*Number*	*Host*
20 November 2006	Government - House Magazine 30th Anniversary	150	Prime Minister and Mrs. Blair
14 November 2006	Government Eve of Session	150	Prime Minister
13 November 2006	Charity—Kennedy Trust Tea	40	Mrs. Blair
7 November 2006	Charity reception—Sutton Trust	40	Mrs. Blair
2 November 2006	Government—Daily Express Lifesaver Award Winners	30	Prime Minister
1 November 2006	Government—News of the World Children's Champions	70	Mrs. Blair
31 October 2006	Charity—Lord Mayor's Appeal 2006	40	Mrs. Blair
30 October 2006	Government—Safeguarding Children	150	Prime Minister and Mrs. Blair
24 October 2006	Government—Commemorate the life of Hadi Saleh	40	Prime Minister
17 October 2006	Charity—Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust	40	Mrs. Blair
10 October 2006	Charity—YMCA England	40	Mrs. Blair
3 October 2006	Charity—Patient Voices Group—Beating Bowel Cancer	40	Mrs. Blair
19 September 2006	Charity—NOFAS-UK	40	Mrs. Blair
12 September 2006	Charity—Student Partnership Worldwide	40	Mrs. Blair
11 September 2006	Government—Domestic Violence	150	Prime Minister and Mrs. Blair
5 September 2006	Charity—Eastbourne Art Gallery	40	Mrs. Blair
18 July 2006	Government—Government Motor Show	100	Prime Minister and Mrs. Blair
13 July 2006	Government - Police Bravery Award Winners	150	Prime Minister
12 July 2006	Charity—Citizenship Foundation	45	Mrs. Blair
11 July 2006	Charity—War Child	40	Mrs. Blair
3 July 2006	Government—Nurses	150	Prime Minister
27 June 2006	Charity—Weston Spirit	40	Mrs. Blair
27 June 2006	Government—War Vets	150	Prime Minister and Mrs. Blair
17 June 2006	Government—Trooping of the Colour	150	Prime Minister and Mrs. Blair
13 June 2006	Government—Public Services	450	Prime Minister
13 June 2006	Charity—LIPA	40	Mrs. Blair
24 May 2006	Government—Soccer Aid	45	Prime Minister
23 May 2006	Charity—Snowdon Awards Scheme 25th Anniversary	40	Mrs. Blair
18 May 2006	Charity - Nightingale	40	Mrs. Blair
16 May 2006	Charity—Working Families	40	Mrs. Blair
10 May 2006 18:30	Government—Head Teachers	150	Prime Minister and Mrs. Blair
9 May 2006	Charity—Anti-Slavery International	40	Mrs. Blair
25 April 2006	Charity—Lords House Farm	40	Mrs. Blair
24 April 2006	Government—Further Education	150	Prime Minister
18 April 2006	Charity—Industry and Parliament Trust	40	Mrs. Blair
4 April 2006	Charity—Howard League for Penal Reform	40	Mrs. Blair

Chequers

Gordon Banks: To ask the Prime Minister if he will list the guests entertained at public expense at Chequers since 1 April 2006. [153394]

The Prime Minister: I have today published a list of attendees at Chequers dinners hosted by my predecessor from 1 April 2006-27 June 2007.

Chequers dinners attendees 1 April 2006-27 June 2007

Mr. David Aaronovitch
Mr. David Adjye
Mr. Charles Allen
The Hon. Stephen Benn
The Rt. Reverend the Lord Bishop of Oxford
The right hon. David Blunkett MP
Ms Ginny Buckley
Mrs. Sarah Byrne
Mr. Liam Byrne MP
Sir Ian Carruthers
Lady Joan Carruthers
Mr. Michael Cashman MEP
Mr. Adrian Chiles
Ms Charlotte Church
Ms Nita Clarke
Mr. Paul Costello
Mrs. Anne Costello
Mr. Paul Cottingham
Ms Tess Daly
Mr. Andy Duncan
Mrs. Jocelyn Duncan
Mrs. Deirdre Dyson
Mr. James Dyson CBE
Mr. Chris Evans
Mr. Michael Fisher
Judge David Fletcher
Mrs. Janet Fletcher
Mr. Brendan Foster
Mrs. Sue Foster
Mr. Martin Frizzell
Ms Jane Garvey

Mr. Peter Gershon
Mrs. Eileen Gershon
Lord Anthony Giddens
Lady Alena Giddens
Mr. John Hannett
Mrs. Linda Hannett
Dr. Josephine Harries
Mr. Gavin Henson
Mr. Andy Hornby
Mrs. Cathy Hornby
Mr. Nick Jones
Mr. Vernon Kay
Ms Lorraine Kelly
Mr. Justin King
Mrs. Claire King
Ms Julie Lewis
Ms Liz Lloyd
Mr. Richard Madeley
Ms Chloe Madeley
Mr. Steve McClaren
Mrs. Kathryn McClaren
Mr. Pat McFadden MP
Ms Claire Murphy
Mr. Jim Murphy MP
Mr. Peter Neyroud
Mrs. Sarah Neyroud
Mr. Eric Nicoli
Mrs. Lucy Nicoli
Mrs. Indra Nooyi
Mr. Raj Nooyi
Ms Fiona Phillips
Ms Sarah Powell
Mrs. Pauline Prescott
The right hon. John Prescott MP
Ms Sharon Reed
Lord Sainsbury
Lady Susie Sainsbury
Mr. William Sargent
Ms June Sarpong
The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dr. John Sentamu
Mrs. Margaret Sentamu
The right hon. Jacqui Smith MP
Mr. Steve Smith
Mr. Richard Stephens
Mr. Richard Timney
Ms Marianna Trian
Mr. Paul Walsh
Mr. Benjamin Wegg Prosser
Mrs. Yulia Wegg Prosser
Colonel Richard Williams
Mrs. Philippa Williams
The Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams
Mrs. Jane Williams
Ms Kirsty Young

Ministerial Gifts

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Prime Minister if he will provide a list of ministerial gifts in the financial year 2006-07. [153391]

The Prime Minister: I am today publishing lists of gifts received and given by Ministers valued at more than £140. The list of gifts received by Ministers covers the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007. The list of gifts given by Ministers, which is being published for the first time, covers the period 1 June 2001 to 31 March 2007. Copies of the list have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Ministerial Travel

Mr. Mike Hall: To ask the Prime Minister if he will list the overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers in the financial year 2006-07 [153390]

The Prime Minister: I am today publishing a list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 which has been placed in the Libraries of the House. The list provides details of the date, destination and purpose of all such visits and the cost of Ministers' travel and accommodation where appropriate.

Total expenditure on ministerial overseas visits for the last three financial years is set out in the following table:

	Expenditure (£ million)
2004-05	5.1
2005-06	6.1
2006-07	6.95

UK Visits

Martin Linton: To ask the Prime Minister if he will list the UK visits made by his predecessor in the financial years 2006-07. [153393]

The Prime Minister: I have today published a list of UK visits made by my predecessor during the financial year 2006-07.

UK visits made by the Prime Minister 1 April 2006-31 March 2007

Date	*Official visit to*
3 April 2006	London
4 April	London
5 April	London
6 April	Belfast
19 April	London
20 April	London
	Manchester
25 April	London
27 April	London
2 May	Blackpool
9 May	London
18 May	London
25 May	London
7 June	Frimley, Surrey
13 June	London
22 June	London
	Bristol
	Bath
27 June	London

UK visits made by the Prime Minister 1 April 2006-31 March 2007

Date	*Official visit to*
30 June	Stockton on Tees
	Middlesbrough
11 July	Whitstable, Kent
20 July	Farnborough
21 July	Spennymoor
	Darlington
24-25 July	Nottingham
1-2 September	Edinburgh
7 September	London
4 September	York
12 September	Brighton
14 September	Birmingham
23 September	Liverpool
	Prescot
	Manchester
5 October	London
10 October	London
18 October	London
23 October	London
26 October	London
26-27 October	Newcastle
	Gateshead
	Stockton on Tees
31 October	London
2-3 November	Didcot
	Oxford
16-17 November	Sellafield
	Durham
27 November	London
30 November	Birmingham
5 December	London
6 December	London
21 December	Darlington
5 January 2007	London
11-12 January	Yeovil
	Dartmouth
	Lympstone
	North Bovey
	Thorverton
22 January	Brighton
23 January	London
24 January	London
1-2 February	Telford
	West Bromwich
	West Cornforth, Co. Durham
	Washington
	Gateshead
8 February	London
15-16 February	Glasgow
19 February	London
22-23 February	Manchester
	Liverpool
2 March	Uxbridge
5 March	London
6 March	London
15 March	London
15-16 March	Sheffield
	Leeds
	Aberdeen
29-30 March	Stockport
	Oldham
	Manchester

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Boris Berezovsky

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received from posts in the Russian Federation on threats to the life and security of Mr. Boris Berezovsky while resident in the UK. [152632]

Mr. Jim Murphy: It is Government practice not to comment on cases of individuals' safety, nor indeed on intelligence matters.

Burma: Arms Trade

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the reports that the Indian Government has confirmed that negotiations are ongoing to supply military advance light helicopters to Burma/Myanmar and that such helicopters would contain significant components from EU countries, including the UK; and what steps the Government are taking to ensure that the EU arms embargo on Burma is enforced and UK components are not transferred from India to Burma. [152258]

(2) what discussions the Government have had with India on its proposed sale of military advanced light helicopters to Burma/Myanmar; and what steps the Government have taken to ensure that UK military equipment, including components, is not transferred to Myanmar as part of increasing defence co-operation between the two countries. [152260]

Meg Munn: The Indian Ministry of External Affairs has confirmed that they are not negotiating the sale of advanced light helicopters with the Burmese Government, as alleged in a report published by Amnesty International and Saferworld.

The Government consider all applications for the export of military equipment on a case by case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria. This includes an assessment of whether there is a risk that the goods in question will be diverted within the buyer country or re-exported under undesirable conditions. We would lobby India, or any other exporting country, in the event of any decision to re-export such goods to Burma.

Gaza: Christian Communities

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the status and safety of Christian communities in Gaza following the takeover of Gaza by Hamas; and if he will make a statement. [152305]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We remain concerned about the welfare, safety and security of all Gaza's residents, including its small Christian community, and our policies will continue to reflect this concern.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of President Bush's proposal for an international conference on the Middle East peace process; what discussions he has with his US counterpart on the proposal; when he expects the conference to take place; which *(a)* states and *(b)* non-state parties he expects to be represented at the conference; and if he will make a statement. [152065]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I welcome any forward move on the Middle East peace process. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials are in close contact with their US counterparts regarding the proposed conference. Details of the conference are still being discussed.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* role and *(b)* functions have been given to the quartet's special envoy Mr. Blair; and if he will make a statement. [152066]

Mr. Jim Murphy: On 27 June, the quartet (EU, US, UN and Russia) principals announced the right hon. Tony Blair's appointment as quartet representative. As set out in the quartet statement of 27 June, the former Prime Minister's mandate is to: mobilise international assistance to the Palestinians, working closely with donors and existing co-ordination bodies; help to identify, and secure appropriate international support in addressing, the institutional governance needs of the Palestinian state, focusing as a matter of urgency on the rule of law; develop plans to promote Palestinian economic development, including private-sector partnerships, building on previously agreed frameworks, especially concerning access and movement; and liaise with other countries as appropriate in support of the agreed quartet objectives.

A copy of the quartet statement will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what financial and logistical resources the European Union is providing to the quartet's special envoy Mr. Blair; what *(a)* salary, *(b)* expenses provision and *(c)* support staff will be available to him; what share of the costs the United Kingdom is contributing; and if he will make a statement. [152067]

Mr. Jim Murphy: There has been no announcement as yet from the right hon. Tony Blair's team regarding the financial or logistical resources that will be provided to him, or Mr. Blair's salary or expenses provision. Four officials have been seconded to Mr. Blair from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development and these Government Departments will continue to pay their salaries. At present, the UK has not offered to cover any further costs.

Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what suggestions were put forward by *(a)* the US and *(b)* France at the 2007 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Preparatory Committee Meeting on the issue of withdrawal from the NPT; and if he will make a statement. [152304]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The United States and EU both tabled proposals to raise the cost for States Parties seeking to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) at the 2007 Preparatory Committee. France did not submit a national proposal, but assisted in drafting the EU paper.

The common elements of these proposals include referral of withdrawal notifications to the United Nations Security Council; steps to hold the withdrawing Party accountable for NPT violations prior to withdrawal; and continuing International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards for nuclear materials and equipment acquired or developed whilst an NPT signatory.

The full proposals are available at: http://www.un.org/NPT2010/documents.html. (NPT/CONF.2010/PC.1/WP.22-US proposal-and NPT/CONF.2010/PC.I/WP.25* - EU proposal).

Uganda: Politics and Government

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1029W, on Uganda: politics and government, what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* strength, *(b)* leadership and *(c)* political objectives of the Ugandan People's Redemption Army; how long it has been active; what reports he has received that it has attacked villages, towns and commercial or civilian infrastructures in Uganda; and if he will make a statement. [152128]

Meg Munn: There are contradictory reports about the People's Redemption Army (PRA) and its strength, leadership, activities and political objectives. The Government have not made a recent assessment of these varying reports. However we have seen no evidence that the PRA represents any significant threat to Uganda's stability.

We continue to press the Government of Uganda that there should be a free, fair and transparent legal process for those alleged to be members of the PRA currently in custody and/or on trial and that this should be completed as quickly as possible.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Democratic Republic of Congo: Education

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of the £50 million funding for education in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) announced on 5 April will go to *(a)* World Bank, *(b)* the DRC Government and *(c)* local non-governmental organisations and church bodies; and what the estimated time frame is for the release of the funding. [148755]

Mr. Thomas: We will provide funding for primary education in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) over the next five years by co-financing and supporting the fee reduction components of the World Bank's Education Sector Support Project. Our support will consist of two phases. The first preparatory phase has been allocated £2.5 million, and implementation is now under way, while the second phase is expected to comprise £50 million. We hope to commence phase two funding in 2008.

The exact mechanisms for channelling phase two funding are still to be finalised. We will not provide any funds directly to the Government of DRC in this phase, although some funds may be provided indirectly via the World Bank.

Some funding is likely to go to local non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and possibly church bodies, to establish an accountability mechanism for civil society monitoring of primary education services, although the mechanism for this funding is not yet agreed.

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of when he expects conditions in the Democratic Republic of Congo to permit the release of the £50 million funding for education announced on 5 April. [148756]

Mr. Thomas: DFID plans to co-finance the fee reduction component of the World Bank's Education Sector Support Project. Our support consists of two phases over five years. £2.5 million was recently approved for the first phase of activities, and implementation is now under way. The first phase includes a comprehensive census of teachers and mapping of schools, support for reforms to the payment systems for teachers and schools and establishing an accountability mechanism to ensure external civil society monitoring of funding to primary schools.

Once these are satisfactorily completed, we will be able to implement phase two, which will fund reduction of some of the fees parents must pay and which exclude poor children from school. While we hope to commence funding in 2008, this depends on the pace of reforms and it is not possible to give a definite timeline at this stage.

Developing Countries: Tourism

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of ecotourism's potential to boost the economies of developing countries. [148779]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer of 12 July 2007]:* DFID has funded work, including aspects of ecotourism, by the Pro-Poor Tourism (PPT) Partnership which focuses on tourism's potential to help reduce poverty.

The work we funded showed that pro-poor tourism can reduce poverty when tour operators forge partnerships with local business and communities. However, ecotourism has not yet reached its potential for contributing to poverty reduction. Ecotourism destinations need to be developed in the south, and the capacity of southern tourism operators needs to be strengthened. Ecotourism can better contribute to poverty reduction by bringing tourism to local communities, as in experiential holidays, which include opportunities to interact with the community; it should also help protect the local environment which often attracts visitors in the first place.

Governance and Transparency Fund

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how many bids have been received for the Governance and Transparency Fund; [148164]

(2) how many UK based organisations have bid for funding from the Governance and Transparency Fund; [148166]

(3) how many EU based organisations bid for funding from the Governance and Transparency Fund, excluding the UK; [148173]

(4) how many non-EU organisations bid for money from the Governance and Transparency Fund. [148172]

Mr. Malik: There is a two-stage application process to the Governance and Transparency Fund (GTF). The first stage is the submission of Concept Notes by interested organisations. These are vetted for compliance with GTF eligibility criteria. Organisations submitting eligible Concept Notes will then be invited to submit full proposals.

We have received 423 such Concept Notes and these are currently being assessed.

Of the 423 Concept Notes received, 132 state that the lead applicant is an organisation based in the UK, 32 that the lead applicant is based in the EU but not in the UK, and 259 state that the lead applicant is based outside of the EU.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what the total value is of the combined bids for the Governance and Transparency Fund; [148165]

(2) what the total monetary value is of bids for the Governance and Transparency Fund made by UK-based organisations; [148170]

(3) what the total monetary value is of bids for the Governance and Transparency Fund made by EU-based organisations excluding the UK; [148167]

(4) what the total monetary value is of bids for the Governance and Transparency Fund made by non-EU organisations. [148169]

Mr. Malik: At this Concept Note stage we have only asked for a brief outline of proposed activities and an estimated budget, and are assessing applicants against eligibility. Of the Concept Notes received, none are at full proposal stage. We expect to reject around one in four Concept Notes on eligibility grounds.

The 423 Concept Notes submitted to the Governance and Transparency Fund (GTF) outline potential projects with an estimated total value of £1.144 billion.

The 132 Concept Notes submitted by UK-based organisations outline potential projects with an estimated total value of £399 million.

The 32 Concept Notes submitted by EU-based organisations (excluding the UK) outline potential projects with an estimated total value of £100 million.

The 259 Concept Notes submitted by non-EU organisations outline potential projects with an estimated total value of £645 million.

HIV infection: Drugs

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the use of anti-retroviral drugs in programmes *(a)* run and *(b)* supported by his Department for the treatment of HIV/AIDS in (i) Rwanda and (ii) other developing countries. [149178]

Mr. Malik *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* In Rwanda, DFID provides support worth £4,250,000 through non-governmental organisations towards anti-retroviral therapy and community based care to 2,500 HIV positive women genocide survivors and their families. The number of people on treatment in Rwanda has risen from 4,000 in 2003 to 37,200 in March 2007 with national incidence of the spread of HIV/AIDS stabilising at around 3 per cent.

The UK Government also fund and support the provision of anti-retroviral services through contributions to multilateral organisations. DFID has pledged £359 million to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria over the 2002-08 period. Evidence shows that anti-retroviral treatments are effective, with an estimated 250,000 to 350,000 premature deaths averted in the developing world in 2005 alone. Overall, in low- and middle-income countries the trends are upwards, from 400,000 in 2003 to more than 2 million people on treatment today.

HIV Infection: Medical Treatments

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1248W, on HIV infection: medical treatments, what his policy is on the public ownership of patents resulting from publicly-funded research into anti-retroviral medication for use in developing countries. [152129]

Mr. Malik: It is the UK Government's policy that patents are owned by the body carrying out the research. It is DFID's policy that any new anti-retroviral treatments developed by publicly-funded research should be made available at the lowest possible price (eg cost price) for public markets in developing countries. The organisations involved in developing the new treatments have negotiated intellectual property agreements individually with their various private sector partners. The organisations developing the new treatments also use cost per treatment as one of the criteria to determine which products to take forward in their portfolios.

Lesotho: Debts

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the debt status of Lesotho. [149424]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has not made its own assessment as, like other agencies, it relies on the assessments made by the IMF and World Bank, which administer the HIPC initiative.

In June 2005, the International Monetary Fund conducted a Debt Sustainability Analysis and concluded that Lesotho's debt levels were sustainable. This means that Lesotho does not classify as a heavily indebted poor country (HIPC). However, the UK is committed to ensuring debt relief for all IDA-only low income countries that can use the resources effectively for poverty reduction. Lesotho would qualify for DFID's Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative once its public expenditure management systems are effective enough to ensure funds can be spent on the intended purposes of poverty reduction.

Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will seek discussions with the Pakistani authorities on the level of UK aid to Pakistan following statements by Pakistani Ministers on the Queen's Birthday Honours. [152509]

Mr. Malik: The UK has made a long-term commitment to reducing poverty in Pakistan through a 10-Year Development Partnership Arrangement (DPA) signed in November 2006. The DPA is based on a shared commitment to pursuing poverty reduction objectives, respecting human rights obligations entered into, and improving financial management and accountability in Pakistan.

The DPA is the framework against which we provide assistance to Pakistan, and against which we hold all discussions with Pakistani Ministers about our aid programme.

Sudan: Asylum

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimates his Department has made of the numbers of Darfuri refugees who have left Sudan for each neighbouring country; and if he will make a statement. [149401]

Mr. Thomas: The UNHCR is the agency responsible for registering refugees. DFID, like all other agencies, relies on UNHCR estimates for refugee numbers and locations. The latest figures they have provided to DFID indicate that there are 235,000 Darfuri refugees in Chad and some 10,000 refugees from Chad, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo in the Central African Republic. There are not substantial numbers of registered refugees from Darfur in other neighbouring countries.

Tanzania: Overseas Aid

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what information he has received on the shortfall in the Bank of Tanzania's external payment arrears account for 2005-06; how much Tanzania received in aid from *(a)* the World Bank and *(b)* the IMF in each of the last five years; how much Tanzania has received in unearmarked contributions from the UK; and if he will make a statement. [150176]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 19 July 2007]*: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has been notified of potential irregularities with the Bank of Tanzania external payment arrears account for 2005-06. As a result the Government of Tanzania (GoT) agreed to undertake an audit of this account. We are in close contact with the IMF and GoT on this matter.

Aid flows from IMF, World Bank and DFID budget support (unearmarked)

	IMF (US$ million)	*WB (US$ million)*	*DFID (£ million)*
2002-03	27.38	250	45
2003-04	8.6	450	60
2004-05	8.6	356	65
2005-06	4.3 + [1]340	751	85
2006-07	4.3	550	90
Total	393.18	2,357	345

[1] One off debt relief

Source:
IMF statistics (SDR conversion 0.65$:1SDR) and WB CAS disbursement statistics

In July 2007, DFID disbursed a further £105 million budget support for 2007-08.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departments: Air Conditioning

Chris Huhne: To ask the Leader of the House how much was spent by her Office on the hire of mobile air conditioning units in each of the last five years. [151987]

Helen Goodman: Following the recent machinery of Government changes which saw the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons transfer from the Privy Council Office to the Cabinet Office, we are currently unable to provide a substantive answer to this question.

Departments: Recruitment

Mrs. May: To ask the Leader of the House how much her Office paid in fees to recruitment agencies for *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent staff in each year since 1997. [151662]

Helen Goodman: The information is set out in the following table with regard to temporary staff. Data for financial years 1997-98 to 2000-01 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Financial year	Cost (£)
2001-02	32,037.49
2002-03	0
2003-04	9,717.84
2004-05	2,665.51
2005-06	339.54
2006-07 (year to date)	0

The Office has not used recruitment agencies for permanent staff.

Draft Legislative Programme

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the Prime Minister's statement of 11 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1449-51, on the draft legislative programme, which of the planned Bills will apply *(a)* fully and *(b)* in part in (i) Wales, (ii) Scotland and (iii) Northern Ireland; and, in such cases, if she will set out the form in which the legislation will apply in each respective area of the United Kingdom. [150512]

Helen Goodman: In "The Governance of Britain—The Government's Draft Legislative Programme" (CM 7175) the Government set out how the proposed Bills will apply to the Devolved Administrations of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland on the basis of current plans. In many cases discussions will continue to take place with the Devolved Administrations and the Government are mindful to ensure that it honours the commitments to consult and communicate with them on such matters, made in the "Memorandum of Understanding with the Devolved Administrations".

Table summarising the details published in the Draft Legislative Programme:

Bill	*The Bill will apply to*
Children in Care Bill	England and Wales.
Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill	England and Wales; The permission of the Northern Ireland Assembly is required for a provision in Schedule 6 of the Bill. This provides for the exchange of information between the UK and Northern Ireland statutory child maintenance services.
Climate Change Bill	United Kingdom.
Constitutional Reform Bill	United Kingdom.
Coroners Bill	England and Wales; apart from amendments to the Treasure Act 1996 which will extend to Northern Ireland.
Counter Terrorism Bill	United Kingdom.
Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill	England and Wales; certain reserved and expected provisions also extend to Scotland and Northern Ireland.
Crossrail Bill	England.
Education and Skills Bill	England and Wales.
Employment Simplification Bill	Great Britain.
Energy Bill	A mixture of devolved and reserved matters so the UK Government will work with the Devolved Administrations.

Bill	*The Bill will apply to*
European Communities (Finance) Bill	United Kingdom.
Health and Social Care Bill	United Kingdom; this is a portmanteau bill so the extent of the measures will be different for each policy area.
Housing and Regeneration Bill	England and Wales.
Human Tissue and Embryo Bill	United Kingdom for assisted reproduction and embryo research. England, Wales and Northern Ireland for other human tissue and cell research.
Local Transport Bill	England and Wales; certain reserved provisions also extend to Scotland.
National Insurance Contributions Bill	United Kingdom.
Pensions Bill	Great Britain.
Planning Reform Bill	A mixture of UK, England and Wales and England only.
Planning Gain Supplement Bill	United Kingdom; PGS revenues generated in the Devolved Administrations would be returned to the country in which they were generated. The use of PGS funds in the Devolved Administrations would be determined by the relevant administration.
Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Bill	LBRO provisions would apply to England and Wales only; The Macrory Provisions extend to England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland but are of restricted application in respect of devolved matters.
Sale of Student Loans Bill	England.
Unclaimed Assets Bill	United Kingdom--there are a mixture of reserved and devolved functions.

Mr. Allen: To ask the Leader of the House if she will make it her usual policy to subject Bills to pre-legislative scrutiny. [152865]

Helen Goodman: The Government endeavour to subject Bills to pre-legislative scrutiny, where timing and other constraints allow. As indicated in the Government's recently published Draft Legislative Programme (CM7175), 58 draft Bills have been published since 1997.

The publication of the Draft Legislative Programme is the first time public consultation has been sought before the Queen's Speech and is a further element in the exposure of legislative plans to scrutiny ahead of introduction. The Government believe this consultation will lead to better engagement between MPs, peers and the people.

UK Youth Parliament

Mr. Drew: To ask the Leader of the House whether a Minister intends to make a visit to the forthcoming session of the UK Youth Parliament; and if she will make a statement on progress on the proposal announced by the Prime Minister for a future session to be held in the House. [150943]

Helen Goodman: I understand that the Under-Secretary of State for Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for Lewisham, East (Bridget Prentice) addressed the session of the United Kingdom Youth Parliament in Glasgow which has just been completed.

Following the statement by the Prime Minister on 3 July, my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House will be raising with the Modernisation Select Committee the question of whether the Youth Parliament could be invited to the Chamber of this House once a year on a non-sitting day.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Jobcentre Plus: Argyll and Bute

Mr. Alan Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many full-time equivalent staff there were in post in each Jobcentre Plus office in Argyll and Bute at the end of each of the last five years. [152467]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 24 July 2007]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 25 July 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many full-time equivalent staff there were in post in each Jobcentre Plus office in Argyle and Bute at the end of the each of the last five years. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The following table shows the figures for each of the last four operational years in each of the offices in the Argyle and Bute area and an overall total. Unfortunately, owing to changes in the operational management of the offices and in the recording methodologies I am unable to provide the information for the year ended 2003.

Full-time equivalent staff numbers in Argyle and Bute offices by year

	As at 31 March each year			
Office	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Campbeltown	24.3	20.0	14.6	11.0
Dunoon	15.4	13.3	12.5	9.5
Helensburgh	14.8	10.8	10.8	9.8
Oban	30.7	26.6	18.4	17.9
Rothesay	12.4	9.4	9.4	7.4
Total	97.6	80.1	65.7	55.6

Jobcentre Plus: Scotland

Mr. Alan Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the headcount target figure is for the number of employees in Jobcentre Plus in Scotland in 2007-08; and how many staff are in post, broken down by *(a)* district and *(b)* office. [149622]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking about the headcount target figure for the number of employees in Jobcentre Plus in Scotland in 2007-08; and how many staff are in post, broken down by district and office. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The planned level of staffing for Jobcentre Plus in Scotland at March 2008 is 7,652 full-time equivalents.

I attach two tables which show the staff in post and the full-time equivalent figures at the end of March 2007, for our Operational staff and our National Directorates, broken down by district and office. Copies of these tables have been placed in the Library.

I hope this is helpful.

Mr. Alan Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his target is for the number of full-time equivalent staff in each Jobcentre Plus office in Scotland at the end of 2007-08. [152052]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 25 July 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about the headcount target for the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff in each Jobcentre Plus office in Scotland at the end of 2007-08.This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

I attach a table which shows, for Jobcentre Plus Operations, the planned FTE staff in each office in March 2008, and for national Directorates, the planned FTE staff in each District in March 2008. Copies of this table have been placed in the Library.

The difference between the target figure provided in response to your earlier question asking about the headcount figure for the number of Jobcentre Plus employees in Scotland in 2007-08 (7,652 FTE), and the total of the targets by site and district in the attached table (7,555 FTE), is because an additional allocation of FTE staff has been made for Scotland as a whole and has not yet been disaggregated to individual sites. This disaggregation will take place as part of a current revision to workforce plans.

I hope this is helpful.

Lung Diseases

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were diagnosed with pleural plaques in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [150557]

Ann Keen: I have been asked to reply.

Information on the number of people diagnosed with pleural plaques is not collected.

Pensioners: Disability Living Allowance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to make arrangements to ensure that eligibility arrangements for *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* vehicle excise duty are amended in line with the pension eligibility change when pensionable age is raised to 67. [152274]

Mrs. McGuire: The age limit for claiming disability living allowance will be increased incrementally with effect from 6 April 2024 in line with the age increases to state pension age. The measure is being taken forward as part of the Pensions Bill currently passing through Parliament.

Vehicle excise duty exemption policy is a matter for my right hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Pensioners: Income

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average income of the *(a)* top and *(b)* bottom quartile of pensioners was in each year since 1997. [150058]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information that is shown in the following tables is based on sampling and estimates. Movement in data between single years may be due to sampling error but over a period trends are useful.

Average gross income of pensioner couples by position in the income distribution: 2005-06 prices

		£ per week
	Bottom quartile	Top quartile
1997-98	166	804
1998-99	168	839
1999-2000	174	833
2000-01	180	898
2001-02	187	949
2002-03	187	903
2003-04	199	987
2004-05	205	1,000
2005-06	208	997

Average gross income of single pensioners by position in the income distribution: 2005-06 prices

		£ per week
	Bottom quartile	Top quartile
1997-98	93	329
1998-99	95	356
1999-2000	100	365
2000-01	103	390
2001-02	107	369
2002-03	112	386
2003-04	113	396
2004-05	118	412
2005-06	117	429

Average gross income of all pensioner units by position in the income distribution: 2005-06 prices

		£ per week
	Bottom quartile	Top quartile
1997-98	106	571
1998-99	109	607
1999-2000	114	605
2000-01	118	657
2001-02	124	675
2002-03	128	664
2003-04	131	713

Average gross income of all pensioner units by position in the income distribution: 2005-06 prices

	£ per week	
	Bottom quartile	*Top quartile*
2004-05	136	733
2005-06	137	736

Notes:
1. Gross income is income from all sources received by the pensioner unit including income from social security benefits, earnings from employment, any private pension, and tax credits.
2. Gross income distribution is calculated separately for pensioner couples, single pensioners and all pensioner units.
3. Based on survey data and as such subject to a degree of sampling and non sampling error. Users should not read too much into movements in data between single years.
4. Figures are for Great Britain.
5. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £.
6. Pensioner units are either pensioner couples or single pensioners.
7. Pensioner couples are couples where one or more of the adults are state pension age or over.

Source:
Pensioners' Income Series 2005-06 (Revised)

Pensions Bill

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the statement by the Minister for Pensions Reform on 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 194, on the Pensions Bill, how many members of the Abingdon Carpets pension scheme he expects to be affected by the commitment to match the extra funds that the Young Review identifies with the goal of moving towards 90 per cent. of expected core pension for all recipients. [151930]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available. Abingdon Carpets is still in the process of winding up which is not expected to be completed until 31 December 2007. Until this time, and until data on all scheme members eligible for payment from the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) has been provided by the trustee, it will not be possible to assess how many will be eligible for assistance.

In the meantime the FAS Operational Unit (FASOU) is making initial payments at 60 per cent. of core expected pension to five members who have reached the age of 65.

Pensions Regulator

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in how many instances the Pensions Regulator has ordered employers to cease the accrual of further benefits by pension scheme members. [151385]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Regulator has not, as yet, found it necessary in respect of any recovery plan submitted to exercise its powers to modify the scheme in respect of future accrual of benefits.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in how many instances the pensions regulator has offered clearance to those involved in corporate reconstructions; and if he will make a statement. [151386]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There were 333 clearances offered as at the end of June 2007 in respect of corporate transactions or 'Type A' events.

The clearance system operated by the regulator has been very successful in helping to achieve beneficial outcomes for both schemes and members. The business community has also welcomed the risk based and proportionate approach that the regulator has adopted in this area. Recent high profile cases have demonstrated that the regulator has significant influence and is not afraid to use its powers where it is right to do so.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many trustees the Pensions Regulator has *(a)* removed and *(b)* replaced. [151387]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Regulator has not used its powers to remove or replace any trustees to date. It has however, caused the resignation of one trustee who was then subsequently prohibited by the Regulator's Determinations Panel.

During 2006-07 the Regulator made 46 appointments from its register of independent trustees and 506 other appointments were also made on application, to defined contribution schemes only.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many funding schedules the Pensions Regulator has imposed. [151388]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Regulator has not yet found it necessary to use its powers in relation to the new scheme funding regime. However, where it judges it necessary it will work with trustees and employers to ensure that any recovery plan submitted is both prudent and appropriate.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many scheme-specific funding plans agreed between the trustee and company the pensions regulator has approved. [151389]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The regulator does not approve scheme specific plans. Plans submitted to the regulator are reviewed on a risk basis taking into account its statutory objectives and consideration of whether those plans are consistent with the principles in Part 3 of the Pensions Act 2004. Where the regulator is satisfied that trustees and employers have agreed a plan consistent with those principles it will notify the trustees or their designated advisers that it will not be seeking to exercise its statutory powers in respect of the plan.

As at 30 June 2007, there were 407 plans where trustees had been so notified.

Working Links

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance applies to engagement consultants employed by Working Links with regard to the selection of incentives offered to potential recruits under the scheme. [152346]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 24 July 2007]:* The Department for Work and Pensions encourages providers, such as Working Links, to find innovative methods of engaging with unemployed people. The Department is not prescriptive about the types of innovation that may be used to engage with people recruited to the scheme.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent on providing incentive vouchers for use by engagement consultants employed by Working Links to offer to potential recruits under the scheme *(a)* in Scotland and *(b)* throughout the UK since the commencement of the scheme. [152347]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 24 July 2007]:* The information is not available as the Department for Work and Pensions does not provide separate funding for the provision of incentive vouchers that may be used by engagement consultants.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Adoption

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children were adopted in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* each of the last three years; [147715]

(2) what the average age was of children who were adopted in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* each of the last three years. [147716]

Kevin Brennan: The information provided only relates to children who were looked after by local authority social services in England and not to all children who may have been adopted.

The number of looked after children who were adopted and the average age at adoption in the years ending 31 March 1997 and 2004 to 2006 are shown in the table as follows.

Children looked after who were adopted in the years ending 31 March 1997, 2004, 2005 and 2006[1,2]—England

	Year ending 31 March			
	1996-97	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Number of children looked after adopted	1,900	3,800	3,800	3,700
Average age at adoption (years:months)	5:5	4:5	4:2	4:1

[1] *Source:* SSDA903

[2] To maintain the confidentiality of each individual child, data at national level are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 to the nearest 10 otherwise.

[3] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people the Government estimate will have access to ContactPoint. [150733]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 18 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 412W.

Children's Centres

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what additional resources he is providing to ensure the delivery by 2010 of the planned Sure Start children's centres; and what training programmes are in place to ensure each centre has access to sufficient trained staff to effectively run the centre. [152281]

Beverley Hughes: We have secured additional resources through the recent comprehensive spending review settlement to meet our manifesto commitment of 3,500 Sure Start Children's Centres by 2010. The Department will be advising all 150 local authorities in England of their children's centre revenue allocations for 2008-10 shortly.

Over the next few years we will train sufficient numbers of centre managers, through the National College for School Leadership, and early years professionals, through the Children's Workforce Development Council, to support the expansion of centres.

Our practice guidance encourages children's centres to work towards all staff being qualified to at least National Vocational Qualification level 2 and makes it clear that we expect all centre managers to undertake training specifically designed for their new role—the National Professional Qualification for Integrated Centre Leadership. Our Children's Workforce Strategy recommends the development of local workforce strategies as an integral part of local Children and Young People's Plans. These should set out local approaches to developing the workforce. We published in July statutory guidance on the local authority duty to secure the provision of training to the early years and childcare workforce.

National Council for Educational Excellence

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* membership and *(b)* remit is of the new National Council for Educational Excellence; and if he will make a statement. [149865]

Jim Knight: The membership of the National Council for Educational Excellence (NCEE) is as follows:

National Council for Educational Excellence (NCEE)

Members	
Prime Minister	Chairs
Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families	
Sir Michael Barber	Adviser to the Council
David Bell	Permanent Secretary, DCSF
Damon Buffini	Managing Partner, Permira
Julia Cleverdon	Head, Business in the Community
Ann Clynch	Principal, Loreto College, Manchester
Jo Davidson	Director of Children's Services, Gloucestershire
Bernadette Duffy	Head, Thomas Coram Centre, Camden
Jackie Fisher	Chief Executive and Principal, Newcastle College
Christine Gilbert	HM Chief Inspector, Ofsted
Edward Gould	Ex-Chairman, Independent Schools Council
Richard Lambert	Director General, CBI
Sir Terry Leahy	CEO, Tesco
Ed Mayo	Chief Executive, National Consumer Council
Felicity Martin	Head Teacher, Eggar's School, Alton

National Council for Educational Excellence (NCEE)

Members	
Stephen Munday	Principal, Comberton Village College
Howard Newby	Vice Chancellor, University of the West of England
Professor Alison Richard	Vice Chancellor, University of Cambridge
Sir John Rose	Chief Executive, Rolls-Royce
Sir Alan Steer	Head Teacher, Seven King's High School, Ilford
Professor Steve Smith	Vice Chancellor, Exeter University
Bob Wigley	Chairman (Europe, Middle East and Africa), Merrill Lynch

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools and Learners and I also attend Council meetings.

The Council has a remit to provide advice to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families about strategy and measures to achieve world-class education performance for all children and young people from birth to age 19.

The Council members will act as advocates and champions to transform expectations and aspirations for the education system, and to rally the teaching profession, businesses, the third sector, universities and colleges; schools and parents to raise standards in schools year on year.

The Council will be a standing body with priorities, terms of reference and membership to be reviewed by the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State every year.

Parents: Taxation

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations he has made to HM Treasury on changing the tax system to support families; and if he will make a statement. [149142]

Kevin Brennan: The Government have in place a range of policies to support families, however I can confirm that no representations have been made at the current time to HM Treasury with regard to changing the tax system in relation to the Department's policies for families.

Primary Education: Capital Investment

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the total capital spending on *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools was in each year since 1996-97 in real terms; what the planned real-term figures are for each year to 2012-13; and if he will make a statement. [149967]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 118W.

Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many fixed period exclusions were made in each year since 1994-95, broken down by local education authority (LEA); and what proportion of children were on fixed period exclusions in each LEA in the latest year for which figures are available; [150804]

(2) how many *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary exclusions there were in each (i) government region and (ii) local education authority in each of the last five years. [151176]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green (Lynne Featherstone) on 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, column. 871W.

Pupil Exclusions: Greater London

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many exclusions per pupil from schools there were in each London borough in each year since 1997. [150377]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green (Lynne Featherstone) on 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 871W.

School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much the Government spent on supplying free fruit and vegetables in school in each year since 1996-97; what assessment has been carried out on the effectiveness of the scheme; and if he will make a statement. [152301]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

The Lottery provided £16 million towards the original pilots of the National School Fruit Scheme (NSFS) between 2000 and 2002. Lottery funding also provided £42 million to support scaling up of the original pilots across five government regions between 2002 and 2004. The Department spent £0.75 million in 2001-02 and £0.3 million in 2002-03 on administering and evaluating the NSFS pilots. The national rollout to all local education authority infant, primary and special schools across England of the scheme was completed at the end of 2004 and in the year 2004-05, the Department spent £28.5 million on the Scheme.

From April 2005, the Department has fully funded the School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme (SFVS). The cost of the Scheme in 2005-06 was £37.83 and £36.77 million in 2006-07. As the Scheme has developed, we have been able to achieve efficiencies in its overall administration and the supply and distribution of the fruit and vegetables which has resulted in spending on the scheme reducing over the last year.

An initial evaluation of the SFVS was carried out in November 2004. At that stage, the children who participated in the evaluation had only been receiving free fruit and vegetables since June 2004. The results provided a useful insight into the initial impact of the Scheme but it was recognised that further work would need to be undertaken to measure the impact of the Scheme over a longer period. In 2006, we commissioned a further evaluation of the Scheme and the report will be published shortly.

School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each local authority area have no on-site facilities for producing hot school lunches; [149105]

(2) what information his Department collects on the *(a)* quality, *(b)* availability and *(c)* take-up of school lunches; and if he will make a statement; [149106]

(3) whether all English schools meet the food-based and nutrient standards for lunch and non-lunch food. [149119]

Kevin Brennan: The Department does not collect data on how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) England and (ii) each local authority area have no on-site facilities for producing hot school lunches. However, the School Food Trust (SFT) estimate that approximately 20 per cent. of primary schools and 0.2 per cent. of secondary schools have no facilities for food preparation or regeneration.

Figures from the School Food Trust's 2006 annual survey of school meals take-up in England showed that take-up of school meals in 2005-06 was 42.3 per cent. in primary schools and 42.7 per cent. in secondary schools. Findings from the 2007 survey will be available in August.

The Department does not collect data on the *(a)* quality, *(b)* availability *(c)* take-up of school lunches. However, the schools' census collects information on the number of pupils known to be eligible for free school lunches, and of those, the number of pupils who take up this entitlement. Provisional data at January 2007 reports that 659,100 (15.9 per cent.) of pupils in maintained nursery and primary schools and 429,930 (13.1 per cent.) of pupils in maintained secondary schools were known to be eligible for free school lunches with 544,340 (13.1 per cent.) pupils in nursery and primary schools and 314,680 (9.6 per cent.) pupils in secondary schools taking up their entitlement.

All schools in England are currently required to meet interim food-based standards for school lunches and will be required to meet food-based standards for other school food and drink from September 2007. They will also be required to meet nutrient-based standards for school lunches in primary schools from September 2008 and secondary schools from 2009.

Young People: Unemployed

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of 17-year-olds in England are not in education, employment or training. [150697]

Beverley Hughes: The figures provided in the table are for individuals at academic age 17[1] who were not in employment, education or training (NEET) in 2006.

[1] Academic age is the age of the individual measured at the beginning of the academic year, 31 August.

	Total NEET	*Percentage NEET of the population*	*17 year old population*
2006 (provisional)	62,700	9.5	659,500

These figures are available in the Statistical First Release published by the Department in SFR 22/2007, please see the following web link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000734/sfr22_2007.pdf.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Best Value

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), of 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1524W, on best value, what estimate she has made of the number of Best Value inspections that will take place each year under the Comprehensive Area Assessment regime. [152425]

John Healey: The 2006 Budget announced a rationalisation of the number of inspectorates and proposals to significantly reduce the cost of inspection by around a third in the medium term. The Audit Commission is on target to meet this reduction as a result of a more targeted and proportionate approach to inspection and a reduction in the volume of inspections needed for CPA. In its commission to the local services inspectorates, the Government made it clear that they expected the new assessment and inspection regime as a whole to reduce the burdens on the inspected and fit with the Government's commitment to a one-third reduction in the cost of public service inspection by 2008.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) of 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1524W, on best value, whether best value performance indicators will still be collected under the comprehensive area assessment regime. [152426]

John Healey: The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill, which is currently before Parliament, will abolish Best Value Performance Indicators (except for Welsh Best Value authorities and the police). In line with our commitment in the local government White Paper "Strong and Prosperous Communities" we are developing a single set of national indicators for local government, working alone or in partnership, which will replace existing sets, including BVPIs. This set of indicators will underpin the new performance framework, including Local Area Agreements and the Comprehensive Area Assessment.

Computers: Carbon Emissions

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding her Department has allocated to the Green Shift cyber-warming programme. [152402]

Mr. Iain Wright: Greenshift is not a Communities and Local Government project, so no funding has been allocated to it from this Department.

Council Housing: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many housing projects were funded by private finance initiatives in each of the last 10 years, broken down by local authority. [151528]

Mr. Iain Wright: A total of 19 schemes have signed since the Housing PFI Programme started, of which 12 have been decent homes schemes and seven have been additional social rented schemes.

There are also two combined heating and power schemes funded through the programme in Manchester and Tower Hamlets.

In addition a further 12 schemes are in procurement (six of each); and seven are developing outline business cases (four decent homes, three additional social rented).

The housing projects funded by the Department's private finance initiative since 1997 are listed, by local authority, in the following table.

Local authority	*Project name*	*Year of signature*
Ashford Borough Council	Stanhope Estate	2007-08
Coventry City Council	New Homes for Old	2005-06
Derby City Council	Inner City Regeneration	2000-01
Leeds City Council	Swarcliffe	2004-05
London Borough of Camden	Chalcots	2006-07
London Borough of Croydon	New for Old	2005-06
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham	Homes for Older People	2003-04
London Borough of Islington	Islington Street Properties 1	2002-03
	Islington Street Properties 2	2006-07
London Borough of Lewisham	Brockley	2007-08
London Borough of Newham	Canning Town	2005-06
Manchester City Council	Ardwick/Plymouth Grove	2002-03
	Miles Platting	2006-07
North East Derbyshire District Council	Holmewood	1998-99
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council	Sheltered Housing	2006-07
Reading Borough Council	North Whitley	2003-04
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	Hawthorns Fields	2005-06
Selby District Council	Non-HRA PFI Project One	2003-04
Warrington Borough Council	Anson and Blenheim	2004-05 phase 1/2006-07 phase 2

Council Housing: Waiting Lists

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many households there were on local authority waiting lists for social housing in each Government office region in each year for which figures are available since 1986; [152513]

(2) how many households there were on local authority waiting lists for social housing in England in each year since 1986. [152514]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following tables show the number of households on local authority waiting lists for social housing in each Government office region and in England for every year since 1986.

Local authorities in England currently report the numbers of households on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns.

Not everyone on the waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get onto the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house—particularly where the priority system is heavily based on waiting time.

Number of households on waiting list for social housing, as at 1 April in 1986-2006, by Government office region and England as reported by local authorities

	1986	*1987*	*1988*	*1989*	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*
North East	105,822	97,100	81,959	79,586	86,899	93,581	103,862
North West	219,890	195,620	192,048	171,655	170,647	179,743	190,597
Yorkshire and the Humber	172,609	160,058	149,790	144,379	174,581	194,623	201,814
East Midlands	130,347	110,436	118,188	128,606	127,138	129,251	128,809
West Midlands	130,267	132,023	131,201	136,888	143,677	144,157	142,780
East of England	111,336	115,779	116,864	123,063	114,998	103,141	99,156
London	272,271	264,343	261,842	244,022	229,035	239,482	231,975
South East	124,247	127,080	132,451	131,650	121,537	114,024	111,349

Number of households on waiting list for social housing, as at 1 April in 1986-2006, by Government office region and England as reported by local authorities

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
South West	84,543	87,053	89,110	90,137	87,002	84,536	86,310
England	1,351,332	1,289,492	1,273,453	1,249,986	1,255,514	1,282,538	1,296,652

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
North East	90,876	88,011	86,966	82,223	73,809	68,655	66,028
North West	176,843	158,199	151,917	144,554	124,642	124,203	118,829
Yorkshire and the Humber	193,363	182,491	178,076	164,714	173,749	175,608	172,221
East Midlands	121,201	120,088	115,661	113,190	102,868	101,291	100,588
West Midlands	129,055	107,796	103,094	96,661	92,103	92,751	95,857
East of England	94,981	91,035	91,012	90,188	86,424	88,491	91,948
London	206,011	185,604	172,509	178,656	181,080	177,118	194,872
South East	109,617	101,531	100,968	107,107	102,578	104,913	111,425
South West	86,843	86,757	86,932	84,886	84,411	87,199	84,983
England	1,208,790	1,121,512	1,087,135	1,062,179	1,021,664	1,020,229	1,036,751

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
North East	62,116	57,016	62,261	85,421	105,953	89,747	95,359
North West	116,937	112,405	121,213	160,194	177,836	200,600	217,397
Yorkshire and the Humber	164,359	150,386	162,365	195,742	197,646	227,430	247,499
East Midlands	99,863	100,611	102,050	111,100	129,265	141,038	133,823
West Midlands	96,037	92,975	95,020	107,536	120,431	137,820	126,629
East of England	98,068	94,846	99,492	110,968	134,305	129,184	135,444
London	196,995	211,469	226,789	242,389	279,729	309,072	331,230
South East	115,901	129,924	129,234	146,880	168,725	181,196	195,700
South West	88,444	89,633	94,918	110,445	123,845	131,193	151,220
England	1,038,720	1,039,265	1,093,342	1,270,675	1,437,735	1,547,280	1,634,301

Note:
As reported by local authorities.
Source:
Communities and Local Government Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return (HSSA). Data from the 1986-2000 from Housing Investment Programme (HIP)

Council Tax

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the reasons for the change in *(a)* average council tax per dwelling and *(b)* average Band D council tax in England between 1997-98 and 2007-08. [152553]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Oldham, East and Saddleworth (Mr. Woolas) to the hon. Member for Newbury (Mr. Benyon) on 27 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1272W.

Departments: Air Conditioning

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by her Department and its agencies on the hire of mobile air conditioning units in each of the last five years. [151984]

Mr. Iain Wright: The amount spent by the Department for Communities and Local Government and its predecessor the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was:

Building	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	£ 2006-07
Eland House, London	—	—	—	3,920.40	—
Temple Quay, Bristol	—	—	—	—	9,340.27
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London	—	—	—	2,924.00	
Fire Service College, Morton in Marsh	—	—	—	—	3,000.00
Total	—	—	—	3,920.40	15,264.27

This answer does not include land or buildings occupied by Government offices, who carry out functions on behalf of 10 Government Departments.

It is not this Department's usual practice to hire portable air conditioning units unless exceptional business critical reasons exist.

The high spend at Temple Quay was caused by a combination of problems including local power supply issues (frequent outages), high summer temperatures and a fault developed by our HV transformer switchgear which made it run at temperatures likely to cause a very expensive failure and potentially long term disruption to power supplies to the buildings occupiers. This problem has now been resolved.

The spend in Eland House was to provide short term extra cooling in the main communications room after additional ICT equipment had been installed and before the primary cooling system had been upgraded.

Departments: Carbon Emissions

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department carbon off sets foreign visits made by its staff; at what cost for visits made in the last 12 months; and what level of carbon dioxide was offset. [152404]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government have committed to offsetting all official domestic and foreign air travel from 1 April 2006. Departmental aviation emissions are calculated annually and subsequently offset through payments to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund. The Fund purchases certified emissions reductions credits from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with sustainable development benefits, located in developing countries. The cost of air travel during the last financial year was £256,974, and 275 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent were offset. The figures provided do not include data from the regional Government offices or our executive agencies.

The Department does not offset foreign rail travel and is currently unable to accurately calculate this aspect of its carbon emissions.

Departments: Pay

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the salary bands are of each pay grade in her Department. [152534]

Mr. Iain Wright: The salary bands for each pay band below senior civil service from 1 August 2006 in the central Department excluding Government offices, departmental agencies and NDPBs are as follows:

£

Pay band	*Grade*	*Minimum*	*Maximum*
PBS1	Secretarial	15,294	20,469
FBI	Administrative Assistant	14,411	18,904
EM	Industrial Grade	14,027	21,958
PB2	Administrative Officer	18,278	23,122
PB3	Executive Officer	21,042	29,274
PB4	Higher Executive Officer	24,611	37,044
PB5	Senior Executive Officer	30,370	42,791
PB6	Grade 7	37,534	53,144
PB7	Grade 6	46,126	65,488

For the senior civil service the information is published on the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/performance/scs/pay/index.asp

Departments: Publicity

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the cost-effectiveness of advertising commissioned by her Department in the last 12 months. [148502]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department uses its communications channels to ensure its policies are properly based in and communicated to target audiences and stakeholders. This is achieved in policy development through consultation and discussion with business, agencies and the public. During implementation, this is achieved by full and open communication to citizens affected by the policy, which can include advertising as a communications medium.

During the past 12 months we have commissioned a number of advertising campaigns, which have been assessed as a matter of course to gauge their effectiveness and cost-effectiveness. For example:

The ongoing fire safety campaign delivered a rise in recognition of the new fire prevention advertising from 27 per cent. in July/August 2006 to 45 per cent. in October/November 2006. Fire deaths are at their lowest since 1959 and this campaign is one part of the strategy that has achieved this.

Research into the local e-gov advertising campaign showed that 51 per cent. of those who recognised the campaign intended to visit their local council website in the next 12 months.

The campaign to encourage women to apply for posts in the fire and rescue service delivered a 20 per cent. increase in the number of applications from women when the campaign was running.

The campaign to inform business of their new responsibilities under the Fire Order Reform delivered a rise in recognition from 14 per cent. in April to 61 per cent. in September 2006.

The Department is committed to developing a work force that reflects the diversity of the communities we serve enjoying genuine equality of opportunity, and ensuring the Department is rigorously fair in its recruitment and development policies.

During the past 12 months all vacant posts within the Department were advertised to existing staff in the Department; 33 per cent. of vacancies were also advertised through the civil service. Just 5 per cent. of posts were advertised nationally. In addition, an assessment centre was run for senior civil service (SCS) recruitment at deputy director level, which attracted 20 applicants through this process from which seven appointments were made.

The success of the Department's recruitment advertising is assessed by the quality, appropriateness and number of applicants applying for publicly advertised posts. In the past 12 months this has resulted in 142 permanent and 17 fixed term appointments to the Department.

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many overseas visits were made by *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers within her responsibility, and at what cost, in each year since 1997. [151648]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis, a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2006-07 is currently being compiled and will be published before the summer recess. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the 'Civil Service Management Code' and the 'Ministerial Code'.

East of England Development Agency: Contracts

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many contracts the East of England Development Agency has with Luton-based social enterprises; and what the value is of each contract. [152267]

John Healey: As a strategic body, East of England Development Agency does not fund specific projects in the same way that many other funding organisations do and funding is delegated locally. Local projects in Luton are taken forward by the Investing in Communities (IiC) partnership there and Luton borough council is responsible for taking forward the social enterprise interventions. Information on the number of contracts and value of these would be held by Luton borough council as it would fall within the delegation levels EEDA has for the IiC partnerships.

Emergency Services

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the Fire and Rescue Service's preparations for responding to a chemical, biological, radioactive or nuclear incident. [151590]

Mr. Dhanda: Through the Home Office led CBRN resilience programme we are working closely with partners across Government to ensure that the Fire and Rescue Service and other emergency services have the necessary equipment and training available to fulfil their part in responding to a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) incident.

Communities and Local Government's New Dimension Programme has provided the Fire and Rescue Service with 18 strategically located Detection, Identification and Monitoring Units to analyse suspected CBRN substances, 73 Incident Response Units for mass decontamination of the public, personal protection equipment to protect firefighters in a CBRN contaminated environment, and relevant training.

Fire Services

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1139W, on Regional Fire Control, what the expected date is by which the proposed new regional fire control centres for *(a)* London and *(b)* England will be fully networked and operational; and if she will make a statement. [151551]

Mr. Dhanda: The first Regional Fire Control Centres are expected to go live in October 2009, with the entire network operational by September 2011. London is expected to join the network in November 2010.

Homelessness

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the ratio was between the number of social housing new lets and the number of households accepted as homeless in the last 12 months in each local housing authority area in England. [151352]

Mr. Iain Wright: A table has been placed in the Library which shows the ratio between the number of social housing lettings and the number of households accepted as homeless in each local housing authority area in England.

Local authorities in England report the number of lettings in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns. Registered social landlords record the number of lettings on their Continuous Recording of Social Lettings (CORE) lettings logs. These two data sources have been combined to give the total number of new social lettings in each local authority area, made between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006 (figures include transfers of existing tenants where new lettings are made).

Local authorities report the number of households accepted as homeless in their area on quarterly PI (E) housing returns. Information reported each quarter by local authorities about their activities under homelessness legislation includes the number of households accepted by local authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty. The duty owed to an accepted household is to secure suitable accommodation. If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority may secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

The ratio has been calculated by dividing the number of households accepted as homeless by the number of new social housing lettings.

It is important to note that not all households accepted as homeless go into social housing. For example, some may go into temporary accommodation for a period of time immediately after acceptance, and others move to accommodation in the private sector or have the homelessness duty otherwise ended.

Housing

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Valuation Office Agency's target is for increasing the number of domestic dwellings with *(a)* value significant code data and *(b)* dwellinghouse code data. [152379]

John Healey: No such targets exist.

Housing Act 2004

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has issued to local authorities on the carrying out of additional licensing under the Housing Act 2004. [152920]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department published the "Approval steps for additional and selective licensing designations in England" guidance for local authorities in November 2006.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the market demand for zero-carbon homes. [152409]

Mr. Iain Wright: Demand for housing is high. That is why the Prime Minister increased the annual housebuilding target for 2016 from 200,000 to 240,000 new homes a year. As set out in the Budget, the time limited stamp duty land tax relief should help to generate interest in the market for zero carbon new homes. The Government have set a target that from 2016, all new homes will be zero carbon. Furthermore, a recent survey found that 92 per cent. of respondents want to see sustainability features offered as options on new homes.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of construction costs of *(a)* a zero carbon home and *(b)* an average non-zero carbon home. [152410]

Mr. Iain Wright: The costs of zero carbon homes and non-zero carbon homes vary depending on the technologies and construction products used. A regulatory impact assessment was undertaken to support the Government's announcement that from 2016, all new homes will be zero carbon. The regulatory impact assessment sets out the estimated cost of a zero carbon new home in 2016 above the cost of a non-zero carbon home. The regulatory impact assessment can be found on the Department's website and in the Library of the House.

Housing: Combined Heat and Power

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research her Department's Sustainable Buildings Division has carried out on the development of local heat distribution from community-scale combined heat and power plants. [152277]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government Sustainable Buildings Division has not conducted any direct research on the development of local heat distribution from community-scale combined heat and power plants (CHP). However, Communities and Local Government has indirect involvement in CHP research through its participation in the heat project being undertaken by the Office of Climate Change, which is looking at the carbon impact of heat generation and cooling, and the potential for this to be reduced.

Housing: Construction

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 166W, on housing: construction, how many residential sales transactions for *(a)* all properties and *(b)* new build properties were (i) flats and (ii) houses in each year since 2000. [152530]

Mr. Iain Wright: The numbers of flats and houses that were sold in England for *(a)* all properties and *(b)* new build properties since 2002 is presented in the following table. Figures prior to 2002 are not available.

Numbers of residential sales transactions for all properties (a) and new build properties (b) by dwelling type, England, 2002-06

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
All properties					
Flats	218,550	204,617	219,839	190,657	243,440
Houses	1,039,427	943,169	950,288	783,623	979,530
New build properties					
Flats	30,652	35,299	41,371	46,602	57,655
Houses	77,960	69,633	66,901	55,065	57,124

Source:
HM Land Registry

Housing: Cornwall

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households were on waiting lists for homes in Cornwall in each year since 1997. [147701]

Mr. Iain Wright: The number of households on the waiting list for social housing in Cornwall in each year since 1997, as at 1 April each year, is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600. The link for this table is:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/embedded_object.asp?id=1163853

Specifically, the waiting list for social housing in Cornwall in each year since 1997 is given in the following table:

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly	8,124	9,004	8,723	7,944	7,964	9,743	12,475	13,795	15,610	18,212
Caradon	1,832	2,310	2,323	1,575	1,331	1,327	1,739	1,883	2,608	3,404
Carrick	1,315	1,290	1,334	1,453	1,301	1,397	1,488	1,692	2,362	2,813
Kerrier	875	1,072	850	643	777	1,498	1,905	1,744	1,992	1,990
North Cornwall	1,339	1,473	1,528	1,462	1,500	1,608	1,805	2,261	2,795	2,965
Penwith	1,055	1,216	1,062	1,304	1,028	1,125	1,359	1,379	1,081	2,161

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Restormel	1,627	1,583	1,580	1,455	1,970	2,731	4,120	4,769	4,702	4,807
Isles of Scilly	81	60	46	52	57	57	59	67	70	72

Note:
As reported by local authorities.
Source:
Communities and Local Government Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return (HSSA)

Local authorities in England report the numbers of households on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns. Not everyone on the waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get onto the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house—particularly where the priority system is heavily based on waiting time.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the maximum cost of housing deemed affordable in Cornwall is; and how many houses *(a)* built in Cornwall in the last 10 years and *(b)* in total in Cornwall have a value at or below that figure. [152104]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 24 July 2007]:* Whether market housing is affordable depends on a number of factors relevant to individuals looking to purchase a home. It is not possible to specify a single price for what would be affordable in Cornwall. However, the lower quartile price for new dwellings sold in Cornwall was around £135,250 in 2006 (i.e. 25 per cent. of new dwellings sold were at or below this price).

As stated in Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS3)

> "the Government defines affordable housing as including social rented and intermediate housing"

e.g. low cost home ownership. New build figures in Cornwall for these types of housing are tabulated as follows along with the total new build.

Total new build and total affordable new build, 1996-97 to 2005-06

	Total new build	Affordable new build
1996-97	1,400	457
1997-98	1,513	429
1998-99	1,918	421
1999-2000	1,800	218
2000-01	2,094	263
2001-02	1,983	233
2002-03	1,851	278
2003-04	1,681	312
2004-05	1,688	241
2005-06	1,623	372

Source:
Statistical returns from local authorities, Housing Corporation

New build registered social landlord and council dwellings only make up part of the affordable supply; the remainder being acquired by registered social landlords. Between 1996-97 and 2005-06, acquisitions by registered social landlords numbered 917, taking the total affordable housing provision in Cornwall to 4,141 over the period.

Cornwall is defined as the local districts of Caradon, Carrick, Kerrier, North Cornwall, Penwith, Restormel and the Isles of Scilly.

Housing: Low Incomes

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what minimum standards of *(a)* quality and *(b)* availability of services apply to affordable housing provided by (i) private developers and (ii) registered social landlords. [148446]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* Registered social landlords (RSLs) are expected to meet the Housing Corporation's Regulatory Code and guidance (available on the Corporation's website) to provide good-quality housing services for residents and prospective residents:

- By seeking to offer a choice of home, while giving reasonable preference to those in priority housing need;
- By offering the most secure form of tenure compatible with the purpose of the housing and the sustainability of the community;
- With agreements that clearly set out residents' and landlords' rights and obligations;
- By being responsive to the individual characteristics and circumstances of residents;
- By using lettings policies that are fair and reflect the diversity of their client groups, and
- By providing high standards of customer care.

RSLs are assessed by the Housing Corporation on management and are also subject to inspection by the Audit Commission on services offered.

Private developers and other unregistered bodies in receipt of social housing grant from the Housing Corporation for new affordable housing are required to meet similar standards where they retain ownership of the homes.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she has placed any financial limits on her Department's definition of affordable for the purpose of the granting of planning permissions for residential development on *(a)* unfettered sites where a quota of affordable homes applies and *(b)* exceptions sites. [149478]

Mr. Iain Wright: Affordable housing is defined in "Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing". Its definition includes that such housing "should meet the needs of eligible households, including availability at a cost low enough for them to afford, determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices". We have no plans to change that definition.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which recommendations from John Hill's report on social housing she expects to be implemented by her Department. [152378]

Mr. Iain Wright: Professor John Hills' review of social housing 'Ends and means: The future role of social housing in England' sets out an objective and comprehensive platform to support the debate on social housing reform and inform policy development going forward—it does not make any specific recommendations for Government.

As the Housing Green Paper 'Homes for the future: more affordable, more Sustainable', published on 23 July 2007 announces, we will set out new proposals in response to the Hills' review in the autumn.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* councils and *(b)* housing associations are offering Extended Open Market Homebuy schemes. [152407]

Mr. Iain Wright: Expanded Open Market HomeBuy is delivered through 23 housing associations, 'HomeBuy Agents', who provide a one stop shop for low cost home ownership opportunities in their area. The scheme is not delivered through councils, but they work with HomeBuy agents to ensure that those in priority need of social housing and existing social tenants get priority for the scheme.

Housing: Prices

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent estimate is of the average price of a dwelling purchased by a first time buyer in England. [152822]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government publish their monthly house price figures for first time buyers at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/165/Table592_id1156165.xls

In May 2007 the mix-adjusted average house price of dwellings purchased by first time buyers in England was £167,548.

Housing: Renewable Energy

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many domestic properties in England have *(a)* small-scale wind turbines and *(b)* solar panels, according to Valuation Office Agency valuation records. [152415]

John Healey: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Housing: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what support her Department provides to assist the work of home improvement agencies. [152048]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government's 'Supporting People' grant programme provided around £12.8 million to home improvement agencies in 2005-06. This contributes to their core costs, with additional revenue funding met from local authority housing funding and fee income from public grants, including the Department's Disabled Facilities Grant. Over half of the estimated £99.5 million annual capital funding for works for home improvement agency clients comes from the Disabled Facilities Grant.

The Department also sponsors a national co-ordinating body for home improvement agencies (foundations) to support the work of home improvement agencies in a number of ways, including capacity building within the sector.

Housing: Sales

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many domestic dwellings with four or more bedrooms were sold in England in the last 12 months according to figures held by the Valuation Office Agency. [150654]

John Healey: According to the data currently held by the VOA, the number of completed sales of dwellings with four or more bedrooms in the 12 months from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 was 211,284.

Judicial Review: Legal Costs

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's expenditure was on legal fees for the judicial reviews brought by *(a)* the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and *(b)* Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council. [152512]

Mr. Iain Wright: The most recent figures for the expenditure incurred to date by Communities and Local Government (CLG) on legal fees for these two judicial reviews is as follows:

(a) Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors: £19,830;

(b) Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council: £10,877.

The figures provided include both Treasury Solicitor's charges to CLG, and disbursements on fees for Treasury Counsel, who advise and represent CLG at court hearings.

Local Authorities: Contracts

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many contracts with social enterprises each council in England has; and what the total value is of such contracts. [152266]

John Healey: The information requested is not held centrally.

Local Authorities: Finance

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what annual efficiency savings have been set for local authorities in each year from 2008 to 2011. [152391]

John Healey: The 2007 Budget set down a baseline ambition of 3 per cent. annual cashable efficiencies for local government as a whole during the period covered by the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review. Further information on requirements for efficiency is subject to decisions to be taken as part of that Review.

Local Authorities: Standards

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on which indicators her Department collects information from local authorities. [152399]

John Healey: The Department of Communities and Local Government has set 86 Best Value Performance Indicators against which local authorities must report in 2007-08. These measure performance on policy areas across Government and details can be found on the Department's website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1136106.

Local Government Finance

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) why local authorities may not securitise their revenue streams to help finance capital projects; [152524]

(2) what powers local authorities have to issue bonds; and what authorisation is required from the Government for them to do so; [152542]

(3) which local authorities have issued municipal bonds since 1997; [152554]

(4) what authority local authorities require from the Government to borrow money through loans *(a)* from the Public Works Loans Board and *(b)* in the form of lenders option, borrowers option. [152556]

John Healey: Local authorities' borrowing powers are laid down in the Local Government Act 2003. Authorities are free to borrow without Government consent, provided that they can afford to service the debt from their own resources. Authorities would require the Government's consent to borrow other than in sterling, but apart from that may obtain their loans from any source. That includes borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board or seeking "lender's option borrower's option" loans from private sector banks. Authorities may also raise finance by issuing bonds, again without Government consent. Information on authorities' issues of bonds is not held centrally. We have no plans to give authorities a power to securitise, since they can obtain the same level of finance more simply by borrowing on the strength of their revenue streams.

Local Government: Equal Pay

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what resources are available to local government to meet the cost of equal pay. [151493]

John Healey: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Cannock Chase (Dr. Wright) on 19 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 492-94W.

Equal pay is not a new pressure, and local authorities will need to manage any equal pay pressures within the range of resources available such as central grant and council tax, and seeking capitalisation where necessary. Many authorities have already revised their pay arrangements, and others have put aside sufficient reserves.

Local Government: Finance

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which bodies are responsible for negotiating local government *(a)* pension and *(b)* pay settlements. [152373]

John Healey: Local Government pension scheme entitlements are not subject to negotiation. They are prescribed in secondary legislation, made by the Secretary of State, following full consultation with all relevant scheme interests as required by the Superannuation Act 1972.

Local Government pay is determined by individual local authority employers, most of whom use a national framework. The majority of the local government work force is covered by the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services.

Local Government: Inspections

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role the *(a)* Electoral Commission, *(b)* Office for the Surveillance Commissioner, *(c)* Food Standards Agency and *(d)* Health and Safety Executive/Commission have in inspecting local authorities. [152559]

John Healey: The Electoral Commission undertakes reviews of electoral arrangements in local government in England. The Surveillance Commissioner is responsible for establishing compliance with the powers granted by Parliament to authorise and conduct covert surveillance operations carried out by all local authorities, except the intelligence services. The Health and Safety Executive's role, as an enforcing authority, includes responsibility for enforcement against local authorities as an employer under the Health and Safety (Enforcing Authority) Regulations 1998. The Health and Safety Commission also expects all local authorities to undergo an inter-authority audit of their management of health and safety enforcement at least once every five years. The Food Standards Agency audits local authorities in accordance with relevant EC guidelines, to ensure the delivery of official feed and food controls—largely enforced by local environmental health and trading standards services.

The Local Authority Better Regulation Group in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (DBERR) is leading on ensuring co-ordination between the different national bodies who have roles re local authority regulatory services (eg Food Standards Agency, Consumer and Trading Standards Agency, etc.).

Local Government: Pensions

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes

have been made to eligibility and entitlements under the Local Government Pension Scheme since May 2005; and on what changes to the scheme her Department is consulting. [152374]

John Healey: Since May 2005, several amendments have been made to the regulatory framework which governs the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales. A full list can be found at:

http://timeline.lge.gov.uk/Amended/SI/siidx.htm.

Currently, statutory consultations are under way on proposals for added protections for older, eligible Scheme members, providing these are legal and affordable, and on proposals to provide transitional protections for existing 1997 Scheme members who will transfer to the new 2008 Scheme from 1 April next year.

Local Government: Referendums

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local referendums have been held by local authorities under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2003. [152558]

John Healey: The information requested is not held centrally.

Non-Domestic Rates: Tax Allowances

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the review of non-domestic rate reliefs and exemptions; and whether the Government intend to publish a consultation paper. [151315]

John Healey: Reviewing business rates reliefs and exemptions has been included in the ongoing work of Communities and Local Government, involving other Departments and stakeholders as appropriate. Any proposals emerging from the review will of course be subject to consultation in the usual way.

Planning Obligations

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the merits of a tariff system in place of Section 106 agreements and planning-gain supplement. [152375]

Mr. Iain Wright: Paragraph 3.117 of the 2006 pre-Budget report (CM 6984) indicated that the Government have considered alternative measures to capture land value uplift and that they have looked closely at these models. The predecessor Department to Communities and Local Government consulted on the introduction of a mandatory tariff in December 2001 and on an optional planning charge in November 2003. The Government continue to believe that a workable and effective planning-gain supplement (PGS) represents a fairer and more effective means of capturing land value to help finance infrastructure.

In his statement on the third session draft legislative programme on 11 July 2007, the Prime Minister said that the Planning-gain Supplement Bill is provisional within that programme because if, prior to the pre-Budget report, a better way is identified of ensuring that local communities receive significantly more of the benefit from planning gain, including to invest in necessary infrastructure and transport, and it is demonstrated that it is a better alternative, the Government will be prepared to defer next Session's legislation.

The Housing Green Paper published on 23 July 2007 says that PGS remains the Government's preferred option but lists the main alternative approaches, including those which have been raised by stakeholders. These approaches set out in the Green Paper will form the basis for discussions with key stakeholders prior to the pre-Budget report.

Rates and Rating: Aerials

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2007 to the hon. Member for Guildford, *Official Report*, column 1474W, on rates and rating: aerials, how many communication masts were on the Valuation Office Agency's rating list in England on *(a)* 31 March 2003 and *(b)* 31 March 2007. [151173]

John Healey: There is no single rating list for England but one for each billing authority. On the lists for the English billing authorities there were the following number of mast sites:

(a) as at 31 March 2003, 17,227

(b) as at 31 March 2007, 26,590.

Regional Planning and Development

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the effect of *(a)* PPG3 and *(b)* PPS3 on the supply of flats in the housing market; and if she will make a statement. [152385]

Mr. Iain Wright: In the period 2000 to 2006, new build dwelling completions that were flats increased from 20 per cent. to 47 per cent. nationally. It is not possible to say whether this was a direct result of PPG3, as other policies, commercial considerations and market factors will also have played a part.

The Government want to see local planning authorities providing the right types of housing to meet need and demand in areas, based on a robust evidence-based approach. This is why PPS3 asks local authorities to carry out strategic housing market assessments, which should then inform the planning process.

If assessments show that a greater number of larger homes are needed, then we would expect these to be planned for and delivered. But equally there will be areas where smaller homes, including flats, will be needed.

It is too early to assess the effect of PPS3.

Regional Planning and Development: West Midlands

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the oral statement of 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 161-2, on economic reform, if she will direct the West Midlands Regional Assembly to defer the consultation on the revision to the regional spatial strategy to enable the strategy's integration with the regional economic strategy; and if she will make a statement. [151457]

John Healey: No. It is essential that the phase two of the regional spatial strategy revision, which will include new housing numbers, is undertaken as agreed to provide clear guidance for local authorities producing their core strategies. The Regional Assembly and the Regional Development Agency have already taken steps to ensure effective integration of the revision with the regional economic strategy revision. This includes shared evidence and joint working groups.

Regional Assemblies will continue to have a key role in taking forward Regional Spatial Strategies until new arrangements are introduced.

Rented Housing

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1280W on rented housing, what recent meetings her Department has held with stakeholder groups to discuss affordable housing; and if she will place in the Library the minutes of such meetings. [149554]

Mr. Iain Wright: My hon. Friend the Member for Pontefract and Castleford (Yvette Cooper) officials and I have routine and regular contact with a wide range of stakeholders including affordable housing providers. The Housing Green Paper which we published on 23 July provides all stakeholders with an opportunity to offer their views on how we can best increase the delivery of affordable housing. The Green Paper sets out our plans for the delivery of more affordable housing.

Small Businesses: Non-Domestic Rates

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department holds records on the take-up of small business rate relief. [152526]

John Healey: Communities and Local Government does not hold records on the take-up rate of small business rate relief.

Social Sector Working Party on Housing

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what further consultation she carried out before taking decisions on the social sector working party's interim report on major works charges. [151886]

Mr. Iain Wright: No further consultation was carried out following receipt of the interim report of the Social Sector Working Party on major works Bills at the end of January 2007. The Government's statement to Parliament about high leaseholder major works Bills, on 29 March 2007, available at the following link, reported progress on its own review of these issues. This review was started in February 2006, and involved extensive consultation with stakeholders including leaseholder representatives, social landlords, the Leasehold Advisory Service, and lenders. It also took account of the Working Party's report.

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070329/wmstext/70329m0001.htm#07032949000022

South East England Development Agency: Official Hospitality

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the South East England Development Agency spent on hospitality and entertainment in each year since it was created. [152532]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for East Ham (Mr. Timms) to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 18 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 360W.

Sustainable Development

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the effect on communities of being designated as unsustainable as a consequence of Planning Policy Statement 1. [152667]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning Policy Statement 1 "Delivering Sustainable Development" sets out the key role of planning in contributing to the delivery of sustainable development. In particular, the planning system should facilitate and promote sustainable and inclusive patterns of urban and rural development by:

- making suitable land available for development in line with economic, social and environmental objectives to improve people's quality of life;
- contributing to sustainable economic development;
- protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment, the quality and character of the countryside, and existing communities;
- ensuring high quality development through good and inclusive design, and the efficient use of resources; and,
- ensuring that development supports existing communities and contributes to the creation of safe, sustainable, liveable and mixed communities with good access to jobs and key services for all members of the community.

Policies in regional and local development plans, together with national planning policies, provide the framework for decisions on future urban and rural development. In preparing development plans, planning authorities have a statutory requirement to do so in a way that contributes to the delivery of sustainable development. Part of that process will be to ensure that policies in plans seek to improve the sustainability of existing communities as well as ensuring new developments contribute towards that aim.

Thames Gateway

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what response she has made to the National Audit Office report "Thames Gateway: Laying the Foundations", with particular regard to the sections on performance and planning; and if she will make a statement. [147132]

Mr. Iain Wright: There was a hearing of the Committee of Public Accounts on 13 June 2007 based on the National Audit Office's report. Subsequent to the hearing the Department will receive a report from the Committee of Public Accounts with recommendations, which the Government will then respond to.

After the hearing the Department's Permanent Secretary wrote a follow-up note to the Committee in response to questions raised by hon. Members.

The Thames Gateway Executive has already implemented the majority of the recommendations in the original National Audit Office report which formed the basis of the Committee of Public Accounts hearing. In particular a cross-Government board for the Thames Gateway has been set up and will have its third meeting on 19 July. A final delivery plan for the Thames Gateway is being prepared which will be completed later this year. Finally a communications strategy for the Thames Gateway is also being prepared.

Travelling People: Regional Planning and Development

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department provides on the *(a)* definitions and *(b)* methodology for calculating the (i) regional, (ii) national and (iii) local need for authorised traveller site provision. [152557]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities are required to undertake accommodation needs assessments for Gypsies and Travellers in their area, and Communities and Local Government has provided draft guidance on this. A final version will be published shortly. Regional assemblies are responsible for reviewing regional spatial strategies to determine regional pitch requirements and allocate them between local authorities, and Communities and Local Government has published research to assist with this process.

Both of these documents are available on our website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1153486

Guidance on calculating national levels of need is not produced.

Urban Areas: Cheltenham

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 182W, on urban areas: Cheltenham, whether the information provided is available, broken down by age bands for the period covered in the draft Regional Spatial Strategy. [148572]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information is available at Table 20: Population by sex and quinary age for all local authorities and higher areas, published by the Office for National Statistics on 12 October 2006, and can be accessed at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/ssdataset.asp?vlnk=9496

The following table is extracted from this analysis.

2004 based population projections for Cheltenham borough

Age group	*2006*	*Thousand 2026*
0-4	5.6	5.8
5-9	6.0	5.8
10-14	6.4	6.1
15-19	8.1	6.8
20-24	8.2	8.5
25-29	8.0	8.3
30-34	7.5	8.4
35-39	8.4	8.5
40-44	8.5	7.7
45-49	7.2	7.0
50-54	6.6	6.8
55-59	6.7	7.5
60-64	5.6	7.4
65-69	4.7	6.2
70-74	4.2	5.4
75-79	3.9	5.4
80-84	3.4	4.1
85+	2.9	4.5
All ages	111.9	120.1

Source:
Table 20: Population by sex and quinary age for all local authorities and higher areas published by the Office for National Statistics (12 October 2006).

Valuation Office

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 27 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 817W, on the Valuation Office, which consultants have been commissioned to assist with the automated valuation model since September 2005. [152420]

John Healey: No consultants have been commissioned since September 2005. Some consultancy advice is still provided by the firm Cole Layer Trumble (CLT). This is part of an ongoing contractual arrangement between Capgemini, the agency's IT providers, and CLT.

JUSTICE

Coroners

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which case in each coroner's district has been waiting the longest time for the opening of an inquest; and if he will make a statement. [152138]

Bridget Prentice: An inquest is opened to take identification evidence and to enable release of the body to the family and they are generally opened within a few days of the death. There will, however, be a longer

interval between the death and the opening where there is the possibility of a homicide offence. In these circumstances the inquest will only be opened when the police are satisfied that the body will not be needed for the purposes of an investigation. No statistics are kept on the length of time between a death and the opening of an inquest. The following table however, shows the oldest opened case in each coroner's jurisdictions as 31 December 2006 based on information supplied by coroners.

Date of oldest outstanding inquest case, as at 31 December 2006, by coroner jurisdiction

County and district	*Date of oldest case (as at 31 December 2006)*
England and Wales	1 February 1997
The Queen's Household	31 August 1997
England	
North East	
Durham	
Darlington and South Durham	31 January 2004
North Durham	16 April 2004
Hartlepool	2 August 2006
Northumberland	
North Northumberland	9 August 2003
South Northumberland	12 September 2002
Teesside	10 December 2003
Tyne and Wear	
Gateshead and South Tyneside	2 March 2003
Newcastle upon Tyne	18 January 2003
North Tyneside	10 May 2006
Sunderland	10 December 2004
North West	
Cheshire	7 January 2004
Cumbria	
North East Cumbria	16 October 2003
South Cumbria and Furness	2 August 2002
Western Cumbria	27 August 2003
Greater Manchester	
Manchester City	1 April 1998
Manchester North	2 April 2003
Manchester South	25 March 2004
Manchester West	25 February 2003
Lancashire	
Blackburn, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley	25 April 2005
Blackpool/Fylde	22 July 2004
East Lancashire	17 September 2003
Preston and South West Lancashire	28 November 2003
Merseyside	
Sefton, Knowsley and St. Helens	15 May 2001
Liverpool	14 November 2002
Wirral	24 November 2004
Yorkshire and the Humber	
East Riding and Hull	22 March 2005
North Lincolnshire and Grimsby	25 May 2003
York City	31 March 2005
North Yorkshire	
North Yorkshire Eastern District	12 October 1998
North Yorkshire Western District	26 September 2002
South Yorkshire	
South Yorkshire Eastern District	3 September 2001
South Yorkshire Western District	15 August 2005
West Yorkshire	
West Yorkshire Eastern District	16 March 2002
West Yorkshire Western District	10 May 1999
East Midlands	
Derbyshire	
Derby and South Derbyshire	1 July 2003
Scarsdale	16 July 2003
Leicestershire	
Leicester city and South Leicestershire	11 June 2003
Rutland and North Leicestershire	24 January 2004
Lincolnshire	
Boston and Spalding	15 September 2005
West Lincolnshire	25 May 2004
Spilsby and Louth	8 August 2004
Stamford	21 November 2002
Northamptonshire	1 March 2000
Nottinghamshire	2 October 2002
West Midlands	
Herefordshire	11 October 2004
Shropshire	
Mid and North Shropshire	12 July 2003
South Shropshire	8 February 2002
Staffordshire	
Staffordshire South	29 September 2004
Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire	28 May 2002
Telford and Wrekin	3 March 2003
Warwickshire	18 October 2002
West Midlands (metropolitan area)	
Birmingham and Solihull	1 February 1997
Black Country	23 July 2004

Date of oldest outstanding inquest case, as at 31 December 2006, by coroner jurisdiction

County and district	*Date of oldest case (as at 31 December 2006)*
Coventry	15 July 2005
Wolverhampton	1 June 1998
Worcestershire	16 July 2002
East of England	
Bedfordshire and Luton	8 March 2005
Cambridgeshire	
North and East Cambridgeshire	27 October 2005
South and West Cambridgeshire	10 February 2006
Essex and Thurrock	8 January 2002
Hertfordshire	29 July 1997
Norfolk	
Great Yarmouth	14 February 2006
Norwich and Central Norfolk	24 January 2005
King's Lynn	29 June 2006
Peterborough	9 February 2005
Southend-On-Sea	15 January 2003
Suffolk	24 April 2003
London	
City of London	12 March 2003
East London	1 November 2002
Inner North London	24 October 2004
Inner South London	21 July 2001
Inner West London	30 April 2004
North London	4 August 2004
South London	6 March 2001
West London	16 September 2002[1]
South East	
Berkshire[2]	17 February 2003
Brighton and Hove	6 July 2006
Buckinghamshire	5 September 2005
East Sussex	3 February 2004
Hampshire	
Central Hampshire	5 August 2003
North East Hampshire	26 June 2006
Portsmouth and South East Hampshire	10 September 2001
Southampton and New Forest	11 October 2002
Isle of Wight	3 November 2004
Kent	
Central and South East Kent	19 July 2001
Mid Kent and Medway	11 September 2003
North East Kent	31 January 2002
North West Kent	19 June 2001
Milton Keynes	1 July 2004
Oxfordshire	6 July 1998
Surrey	31 August 1997
West Sussex	21 September 2005
South West	
Avon[2]	18 April 1998
Cornwall	15 April 2002
Devon	
Exeter and Greater Devon	10 April 2003
Plymouth and South West Devon	16 July 2002
Torbay and South Devon	26 June 2005
Dorset	
Bournemouth Poole and Eastern Dorset	8 May 2001
Western Dorset	3 August 2000
Gloucestershire	22 March 2004
Isles of Scilly	[3]
Somerset	
Eastern Somerset	17 December 2004
Western Somerset	19 February 2004
Wiltshire and Swindon	22 July 2003
Wales	
Bridgend and Glamorgan Valleys	14 October 2002
Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan	23 April 2003
Carmarthenshire	25 September 2005
Central North Wales	20 November 2005
Ceredigion	9 December 2004
Gwent	19 October 2003
Neath and Port Talbot	3 April 2005
North East Wales	13 February 2004
North West Wales	1 October 1999
Pembrokeshire	9 August 2005
Powys	4 August 2004
City and County of Swansea	15 July 2002

[1] Estimated.
[2] Former county.
[3] None.
Notes:
1. The dates given may in some cases refer to the date of death, or the date the inquest was opened, rather than the date the death was reported to the coroner.
2. Estimated dates: the month was given but no further information, so mid-month was taken as a suitable estimate.

Courts: Nottingham

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 15 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 707W, on courts: Nottingham, whether the assessment of the impact of powers under section 178 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 has been completed. [152674]

Maria Eagle: The assessment of impact of the proposed extension of review powers under section 178 to 11 new community justice areas (including Nottingham) was completed, and an affirmative order providing for the extension was laid before Parliament. The order was debated in Committee, and was duly approved by the House of Commons on 16 July and the House of Lords on 17 July.

Dangerous Driving

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to implement the section of the Road Safety Act 2006 on causing death by careless driving. [152471]

Maria Eagle: We aim to implement the new offence of causing death by careless driving in the autumn once the Sentencing Guidelines Council (SGC) has published sentencing guidelines for it.

During the passage of the Act through Parliament, concerns were expressed about how the new offences contained in that Act would be used in practice and how they should fit with the overall framework of bad driving offences. We therefore felt it essential to wait for the SGC, who are responsible for publishing definitive sentencing guidelines for all criminal offences for England and Wales, to produce guidelines to ensure consistency in sentencing. Although the guidelines will not apply to Scotland, it seemed sensible to implement the offence at the same time in all the areas concerned.

The SGC have informed us that they hope to issue guidelines on this subject in autumn 2007 following full consultation. They are treating this as a priority.

Drugs: Crime

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were cautioned for drug-related offences in each of the last 10 years; what average prison sentence was awarded for each different category of drug-related offence in each of those years; and what average prison sentence was served by those convicted of drug-related offences in each of the last 10 years, broken down by category of offence. [151993]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested on cautions and the average immediate custodial sentence length, for the years 1995 to 2005, is contained in the tables.

This is confined to offences under the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979, the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 etc. as it is not possible to identify from the Court Proceedings database the number of other offences committed while persons are under the influence of drugs or those committed to finance a drugs habit.

Information on the average time served for all offences, by sentence length can be found in tables 10.1 and 10.2 of the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2005, copies of which can be found in the House of Commons Library. This information is also available at the following websites:

For 2005:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1806section10.xls

For 2004:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hosb1705section10.xls

For 2003:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs04/hosb1504section10.xls

For the years before 2003 table 3.14 in Prison statistics England and Wales 2002 (CM 5996) gives average time served in prison under sentence by prisoners discharged from 1993 to 2002. Copies of this publication can be found in the House of Commons Library.

The data, which are obtained from the prison IT system, are not shown separately by offence because the numbers at this level of detail cannot be guaranteed.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and although shown to the last individual the figures may not be accurate to that level.

Table 1: Number of offenders cautioned for drug offences England and Wales, 1996-2005[1,2,3]

	Number cautioned
1996	47,471
1997	56,028
1998	58,733
1999	49,348
2000	41,104
2001	39,424
2002	44,921
2003	45,706
2004	32,620
2005	34,390

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Formal warnings for cannabis possession were introduced nationally from April 2004. There were 39,258 formal warnings for cannabis possession in 2004-05 and 62,586 in 2005-06.

Source:
RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Table 2: Average length of immediate custodial sentence[1] for drug offences, all courts, England and Wales 1996-2005

								Average length of sentence		
	1996	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Unlawful importation:										
Class A	n/a	n/a	85.5	88.6	82.5	75.9	72.2	79.2	83.7	81.4
Class B	n/a	n/a	37.4	36.6	32.6	31.0	25.0	29.7	40.8	62.6
Class C	n/a	n/a	47.4	42.0	24.8	6.6	4.6	8.0	21.2	27.6
Class unspecified	63.3	68.4	78.9	63.9	48.2	43.9	61.3	56.9	61.2	64.0
Unlawful exportation:										
Class A	n/a	n/a	50.0	50.5	29.3	85.0	96.8	85.5	81.8	130.7
Class B	n/a	n/a	45.0	40.0	17.5	84.0	25.5	—	53.0	—

Table 2: Average length of immediate custodial sentence[1] for drug offences, all courts, England and Wales 1996-2005

	Average length of sentence									
	1996	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Class C	n/a	n/a	—	—	—	30.0	—	—	—	24.0
Class unspecified	61.1	55.5	60.1	25.0	17.2	12.1	61.2	110.0	64.4	61.7
Production, supply and possession with intent to supply a controlled drug:										
Class A	36.8	37.6	37.1	37.9	36.6	36.3	39.8	40.7	40.7	38.4
Class B	13.8	13.6	13.8	14.0	14.6	16.2	16.8	15.8	17.6	20.2
Class C	13.0	8.6	7.8	7.9	13.3	10.3	17.3	19.5	11.7	13.3
Class unspecified	35.5	27.9	26.3	40.1	33.1	36.8	35.6	42.0	64.4	61.7
Possession of a controlled drug:										
Class A	8.0	6.5	5.9	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.2	6.2	7.3	6.4
Class B	5.2	4.4	4.2	3.1	3.2	3.5	3.4	4.0	3.7	4.7
Class C	2.8	2.6	1.6	3.6	2.7	4.6	2.5	1.2	2.8	4.0
Class unspecified	5.7	5.0	3.2	4.9	3.0	5.1	3.3	16.1	12.0	19.9
Other drug offences	16.1	24.3	19.9	20.8	19.9	34.1	24.4	25.8	26.4	19.0

n/a = Not available.
[1] Excludes life and indeterminate sentences.
Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
Source:
RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice

Employment: Equality

Mr. Atkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 983, on employment: equality, who conducted the review; when it *(a)* was established and *(b)* reported; and if he will publish its conclusions. [151602]

Bridget Prentice: The review mentioned in the answer of 3 July 2007 was an internal review of the policy on retirement ages of the judiciary and was intended to inform and advise the then Lord Chancellor about the retirement age policies currently in place. It was carried out by officials in the former Department for Constitutional Affairs and was timed to advise the Lord Chancellor ahead of the coming into force of the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006, in October 2006. The advice was not published. Following the advice, the Lord Chancellor concluded that no changes would be made to the current policies on retirement ages of the judiciary.

Google: Doubleclick

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 47-48W, on Google: Doubleclick, whether he has held discussions with the Information Commissioner on privacy and data protection in the context of Google's proposed acquisition of Doubleclick; and if he will make a statement. [152433]

Mr. Wills: I have met with the Information Commissioner but we have not discussed privacy and data protection in the context of Google's proposed acquisition of Doubleclick.

Irish Sea: Environment Protection

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what matters relating to environmental protection and control of liquid discharges to the Irish Sea were discussed at the British-Irish Council on 16 July in Belfast; and what decisions were reached. [152264]

Mr. Wills: There was a British-Irish Council (BIC) Summit in Belfast on 16 July, which was attended by the Prime Minister. The control of liquid discharge into the Irish Seas was not discussed during the BIC Summit meeting. The BIC is however continuing to intensify co-operation and exchange of information between the members on a number of important environmental areas, including unavoidable climate change, understanding extreme weather events, integrated coastal zone management and managing radioactive waste.

Judicial Appointments Commission for England and Wales: Secondment

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of the staff seconded from his Department to the Judicial Appointments Commission are of *(a)* senior leadership, *(b)* policy and *(c)* administrative support grades; whether staff who have been seconded to the Judicial Appointments Commission from his Department have maintained the same line management relationships with their existing managers; whether staff who have been seconded to the Judicial Appointments Commission from his Department may receive performance-related bonuses; what assessment he has made of the performance of the Judicial Appointments Commission; and if he will make a statement. [147977]

Mr. Straw *[pursuant to the reply, 10 July 2007, Official Report, c. 1464-65W]:* My officials have advised that I was given the incorrect data. As of 10 July, 70 staff were seconded from the Ministry of Justice, of those, 37 previously worked for the Lord Chancellor in this area, and 33 have not previously worked in this area.

Lancaster Farms Young Offender Institution: Civil Disorder

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost of the damage caused during the recent outbreak of disorder at Lancaster Farm young offender institution. [152017]

Maria Eagle: On 11 July 2007 at Lancaster Farm young offender institution a fight broke out between two groups of juveniles. The incident involved 16 young people and was resolved within 20 minutes. There was no damage to prison property and no costs were incurred.

Local Government: Electorate

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average electorate is for a single member *(a)* district council ward, *(b)* county council ward, *(c)* unitary council ward, *(d)* London borough ward and *(e)* metropolitan council ward, in England. [152412]

Peter Viggers: I have been asked to reply.

The Electoral Commission informs me that there are no metropolitan councils with single member wards, and there is only one single member ward in all the London boroughs, with an electorate as at December 2006 of 3,760. The average electorate sizes for single member district council, county council, and unitary council wards are as set out in the following table. District and unitary council averages are based on December 2006 electoral registers, and that for county councils on December 2004 electoral registers.

Council type	*Average electorate for single-member electoral areas*
District council	1,713
County council	7,818
Unitary council	2,311

Note:
The Isle of Wight county council, which is a unitary county council, has been included in the county council figure.
Source: Local Government Chronicle Elections Centre, University of Plymouth.

Pornography: Children

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many children have been *(a)* prosecuted, *(b)* given custodial sentences and *(c)* placed on the sex offenders register in each of the last five years; [150360]

(2) how many people have been prosecuted for computer-based child pornography offences in each of the last five years. [150325]

Maria Eagle: The number of children aged 10 to 17 prosecuted, at magistrates courts, sentenced and given custodial sentences for all offences (all offences include sexual, other indictable and summary offences) in England and Wales for the years 2001 to 2005 can be viewed in table 1.

The number of registered sex offenders in the community is published annually in the multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) Annual Reports. The data are not broken down by the age of the offender.

It is not possible to separately identify computer based child pornography offences from other offences related to child pornography.

The number of persons prosecuted for offences relating to child pornography in England and Wales, for the years 2001 to 2005 can be viewed in table 2.

Court proceedings data for 2006 will be available in the autumn of 2007.

Number of persons aged 10 to 17 proceeded against at magistrates court, sentenced and given custodial sentences for all offences in England and Wales for the years 2001 to 2005[1, 2]

	Age 10-17		
	Proceeded against	*Sentenced*	*Of which: immediate custody*
2001	150,067	95,485	7,596
2002	146,568	94,548	7,416
2003	140,790	92,531	6,200
2004	136,662	96,188	6,325
2005	131,731	96,203	6,015

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice.

The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates court for selected offences relating to child pornography in England and Wales, for the years 2001 to 2005[1, 2]

Statute	*Offence description*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Protection of Children Act 1978 Section 1 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 84 & Criminal Justice & Court Services Act 2000 S.41(1).	Take, permit to be taken, or to make distribute or publish indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs of children.	398	582	1,463	1,097	1,101
Criminal Justice Act 1988 Sec. 160 as amended by the Criminal Justice & Court Services Act 2000, and Criminal Justice Act 1988 Sec. 160 as amended by the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Secs.84(4) and 86(1).	Possession of an indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph[3]	126	156	326	200	184

The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates court for selected offences relating to child pornography in England and Wales, for the years 2001 to 2005[1, 2]

Statute	*Offence description*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Total		524	738	1,789	1,297	1,285

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] The following two separate statutes have been amalgamated for this table:
Criminal Justice Act 1988 Sec. 160 as amended by the Criminal Justice & Court Services Act 2000, and
Criminal Justice Act 1988 Sec. 160 as amended by the Criminal Justice & Public Order Act 1994, Secs.84(4) and 86(1).
Source:
RDS—Office for Criminal Justice reform—Ministry of Justice

Prisoners Transfers

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* prison service orders, *(b)* prison service instructions and *(c)* other written directions have been issued to (i) police, (ii) prison, (iii) court and (iv) transporting staff directing them not to detain prisoners in prisoner transport vehicles when awaiting or following court hearings. [152348]

Maria Eagle: No written instructions or directions have been issued in regard to the use of transport vehicles to hold prisoners awaiting or following court hearings. The National Offender Management Service have to date received no reports of prisoners being held on vehicles because cells are not available in courts.

Prisoners: Mentally Ill

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of prisoners held in prisons are prescribed medication for mental health-related reasons. [152044]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is not held centrally. Individual prison prescribing records would have to be checked to provide this information, which could be done only at a disproportionate cost.

Prisoners: Rehabilitation

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners who underwent treatment programmes for addiction in prison were referred to outside programmes on their release from prison in each of the last five years. [152046]

Mr. Hanson: A comprehensive framework is in place to ensure the continuation of drug treatment on release from prison:

prisons are fully engaged with the Home Office-led drug interventions programme; and

for those released on licence, probation offender managers facilitate drug treatment within the sentence planning process.

Information on the numbers engaged in prison treatment subsequently referred to community programmes is not held centrally.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of the prisoners released under the Government's early release scheme were undergoing treatment for drug or alcohol-related problems; and how many of those were required to continue such treatment outside prison as part of the terms of their early release. [152047]

Mr. Hanson: Drug treatment can only be provided with consent and cannot therefore directly be made a condition of early release. Information on the number of prisoners undergoing treatment for drug problems at the time of release on end of custody licence is not held centrally. I will write to the hon. Member with the information and place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Information on those undergoing treatment for an alcohol problem is not collated.

Prisons: Construction

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost of providing an additional 10,000 prison places by 2012. [152045]

Mr. Hanson: A new capacity-building programme which will deliver 8,000 new prison places by 2012 was announced by the Home Secretary in June 2006. A further 1,500 places were announced by the Lord Chancellor on 19 June 2007.

Estimated capital costs for the 8,000 place programme are around £1.5 billion and estimated annual running costs are expected to be around £0.35 billion once the programme is completed. The costs of both programmes will be met using existing resources and new funds from the Treasury.

Prisons: Expenditure

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on prisons in each of the last three years; and what estimate he has made of the cost for the next three years. [152036]

Mr. Hanson: The total spend on prisons is shown in the following table. This includes spending by HMPS, contracted out prisons, and prisons-related spending met directly by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS). It excludes spending on juveniles which is met by the Youth Justice Board.

	£ million
2006-07	[1]2,461
2005-06	2,250
2004-05	2,069

[1] Subject to audit

The figures include (a) HM Prison Service net cash outflow[2] as recorded in its annual accounts, (b) spending on contracted prisons excluding non-cash items, and (c) for 2005-06 and 2006-07, a detailed estimate of spending on services which transferred from the Prison Service to NOMS centre (for example property costs) excluding non-cash items.

The estimated spending in 2007-08, on the same basis, is £2,606 million. For subsequent years the budget on total prisons costs has not yet been formulated.

[2] The net cash outflow covers spending on pay and ongoing no pay items and excludes capital expenditure and non-cash accounting charges such as depreciation.

Young Offenders: Video Games

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* playstations (one or two) and *(b)* Xboxes were purchased for inmates of young offender institutions (YOIs) in each of the last three years; and how much was spent on (i) Playstations (one or two) and (ii) Xboxes for YOIs in each of the last three years. [152085]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is contained in the table below. It is possible that additional purchases of these items could have been made on a local basis by individual prisons. This information is not held centrally and can only be gathered by contacting each young offender institution's financial records and this could be done only at disproportionate cost.

The number and cost of Playstations and Xboxes purchased for Offenders in public sector Young Offender Institutions between 2005 and 2008

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*[1]2007-08*
Playstations			
Number purchased	45	84	42
Amount spent (£)	4,841	9,218	4,767
XBoxes			
Number purchased	0	15	0
Amount spent (£)	0	1,672	0

[1] Information correct as of 23 July 2007

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average caseload is of an asylum case owner; and what the figure is in each regional asylum team. [147762]

Jacqui Smith: Regional asylum teams became fully operational from 5 March this year. Most started to take cases from November 2006. The caseload will include cases across the spectrum of the asylum process—including those who claimed last week and are yet to be interviewed, stretching through the appeals process to include those for whom preparations for removal are being made.

In the same time frame, the average caseload per case worker per region is:

	Caseload per case worker
Central London	23
West London	19
Liverpool	23
Leeds	23
Solihull	24
Cardiff	19
Glasgow	21

Border and Immigration Agency: Immigration and Nationality Directorate

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what records *(a)* are kept of the performance of the Border and Immigration Agency and *(b)* were kept of the performance of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate, in processing incoming passengers at ports of entry; [151502]

(2) what the average time taken to process an incoming passenger through passport control at a port of entry to the UK was in each of the last five years, broken down by port of entry. [151503]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* The estimated number of international arrivals from outside the common travel area was 101.9 million in 2005 of which 11.8 million were non-EEA nationals.

The Border and Immigration Agency do monitor queuing times closely. Passports of EEA nationals are checked with the minimum of delay and we aim to check passengers who are not EEA nationals within 45 minutes. Passengers using the Iris Recognition Immigration System (IRIS) can expect to cross the IRIS barrier within approximately 20 seconds. Further information on waiting times is available on:

www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/comingtotheuk/enteringtheuk.

Community Policing: Great Yarmouth

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the impact of safer neighbourhood teams in Great Yarmouth. [151968]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office is monitoring and evaluating the neighbourhood policing programme across England and Wales through a strategic research programme. The results will be published in due course.

The Home Office also continues to assess police performance, including the impact of neighbourhood policing, through the Police Performance Assessment Framework (PPAF). Inspections by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary also provide a qualitative assessment of neighbourhood policing delivery.

Community Support Officers: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of employment as a police community support officer was of police community support officers employed in Cambridgeshire in each of the last three years. [150704]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally in the police personnel statistics.

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criminal offences have been created by primary legislation sponsored by her Department since October 2006. [149598]

Jacqui Smith: Since October 2006, criminal offences were created in the following Acts sponsored by the Home Office:

(a) Police and Justice Act 2006

Making supplying or obtaining articles for use in computer misuse offences (section 37)

(b) Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006

Breach of a drinking banning order (section 11)

Persistently selling alcohol to children (section 23)

Using someone to mind a weapon (section 28)

Selling air weapons unless a registered firearms dealer (section 31)

Sale of air weapons by way of trade or business where the sale is not done face to face (section 32)

Firing an air weapon beyond premises (section 34)

Sale and purchase of primers (section 35)

Manufacture, sale, importation of realistic imitation firearms (section 36)

Non-compliance with specifications for imitation firearms (section 39)

Sale/purchase of imitation firearms to/by minors (section 40)

Sale and disposal of tickets for a designated football match by an unauthorised person (section 53)

Both Acts also amended some existing offences in certain respects.

DNA Database

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 26 April 2007 to the hon. Member for Sheffield, Hallam, *Official Report*, column 1234W, on the DNA Database, (1) on how many occasions a positive match against one of the individuals recorded in the database has been made in relation to a police investigation in each of the last five years; [149718]

(2) what records are kept of positive matches located in a search of the National DNA Database; [149759]

(3) how many searches were made of the National DNA database in each of the last five years; and how many resulted in *(a)* a match, *(b)* a familial match and *(c)* a sanction detection; [149763]

(4) how many offences were detected through a DNA match with an individual whose DNA was taken in a no further action arrest in each of the last five years. [149760]

Jacqui Smith: The purpose of the National DNA Database (NDNAD) is to hold a record of a person's DNA which can be matched against DNA taken from crime scenes. The NDNAD only reports matches between DNA profile records based on DNA profile compatibility, and sends them to police forces for the use in an investigation. It does not hold data on arrests, charges and convictions. Such information is held on the Police National Computer (PNC).

The NDNAD does not hold data on reported matches and their outcomes (sanction detections). Obtaining this information would require cross-searching of records held on the PNC against the NDNAD, and then contacting each police force that received the DNA match to ascertain the outcome. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

It is not possible to provide details of the number of searches made of the National DNA Database (NDNAD) in each of the last five years. Each time a subject or crime stain profile is loaded onto the NDNAD it is searched against all the retained profiles. No record has been kept of the number of searches but thousands of these searches are made of the NDNAD every day.

In the last five years the following matches have been recorded:

(i) Matches where a crime scene was linked with one or more subjects

	Number
2006-07	42,208
2005-06	44,611
2004-05	40,879
2003-04	39,335
2002-03	43,904

(ii) Matches where a crime scene was linked to another crime scene

	Number
2006-07	3,349
2005-06	4,237
2004-05	4,349
2003-04	2,816
2002-03	3,258

Drugs: Crime

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what quantity of illegal drugs was seized by the police in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the most recent year for which figures are available. [152183]

Mr. Coaker: The latest available data on drug seizures is for 2004 and can be found in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin series "Seizures of Drugs, England and Wales 2004". The quantities seized by the police in England and Wales, for 1997 and 2004, for each drug are shown in the table attached.

The quantities of LSD and ecstasy-type drugs (including MDMA) seized have been listed in thousands of doses seized rather than as a weight. In 2004 the seized LSD quantity was published in number of doses; this answer gives seized LSD quantities in thousands of doses.

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and HM Revenue and Customs. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table S3 Quantity of seizures of Class A, B and C drugs made by police[1] by drug type and year. England and Wales, 1997 and 2004

	Quantity[2] of seizures	
Drug type	*1997*	*2004*
Class A		
Cocaine	270	1,270
Crack	30	130
Heroin	420	1,130
LSD[2]	40	6[3]
Ecstasy-type[2]	360	1,680
Methadone	110	60
Morphine	0	0
Other Class A	0	10
Class B		
Amphetamines	570	930
Barbiturates	—	—
Cannabis (herbal)[4]	8,180	*
Cannabis plants [2, 4]	77,570	*
Cannabis resin [4]	60,790	*
Other Class B	0	—
Class C		
Benzodiazepines	0	0
Cannabis (herbal))	*	2,790
Cannabis plants[2, 4]	*	88,670
Cannabis resin[4]	*	21,680
Temazepam	0	—
Anabolic steroids	10	0
GHB	*	0
Other Class C	0	0

[1] Seizures from joint operations involving HM Revenue and Customs and the police are generally recorded against HM Revenue and Customs.
[2] Drugs are seized in a variety of forms but where possible, for the purpose of this table, amounts have been converted to weights (kg), except for seizures of LSD and Ecstasy-type which are given in thousands of doses. Cannabis plants are given in thousands of plants. Seizures of unspecified quantities are not included.
[3] Published as 6190 doses
[4] From January 2004, Cannabis was reclassified from a class B to a class C drug.
Notes:
1. MDMA prior to 1996.
2. Seizures from joint operations involving HM Revenue and Customs and the police are generally recorded against HM Revenue and Customs.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons were for the reduction in the Young People Substance Misuse Grant in 2007-08; and if she will make a statement. [151542]

Mr. Coaker: In addition to mainstream funding, the Government have committed £55 million of ringfenced funding in 2007-08 to support work on reducing young people's drug use through the Young People's Substance Misuse Partnership Grant. This grant is pooled centrally across Departments, administered by the Home Office and paid to local areas. The change in the grant allocation in 2007-08 is primarily due to a reduction of £4 million in the Department of Health's Targeted Prevention Funding. The Department of Health had made a time-limited commitment to this funding, which was not renewed after the transfer of responsibility for drug education and prevention to the Department for Education and Skills. A further £2.6 million reduction was because the Home Office had increased its contribution, by way of a one-off subsidy in 2006-07, to help mitigate a similar reduction of £4 million by the Department of Health in that year.

Fraud: Credit Cards

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) in how many cases in which credit card fraud is alleged in respect of suspects identified during Operation Ore had such suspects previously reported fraud or theft; [152167]

(2) how many suspects identified as part of Operation Ore who are claiming credit card fraud are *(a)* men and *(b)* women. [152168]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not held centrally.

Fraud: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of *(a)* identity and *(b)* online fraud were recorded in (i) Eastbourne and (ii) East Sussex in each of the last five years. [151366]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available centrally. The use of another person's identification details (or the use of false identification details), often referred to as identity theft, is not in itself an offence in law. It is the action that is undertaken using those identification details that needs to be considered in respect of whether an offence has occurred and should be recorded.

With regard to online fraud, this is not a separately defined offence in law and such instances will be recorded under the appropriate fraud classification depending on the circumstances of the offence.

Missing Persons

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the direct financial contribution from her Department was to the Police National Missing Persons Bureau in 2006-07; and what the equivalent allocation is for 2007-08. [152316]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 24 July 2007]:* No contribution was made to the Police National Missing Persons Bureau in 2006-07. We are proposing to provide a financial contribution in 2008-09 and will be confirming this shortly.

Passports

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of passport applications were rejected in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* ethnicity of applicant, *(b)* reason for rejection and *(c)* processing office. [149766]

Jacqui Smith: The percentage of passport applications rejected in each of the last five years, broken down by office and reason for rejection are set out as follows. The statistics available show only the

breakdown between thóse applications which failed on nationality grounds and those rejected for other reasons. Breakdown by ethnicity is not available.

The passport examination process is designed to confirm the nationality and identity of the intended passport holder and, where required, that consent has been provided. If the Identity and Passport Service does not receive the necessary supporting documentation to confirm the aforementioned, or is unable to verify the application details through examining procedures, it is unable to issue a passport. The 'other reasons' category covers these circumstances and also where the customer requests the application to be withdrawn.

The London office primarily handles applications submitted through its public counters, where the application is checked for completeness before being accepted for processing. Incomplete applications are not accepted. This reduces the number of rejections.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Belfast					
Other reasons	1,468	1,461	1,611	2,029	2,350
Nationality grounds	1	210	236	199	255
Percentage Passport rejected	0.59	0.57	0.62	0.58	0.73
Durham					
Other reasons	4,933	5,872	7,527	9,488	9,622
Nationality grounds	798	997	1,153	1,615	1,585
Percentage Passport rejected	0.45	0.47	0.50	0.51	0.55
Glasgow					
Other reasons	3,010	2,720	2,863	3,252	2,934
Nationality grounds	223	246	307	329	296
Percentage Passport rejected	0.58	0.50	0.52	0.64	0.59
Liverpool					
Other reasons	3,332	3,524	4,214	5,229	5,930
Nationality grounds	432	433	473	884	1,055
Percentage Passport rejected	0.42	0.44	0.46	0.42	0.46
London					
Other reasons	936	613	350	561	447
Nationality grounds	1	4	1	0	1
Percentage Passport rejected	0.53	0.31	0.17	0.22	0.19
Newport					
Other reasons	4,813	4,811	4,870	5,671	4,190
Nationality grounds	405	531	637	733	672
Percentage Passport rejected	0.50	0.51	0.50	0.62	0.60
Peterborough					
Other reasons	6,994	8,912	6,756	6,667	6,823
Nationality grounds	2,785	3,279	3,096	2,428	2,091
Percentage Passport rejected	0.84	0.95	0.89	0.93	1.03
Total					
Other reasons	25,486	27,913	28,191	32,897	32,296
Nationality grounds	4,645	5,700	5,903	6,188	5,955
Percentage Passport rejected	0.56	0.58	0.56	0.57	0.60

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of passport applications sent through the Check and Send service were rejected in each of the last five years. [149767]

Jacqui Smith: We only hold data on Check and Send (Partner) applications rejected for the last financial year.

In the financial year 2006-07, 10,900 or 0.38 per cent. of the total applications received through Check and Send services (Partner) were rejected (withdrawn and failed cases).

Passports: Biometrics

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the

time taken to verify *(a)* a biometric passport and *(b)* a non-biometric passport at passport control (i) prior to and (ii) after the introduction of biometric-capability passport readers. [151501]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* The new scanners are able to automatically read more data from passports and other travel documents than the old swipe system, which means that fewer details have to be input manually and improved security and fraud checks can be undertaken. They are also able to read the new biometric chips, providing immigration officers with an additional tool to combat identity fraud.

It is critical to the security of the United Kingdom that we verify the identity of all those who seek to enter the country. While allowing most passengers into the United Kingdom quickly, thorough checks are necessary to turn away those who present a risk to the public and to prevent illegal immigration.

Police: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crime scene investigators are in post in each police force in East Sussex; and what percentage of those are civilians. [151364]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for the chief constable of Sussex police.

Police: Road Traffic Control

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of police officers were dedicated traffic police officers in each year since 1999, broken down by region. [151827]

Mr. McNulty: The available data are for the number of full-time equivalent police officers primarily employed in the function "traffic".

The data are available at police force region level from 2002-03 onwards and are given in the following table:

Police officers (FTE)[1] whose main function[2] is 'Traffic' broken down by region from 31 March 2002 to 31 March 2006

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
North East	419	445	275	333
North West	1,030	1,008	966	873
Yorkshire and the Humber	775	698	776	762
East Midlands	385	497	495	494
West Midlands	829	672	661	642
Eastern	739	765	756	763
London	607	616	1,057	627
South East	882	778	881	852
South West	650	668	681	596
Wales	587	559	556	569

[1] This and other tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Figures include those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[2] Staff with multiple responsibilities (or designations) are recorded under their primary role or function. The traffic function includes staff who are predominantly employed on motorcycles or in patrol vehicles for the policing of traffic and motorway related duties. This does not include officers employed in accident investigation, vehicle examination and radar duties.

Serious Organised Crime Agency: Labour Turnover

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who transferred to the Serious Organised Crime Agency as sworn constables left the agency in each month since its formation; and what proportion this is of the number of *(a)* sworn constable staff and *(b)* staff. [149768]

Jacqui Smith: Since 1 April 2006, 78 sworn constables have left SOCA. This number includes 11 who remained as secondees in SOCA rather than accept SOCA terms and conditions and who have returned to their home force on conclusion of their secondment.

The following table gives details on a monthly basis against *(a)* those holding powers of a constable, and *(b)* all staff in SOCA.

Month left	*Numbers of former police officers directly employed at 1 April 2006 leaving each month*	*Constables leaving each month as percentage of constables at start*	*Constables leaving each month as percentage of total direct employees at start (4069)*
July 2006	2	0.18	0.05
August 2006	2	0.18	0.05
September 2006	5	0.44	0.12
October 2006	3	0.26	0.07
November 2006	4	0.35	0.10
December 2006	4	0.35	0.10
January 2007	9	0.79	0.22
February 2007	6	0.53	0.15
March 2007	9	0.79	0.22
April 2007	9	0.79	0.22
May 2007	10	0.88	0.25
June 2007	8	0.70	0.20
July 2007	6	0.53	0.15
August 2007	1	0.09	0.02
Total	78	6.80	1.90

Speed Limits: Fines

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were fined for speeding in each of the last five years, broken down by police force area. [152043]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number of people fined for speeding from 2000 to 2004, broken down by police force area, is provided in the following table.

Data for 2005 will be available from autumn 2007.

Number of court imposed fines[1] at magistrates courts and fixed penalty notices issued[2] for speed limit offences[4], by police force area, England and Wales, 2000-04

	2000		2001		2002	
Police force area	*Court imposed fine*	*Fixed penalty notices issued[2]*	*Court imposed fine*	*Fixed penalty notices issued[2]*	*Court imposed fine*	*Fixed penalty notices issued[2]*
Avon and Somerset	4,344	36,122	5,709	30,339	4,974	53,846
Bedfordshire	2,019	16,707	2,332	13,415	1,551	40,338
Cambridgeshire	1,625	8,708	756	6,777	521	15,435
Cheshire	4,591	15,356	3,899	16,694	3,969	13,578
Cleveland	984	23,228	1,323	24,160	1,120	25,264
Cumbria	1,521	4,103	1,548	3,649	1,604	5,797
Derbyshire	4,933	18,291	6,005	24,949	3,685	71,965
Devon and Cornwall	4,247	28,091	3,809	33,389	3,415	31,144
Dorset	1,213	18,305	902	19,605	999	18,686
Durham	1,364	9,180	1,749	14,156	1,603	7,697
Essex	6,275	[5]56,010	9,131	[5]87,038	14,570	[5]101,063
Gloucestershire	2,131	5,781	1,835	4,097	877	3,898
Greater Manchester	14,505	59,765	10,375	50,448	7,182	35,861
Hampshire	5,995	27,566	5,416	28,995	4,949	31,867
Hertfordshire	2,277	23,956	2,088	23,474	2,334	23,203
Humberside	1,906	22,209	2,434	17,228	1,131	13,399
Kent	2,245	24,617	2,367	23,044	1,670	36,645
Lancashire	5,166	29,683	4,370	27,993	3,832	158,163
Leicestershire	2,001	8,094	1,750	7,750	1,726	17,903
Lincolnshire	3,528	26,319	4,131	31,487	3,692	27,490
London, City of	163	353	101	713	560	4,782
Merseyside	1,322	7,385	635	4,100	579	6,484
Metropolitan Police	8,269	54,84-	8,840	58,412	7,530	53,334
Norfolk	1,374	4,783	1,449	5,166	1,269	17,116
Northamptonshire	246	[5]34,809	403	79,627	222	60,459
Northumbria	3,519	24,265	2,352	40,726	2,555	41,050
North Yorkshire	1,208	5,295	1,412	7,436	1,236	5,412
Nottinghamshire	1,332	23,766	1,707	24,556	2,025	35,771
South Yorkshire	2,484	20,987	2,587	21,566	1,776	16,096
Staffordshire	1,815	13,969	929	20,372	1,091	29,094
Suffolk	1,210	12,596	1,236	12,416	1,266	9,477
Surrey	2,911	12,072	3,457	10,424	2,005	6,052
Sussex	3,492	24,990	2,619	18,513	1,745	23,550
Thames Valley	7,801	71,888	9,190	154,524	10,989	121,677
Warwickshire	4,636	2,099	3,624	3,136	1,743	14,999
West Mercia	2,696	22,150	2,586	30,504	2,214	29,098
West Midlands	3,455	5,668	3,949	15,806	4,706	17,762
West Yorkshire	5,619	24,595	4,442	20,937	2,295	32,126
Wiltshire	2,301	16,351	2,163	17,941	2,678	27,975
Dyfed-Powys	913	8,840	650	6,868	614	12,343
Gwent	4,036	16,518	2,813	13,209	2,238	2,960
North Wales	2,810	16,980	2,655	20,245	3,834	44,459
South Wales	2,706	54,383	1,754	75,224	1,980	61,948
England and Wales	139,188	[5]941,676	133,482	[3]1,151,108	122,555	[3]1,407,266

	2003		2004	
Police force area	*Court imposed fine*	*Fixed penalty notices issued[2]*	*Court imposed fine*	*Fixed penalty notices issued[2]*
Avon and Somerset	6,815	99,405	6,923	85,331
Bedfordshire	3,521	66,709	1,171	56,762
Cambridgeshire	1,163	28,510	1,754	19,802
Cheshire	3,088	29,564	4,153	40,306

Police force area	2003 Court imposed fine	2003 Fixed penalty notices issued[2]	2004 Court imposed fine	2004 Fixed penalty notices issued[2]
Cleveland	1,282	24,729	1,665	19,939
Cumbria	2,002	24,692	2,366	31,531
Derbyshire	3,527	[5]44,517	3,329	44,412
Devon and Cornwall	4,862	63,916	4,869	91,662
Dorset	1,486	63,185	1,666	71,832
Durham	1,042	6,538	716	4,184
Essex	9,263	66,281	8,292	68,852
Gloucestershire	800	3,139	786	4,913
Greater Manchester	6,265	44,903	4,745	43,531
Hampshire	5,270	45,324	4,237	52,587
Hertfordshire	2,167	28,696	1,806	61,637
Humberside	1,179	25,755	3,592	52,288
Kent	2,995	54,594	3,223	66,661
Lancashire	6,759	[5]96,660	5,030	63,233
Leicestershire	3,036	45,417	2,173	26,357
Lincolnshire	4,257	27,970	4,356	29,258
London, City of	1,137	4,864	1,790	6,358
Merseyside	911	8,883	893	8,058
Metropolitan Police	7,080	80,213	6,646	104,920
Norfolk	2,372	31,640	2,764	26,938
Northamptonshire	2,836	49,902	4,001	49,108
Northumbria	2,207	69,018	3,770	94,319
North Yorkshire	1,515	5,836	2,034	5,971
Nottinghamshire	3,780	53,276	4,146	53,188
South Yorkshire	1,181	51,418	2,584	42,635
Staffordshire	2,220	47,565	4,449	41,249
Suffolk	763	16,606	1,820	40,847
Surrey	1,493	7,057	279	8,200
Sussex	2,783	60,364	247	45,619
Thames Valley	9,339	123,586	8,862	92,834
Warwickshire	2,323	27,737	1,707	34,206
West Mercia	1,320	78,408	383	57,844
West Midlands	5,069	43,542	7,362	58,052
West Yorkshire	3,349	70,011	4,263	68,827
Wiltshire	4,037	42,738	4,022	50,641
Dyfed-Powys	1,548	3,072	1,231	2,221
Gwent	2,645	1,013	2,270	859
North Wales	4,319	[5]61,645	4,597	51,069
South Wales	2,924	65,852	4,146	45,343
England and Wales	137,930	[5]1,894,750	141,118	1,924,384

[1] May include cases where fixed penalty was issued and not paid and consequently taken to court.
[2] Magistrates courts data only. Fines given at the Crown Court total nationally (England and Wales) less than 10 each year.
[3] Covers tickets paid where there is no further action.
[4] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ss. 16, 81, 84, 86, 88 & 89; Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regs. 1973; Parks Regulation (Amendment) Act 1926—byelaws made thereunder.
[5] Revised since initial publication in the annual Bulletin.

Notes:
1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete. Work is underway to ensure that the magistrates courts case management system currently being implemented by the Ministry of Justice reports all motoring offences to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. This will enable more complete figures to be disseminated.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Support Orders

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 2029W, on support orders, if she will place in the Library the results of the three month survey of 50 respect action areas to assess the use of individual support orders. [151456]

Mr. Coaker: The survey has been extended to allow further data to be received. The results are due to be published on the Home Office website and a copy will be placed in the Library in the next few months. In the meantime, we are continuing to work with Her Majesty's Court Service and the Youth Justice Board to ensure that young people on antisocial behaviour orders receive support in addressing their antisocial behaviour.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departments: Legislation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which Bills introduced by his Department in the last five years contained sunset clauses; and what plans he has for the future use of such clauses. [151838]

Edward Miliband: No bills introduced by the Cabinet Office in the last five years contained sunset clauses. The appropriateness of a sunset clause for the whole or part of any proposed legislation is considered on a case-by-case basis. It is also addressed when a regulatory impact assessment relating to legislation is being prepared.

Departments: Written Questions

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what role his Department plays in providing *(a)* guidance and *(b)* assistance to other departments on the provision of answers to written parliamentary questions; [151270]

(2) where, at what point and by whom the decision is taken to recommend to Ministers that an identical answer might be provided when similar written parliamentary questions are tabled to different departments. [151276]

Edward Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that the then Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Hilary Armstrong) gave the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess) on 11 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1825W.

Duchy of Lancaster: Finance

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the disbursement from the surplus of the Duchy of Lancaster to the Queen was in each year from 1979. [151281]

Edward Miliband: The information requested is available in the Libraries of the House for the reference of Members.

Ministerial Policy Advisers: Standards

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 36W, on ministerial policy advisers: standards, whether the code will be published within the next two months. [151274]

Edward Miliband: It will be published as soon as possible.

Official Residences: Official Hospitality

Mr. Spring: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much has been spent on entertainment from the public purse at *(a)* One Carlton Gardens, *(b)* Chevening, *(c)* Admiralty House, *(d)* Hillsborough Castle and *(e)* the Lord Chancellor's apartments since 27 June 2007. [152461]

Edward Miliband: Guidance relating to Ministers' use of official residences is set out in Sections 6.2 and 7.10 the "Ministerial Code". The detailed information requested is not held centrally. Expenditure on official entertainment is the responsibility of the relevant department.

Public Appointments: Pay

Mr. Spring: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster who has been appointed to the board of a public body since 27 July 2007; and on what salary in each case. [152460]

Edward Miliband: Individual departments publish information annually on appointments to the public bodies for which they are responsible, including information on remuneration. Data for 2006-07 is in the process of being published by departments alongside the publication of departmental reports.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Prison Staff: Religious Affiliation

8. **Dr. Alasdair McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of *(a)* prison officers and *(b)* other prison service staff in Northern Ireland are from each religion or community in Northern Ireland. [151129]

Paul Goggins: At 1 April 2007 within the NIPS the composition of prison service grades was 80.1 per cent. Protestant, 8.4 per cent. Roman Catholic and 11.5 per cent. non-determined. For non-prison service grades the composition was 75.3 per cent. Protestant, 22.9 per cent. Roman Catholic and 1.8 per cent. non-determined.

Historical Inquiries

10. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the cost of the ongoing historical inquiries in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [151131]

11. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the total cost to the public purse of work on historical inquiries in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [151132]

Mr. Woodward: I refer the hon. Gentlemen to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Members for Forest of Dean (Mr. Harper), Bracknell (Mr. Mackay) and for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill).

Dissident Republican Groups

12. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the security threat posed by dissident republican groups. [151133]

Mr. Woodward: As the 15th IMC report shows, dissident republicans, although isolated and few in number, continue to engage in terrorist activities and remain a threat to the security situation.

Saville Inquiry

13. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent on the Saville inquiry. [151134]

Mr. Woodward: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Members for Forest of Dean (Mr. Harper), and for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) and the right hon Member for Bracknell (Mr. Mackay).

Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations

14. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent representations he has received on the application of the Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006. [151135]

Paul Goggins: I have received no representations on the application of these regulations, the responsibility for which now rests with the Northern Ireland Executive.

Parades Commission

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will publish the findings of the Review of the Parades Commission. [151130]

Mr. Woodward: The work of the Strategic Review of Parading, chaired by Lord Ashdown, is under way, and is due to report in early 2008. This review aims to find a settled cross-community view on the issue of parading.

Parades

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the policing of 12 July parades in 2007. [151136]

Paul Goggins: It is encouraging to note that for the second consecutive year the PSNI policed the 12 July parades without the need for soldiers to be deployed on the ground.

TREASURY

11 Downing Street: Charities

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 361W, on 11 Downing street: charities, on how many occasions each of those charities has used 11 Downing street. [147417]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 3 July 2007]:* Charities can apply for extended use of number 11 Downing street if they so wish and subject to availability. I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer my hon. Friend gave on 1 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 412W, on 8 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1133W and 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 758W.

Departments: Air Conditioning

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on the hire of mobile air conditioning units in each of the last five years. [151983]

Angela Eagle: The following table presents the costs to HMT and its agencies as can be obtained from information held centrally:

£

Department/ agency	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
HM Treasury	0	0	0	0	0
Debt Management Office	0	0	0	3,892	0
Office of Government Commerce	0	0	0	0	0

Note:
VAT is included in the figures unless stated otherwise.

Departments: Rural Areas

Mr. Paice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Treasury achievement targets take account of rural proofing. [152082]

Andy Burnham: The Treasury undertakes rural proofing, where applicable, in its policy development, in line with Green Book guidance (see chapter 2, paragraph 25 which states: "Rural issues—the Government is committed to ensuring that all its policies take account of specific rural circumstances. Appraisers should assess whether proposals are likely to have a different impact in rural areas from elsewhere."). HM Treasury has 10 public service agreement (PSA) targets set under the 2004 spending review. The relevant policies underlying these targets have been rural proofed.

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many overseas visits were made by *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers within his responsibility, and at what cost, in each year since 1997. [151650]

Angela Eagle: In 2006-07, travel and subsistence costs for the Treasury were £1,881,000. Further detail relating to the number of visits could be provided only at disproportionate cost. In respect of total costs for earlier years, I refer to the answer given by the then Financial Secretary (John Healey) to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) on 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 926W.

Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2006-07 is currently being compiled and will be published before the summer recess. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the civil service management code and the ministerial code.

EC Internal Trade

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions representatives of HM Revenue and Customs have had with the European Commission on cross-border shopping. [151301]

Angela Eagle: HM Revenue and Customs have had no recent discussions with the European Commission on cross-border shopping. In October 2001, the European Commission launched infraction proceedings against

the UK concerning its policy in relation to seizures and sanctions for smuggling of excise goods. Between then and March 2006, when the Commission closed these infraction proceedings, a number of meetings were held between representatives of HM Revenue and Customs and Commission officials to discuss this issue.

Housing: Low Incomes

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the case for a tariff system in place of section 106 agreements and planning gain supplement. [151316]

Angela Eagle: In his statement on the third session draft legislative programme on 11 July 2007, the Prime Minister said that the Planning-gain Supplement Bill is provisional within that programme because if, prior to the pre-Budget report, a better way is identified of ensuring that local communities receive significantly more of the benefit from planning gain, including to invest in necessary infrastructure and transport, and it is demonstrated that it is a better alternative, the Government will be prepared to defer next session's legislation.

The Housing Green Paper published on 23 July 2007 says that PCS remains the Government's preferred option but lists the main alternative approaches, including those which have been raised by stakeholders.

These approaches set out in the Green Paper will form the basis for discussions with key stakeholders prior to the pre-Budget report.

OECD: Israel

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will make it his policy to support the application of Israel to join the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); what discussions he has had with the OECD about the issue; and if he will make a statement; [150996]

(2) what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers and officials from his Department have had with the Government of Israel on its application to join the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; and if he will make a statement; [150997]

(3) what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers and officials from his Department have had with the US Administration on the application of Israel to join the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; and if he will make a statement. [150998]

Kitty Ussher: The UK supported the OECD decision, taken by consensus, that Israel, along with Chile, Estonia, Russia and Slovenia, should start accession negotiations with the OECD. Roadmaps for the accession processes are being prepared by the Secretary General for the OECD Council approval. These will set out the terms and conditions that will be required of each individual candidate country before their accession can take place. The FCO leads on the OECD for Her Majesty's Government.

Treasury Ministers and officials discuss a wide range of issues with their counterparts in the OECD and accession countries as part of the process of policy analysis, development and delivery.

Revenue and Customs: ICT

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what access HM Revenue and Customs has to the Valuation Office Agency's *(a)* Automated Valuation Model and *(b)* property databases to assist it in its statutory functions. [151328]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs staff have no direct access to the Valuation Office Agency's *(a)* Automated Valuation Model or *(b)* property databases.

Tax Allowances

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his most recent estimate is of the costs of making the personal allowance transferable between couples; and if he will make a statement; [151190]

(2) what estimate he has made of the total financial effect on *(a)* married couples with children and *(b)* married couples without children of making the personal allowance transferable; and if he will make a statement; [151191]

(3) what estimate he has made of the proportion of individuals who are married who would benefit from a transferable personal tax allowance; and if he will make a statement. [151193]

Jane Kennedy: Due to the complex nature of this question the following estimates should be treated with caution. These estimates exclude any behavioural response to the change, which could be significant given the magnitude of the change.

The most recent estimate of the costs of making the personal allowance transferable between all couples, married and unmarried, is approximately £4.1 billion in 2007-08.

The cost for married couples with children of making the personal allowance transferable is estimated to be around £1.5 billion in 2007-08. The cost for married couples without children of making the personal allowance transferable is estimated to be around £1.9 billion in 2007-08. It is estimated that 38 per cent. of married couples would benefit from a transferable tax allowance in 2007-08.

The estimates were calculated using the Department's tax and benefit model (IGOTM) based on data from the Family Resources Survey.

Valuation Office: ICT

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much the Valuation Office Agency has spent on *(a)* network support offices and *(b)* data capture centres; [151317]

(2) what the addresses are of the Valuation Office Agency's *(a)* network support offices and *(b)* data capture centres. [151318]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency has two operational units which provide dedicated general administrative support to its network of offices across England and Wales. They were originally established as data capture centres but are now network support

offices. The Agency's published annual accounts report only the total costs of its operations—attributions to individual units are not made and could not be undertaken at reasonable cost.

The addresses of the Valuation Office Agency's network support offices are:

Plymouth Network Support Office
Valuation Office Agency
190 Armada Way
Plymouth
PL1 1EG

Halifax Network Support Office
Valuation Office Agency
Crown House
60 Crown Street
Halifax
West Yorkshire
HX1 1HY

Valuation Office: Manuals

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's Referencing Manual. [151313]

Jane Kennedy: A copy of the Valuation Office Agency's Referencing Manual has been placed in the Library.

Valuation Office: Training

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's Training Events Catalogue. [151314]

Jane Kennedy: The Training and Events Catalogue is held in linked electronic formats within the Valuation Office Agency's main IT systems and can only be viewed with full functionality through the appropriate software package. To provide a copy of the catalogue and attached documents could be done only at disproportionate cost.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Bankruptcy

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment was made of the likely impact of fast-track voluntary arrangements on the level of annulled bankruptcies in preparing the regulatory impact assessment for the Enterprise Act 2002; and if he will make a statement. [152504]

Mr. McFadden: The Regulatory Impact Assessment for the Enterprise Act 2002 makes no reference to the likely impact of fast-track voluntary arrangements on the level of annulled bankruptcies.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment has been made of the impact of fast-track voluntary arrangements for bankruptcy; and if he will make a statement. [152507]

Mr. McFadden: The Insolvency Service is undertaking a comprehensive evaluation of the Enterprise Act 2002 insolvency provisions, overseen by an evaluation group of independent stakeholders. The final evaluation report on the individual insolvency provisions of the Enterprise Act 2002 is due to be published in autumn 2007.

Bankruptcy: Fee and Charges

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many complaints were received by the Insolvency Service in each year since 2002; how many of these complaints related to the fees charged by insolvency practitioners acting as trustees in individual bankruptcy cases; and if he will make a statement. [152508]

Mr. McFadden: The main function of the Insolvency Service is to administer individual bankruptcies and companies wound up by the court. Complaints received by the Insolvency Service mainly relate to those activities. The Insolvency Service's financial year runs from 1 April to 31 March, details of complaints received for the years 2002-03 to 2005-06 are set out as follows:

	Number
2002-03	462
2003-04	370
2004-05	372
2005-06	428

Complaints about insolvency practitioners are directed to the appropriate authorising body where the insolvency practitioner is not authorised by the Secretary of State.

The Insolvency Service does not maintain specific data for complaints relating to the fees charged by insolvency practitioners acting as trustees in individual bankruptcy cases.

The primary responsibility for agreeing an office holder's remuneration rests with the creditors and there are legislative provisions that enable the court to consider challenges to the amount of remuneration charged or allowed. As the legislation provides for such an appeal process I am unable to consider such complaints.

Business: Islwyn

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how many residents of Islwyn constituency started their own business in each of the last five years; [151728]

(2) how many VAT registrations there were in Islwyn constituency in each of the last five years. [151858]

Mr. Timms: The number of VAT registrations in the Islwyn parliamentary constituency is shown as follows for 2001 to 2005. Data for 2006 will be published in autumn 2007.

VAT registrations, Islwyn parliamentary constituency

	Number
2001	85
2002	95
2003	130
2004	115
2005	100

Source:
Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations 1994-2005. Available at http://stats.berr.gov.uk/smes/vat

Although the number of new registrations has fluctuated over the period, the total number of VAT registered businesses in Islwyn parliamentary constituency has increased from 1,005 in 2001 to 1,110 at the start of 2006, an increase of 105 (10 per cent.).

VAT registration data provides the only accurate indicator of the level of start-up activity at the constituency level.

However, VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £60,000 at the start of 2006. Only 1.8 million out of 4.3 million UK enterprises (42 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2005.

Business: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many businesses there are in York; how many there were in 1997; and how many businesses have *(a)* started and *(b)* ceased trading in York since 1997. [152207]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of the total business population, which includes businesses with a turnover above and below the VAT threshold, are not produced below the regional level. However, data on the total number of VAT registered businesses, and the number of businesses registering and de-registering for VAT each year, in each UK constituency are published by BERR. Data is available at:

http://stats.berr.gov.uk/smes/vat

There were 2,085 VAT registered businesses in the City of York constituency at the start of 1997. At the start of 2006 there were 2,495 VAT registered businesses, a rise of 410 (20 per cent.) over the period.

Between 1997 and 2005 (inclusive) there were 2,125 new VAT registrations and 1,720 VAT de-registrations in the City of York constituency.

Registration and de-registration data for 2006, and stock data for the start of 2007, will be published in autumn 2007.

VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £60,000 at the start of 2006. Similarly, businesses that de-register may not have closed. Only 1.8 million out of 4.3 million UK enterprises (42 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2005.

Children: Protection

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 264W, on children: protection, what steps the Government plan to take before the implementation of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 in autumn 2008 to prevent known paedophiles from opening a children's agency specialising in theatre, television and modelling. [152009]

Mr. McFadden: Under the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 it is an offence to knowingly offer work to or to employ a person in a child care position if they are disqualified from working with children either by virtue of being included on one of the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families Lists (the Protection of Children Act (PoCA) List or its equivalent in Scotland or List 99) or a disqualification order from the court. Individuals who apply or offer to work, accept work or continue to work with children in such positions will be committing a criminal offence and can face prosecution if they are disqualified from working with children.

The extent to which those running a children's agency specialising in theatre, television and modelling would be covered by the PoCA regulations would depend on the nature of their actual work. However, if a person is deemed to be caring for children under 16 in the course of the children's employment they would be in a regulated position and therefore covered by PoCA.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of sick leave taken by staff in his Department was stress-related in each of the last three years. [145982]

Mr. Thomas: The following shows the percentage of sick leave taken by staff in the former DTI which was stress-related in each of the last three years:

	Percentage
2006-07	19.8
2005-06	11.5
2004-05	5.6

The aforementioned data cover all recorded conditions related, or possibly related, to stress and do not distinguish between work and non-work related stress. These data should be considered in the context of an average sickness absence figure for 2006 of 5.4 days for the former DTI which is below the average for a civil service medium sized policy based organisation in of 6.6 days.

Our ongoing support measures for helping staff reporting stress-related sick leave include the following:

Early referral to the Department's medical adviser,

Return to work interviews,

Independent confidential,

A "Keeping in Touch" policy for those on long term sick leave,

Participation in the cross-Whitehall network on stress management.

Employment: Industrial Disputes

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what research he has conducted on *(a)* the average time for an employment dispute to be resolved, *(b)* the average time for an employment dispute to be resolved through an employment tribunal, *(c)* the average time for an employment dispute to be resolved if resolved through mediation and *(d)* the average time for an employment dispute to be resolved if mediation is undertaken but was unsuccessful; and if he will make a statement. [151892]

Mr. McFadden: The most recent assessment carried out by my Department of average time for employment disputes to be resolved was the 2003 Survey of Tribunal Applications. The next such survey is scheduled for the first half of 2008. Average time estimates are not available for those cases going to mediation, as the Department does not conduct research on mediation of employment disputes outside of the Employment Tribunal System.

Industrial Disputes: Arbitration

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department has conducted any research on user satisfaction in mediated employment disputes. [151295]

Mr. McFadden: No research on user satisfaction in mediated employment disputes has been conducted by my Department or the former Department of Trade and Industry in recent years.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the average total cost of *(a)* mediating and *(b)* litigating an employment dispute. [151297]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not collect information on private mediation in employment disputes. The Department has approved plans to undertake the next periodic Survey of Employment Tribunal Applications (SETA) in 2008. SETA assembles a broad range of data on ETs including the legal costs, costs of advice and representation, and other expenses, incurred by claimants and employers involved in employment tribunals (ET) claims. The last SETA was conducted in 2003. Results were published by the Department in 2004 as ERRS No. 33 Findings from the Survey of Employment Tribunal Applications 2003.

Industrial Disputes: Mediation

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many employment dispute mediators there were in each of the last three years; and what he expects to be the trend in this figure over the next three years. [150793]

Mr. McFadden: The Government do not hold information on all types of employment dispute mediators.

The consultation "Resolving Disputes in the Workplace" covered the area of mediation, and the Government will publish its plans for the way forward in resolving disputes in the workplace in due course.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will commission research into the effect of the practice of employment tribunals not awarding costs to employees who win their cases on the *(a)* number of cases going to tribunal and *(b)* time taken by employers in assembling their cases; and if he will make a statement. [150859]

Mr. McFadden: The Department has approved plans to undertake the next periodic Survey of Employment Tribunal Applications (SETA) in 2008. SETA assembles a broad range of data on ETs including costs incurred by claimants and employers involved in employment tribunal (ET) claims and their awareness of the cost regime and its impact on decisions to settle or withdraw claims. The survey cannot establish the effect of ETs not routinely awarding costs to successful claimants on potential claimants since these are not included in the survey. It is also not possible to test the impact of the counterfactual—tribunals routinely awarding costs to successful claimants. Findings from SETA 2008 will be published in the Employment Relations Research Series (ERRS) by the end of 2008. The last SETA was conducted in 2003. Results were published by the Department in 2004 as ERRS No. 33 Findings from the Survey of Employment Tribunal Applications 2003.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many representations containing concerns on increasing the use of mediation in employment disputes his Department and its predecessor have received in the last five years. [150863]

Mr. McFadden: The Government do not hold this information.

The consultation "Resolving Disputes in the Workplace" covered the area of mediation, and the Government will publish their plans for the way forward in resolving disputes in the workplace in due course.

Industrial Disputes: Small Businesses

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the effect of employment disputes on small firms. [151292]

Mr. McFadden: Employment tribunal cases clearly impose additional costs on small firms, as they do on other respondents. The most recent assessment by my Department of the impact on respondents was the 2003 Survey of Tribunal Applications. The next such survey is scheduled for the first half of 2008.

Industrial Relations: Disputes Procedures

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2007, *Official Report*, column

1545W, on industrial relations: disputes procedures, for what reasons his Department only supports mediation through the funding of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service; whether his Department plans to support mediation through additional means in the future; and if he will make a statement. [150846]

Mr. McFadden: The review undertaken by Michael Gibbons was a far-reaching, independent review covering all aspects of resolving employment disputes in the workplace in Great Britain.

In light of this review and the responses received to the consultation "Resolving Disputes in the Workplace", the Government are currently developing their plans for the way forward on the resolution of employment disputes including the role of mediation. These plans will be published in due course.

Joint Industry Board for the Electrical Contracting Industry: Arbitration

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) of 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 285W, on the Joint Industry Board for the Electrical Contracting Industry: Arbitration, when in the autumn he expects the response to Michael Gibbons review. [152094]

Mr. McFadden: Michael Gibbons review was published on 21 March. Alongside the Gibbons review, we published a consultation document seeking views on ways of helping resolve employment disputes successfully in the workplace. That consultation closed on 20 June 2007, and we received over 400 responses to it. We are analysing the responses received and will publish the Government response when it is ready, in the autumn.

Mediation

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what factors were taken into account in deciding not *(a)* to promote and *(b)* to provide information on mediation in employment disputes in guidance issued by his Department. [151866]

Mr. McFadden: BERR does promote and provide information on methods of dispute resolution via ACAS, direct.gov and business.gov, information sources used by parties to employment disputes. It also provides funding for the Citizens Advice Bureau network, which advises clients involved in employment disputes, including on methods of alternative dispute resolution.

Mediation: Qualifications

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department has assessed the merits of introducing statutory *(a)* registration and *(b)* qualifications for mediators. [150862]

Mr. McFadden: The review undertaken by Michael Gibbons was a far-reaching, independent review covering all aspects of resolving employment disputes in the workplace in Great Britain, including mediation.

Aspects of mediation were covered in the public consultation "Resolving Disputes in the Workplace". The Government are currently assessing responses to this consultation and developing their plans for the way forward on the resolution of employment disputes. These plans will be published in due course.

Small Businesses: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many small businesses there were in City of York *(a)* constituency and *(b)* local authority area in each year since 1992. [151611]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of the total small business population, which includes businesses with a turnover above and below the VAT threshold, are not produced below the regional level.

However data on the total number of VAT registered businesses in each UK constituency and local authority is published by BERR. Data for City of York parliamentary constituency and York unitary authority are shown as follows for the years 1994 to 2006. Data prior to 1994 are not available. Data for the start of 2007 will be published autumn 2007.

Number of VAT registered businesses at the start of each year

	City of York PC	*York UA*
1994	2,120	4,055
1995	2,120	4,050
1996	2,110	4,065
1997	2,085	4,080
1998	2,130	4,170
1999	2,165	4,260
2000	2,200	4,335
2001	2,230	4,445
2002	2,270	4,535
2003	2,270	4,640
2004	2,355	4,775
2005	2,420	4,865
2006	2,495	4,940

Source:
Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations 1994-2005. Available at: www.dtistats.net/smes/vat/

Between 1994 and 2006 the number of VAT registered businesses increased by 18 per cent. in the City of York constituency, and by 22 per cent. in York unitary authority.

VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £60,000 at the start of 2006. Only 1.8 million out of 4.3 million UK enterprises (42 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2005.

Wave Power

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what research he has *(a)* conducted and *(b)* evaluated on the possible use of wave energy systems in the UK. [150605]

Malcolm Wicks: Since 2000 the DTI New and Renewable Energy R and D Programme, which is now part of the Technology Strategy Board's Technology Programme, has funded industry-led, shared-cost, pre-competitive research and development into wave energy. A total of 30 projects have been supported under the programme covering 10 different device concepts, as well as a number of ancillary technologies.

To date a total of 17 reports setting out the results of this research have been published (not all of the 30 projects are complete) and most are available from the BERR Publications Unit at:

www.berr.gov.uk/publications/index.html

These suggest that wave energy systems could potentially make a significant contribution towards our energy needs if a number of technical and economic barriers can be overcome.

Other research in this area has been supported by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, the Carbon Trust, the International Energy Agency and the European Commission.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department *(a)* has undertaken and *(b)* plans to undertake into the reasons for repeat abortions; and if he will make a statement. [152783]

Dawn Primarolo: No research has been undertaken or is planned in this specific area.

Agency Nurses: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on agency nurses providing temporary cover in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each of the last 10 years. [151410]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not collected in the format requested. Data is collected by 'non national health service nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff'. This will include staff who are other than agency, for example bank nurses. Information is not collected by place but by NHS trust. The earliest data available for NHS acute trusts in the East Sussex area is 1999 and for NHS primary care trusts 2002 and is shown in the following table.

Expenditure on agency nurses in Eastbourne and East Sussex: Expenditure on non-NHS (agency etc.) nursing midwifery and health visiting staff

£000

	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
NHS trusts							
PCT							
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals	—	—	—	8,086	6,237	1,950	2,995
Brighton Health Care	2,424	2,530	3,425	—	—	—	—
Mid Sussex	308	336	821	—	—	—	—
East Sussex County Healthcare	—	—	—	1,306	1,071	719	687
Eastbourne and County Healthcare	194	191	394	—	—	—	—
South Downs Health	792	819	714	1,014	1,046	1,331	1,625
East Sussex Hospitals	—	—	—	3,212	4,298	2,145	1,378
Eastbourne Hospital	959	1,318	1,060	—	—	—	—
Hastings and Rother	248	487	1,050	—	—	—	—
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare	2,362	3,613	5,504	6,751	4,401	4,949	2,765
Brighton and Hove City	—	—	—	0	0	0	0
Eastbourne Downs	—	—	—	1	0	0	0
Sussex Downs and Weald	—	—	—	197	132	86	394
Total (all organisations)	7,287	9,294	12,968	20,567	17,185	11,180	9,844

Source:
Annual Financial Returns of NHS Trusts and Primary Care Trusts

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many teenagers were admitted to accident and emergency in *(a)* Hampshire and *(b)* England as a result of drinking alcohol in the last (i) 12 months and (ii) five years; [150957]

(2) what treatments were most frequently administered to teenage drinkers admitted to accident and emergency departments in the last *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* five years in (i) Hampshire and (ii) England. [151007]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on the age of patients attended to or the treatments given in accident and emergency (A & E) departments is not collected centrally.

It should be noted that there is a difference between alcohol related disease and other alcohol related admissions: data on the age of patients attended to or the treatments given in A & E departments is not collected centrally. Data is also not collected on injuries sustained where alcohol has been a contributory factor.

However, the following table shows the numbers of Finished Admission Episodes (FAE) for 13 to 19-year-olds admitted to hospital via A & E departments with a primary diagnosis of alcohol related illnesses for each year for the past five years.

Count of FAE with a primary diagnosis of alcohol related Illnesses admitted via A & E for 13-19 year olds, data for NHS Hospitals, England, 2005-06

	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Health Authority of Residence	*England (inc. Hampshire)*
2005-06	191	5,575
2004-05	171	4,800
2003-04	155	4,455
2002-03	125	3,758
2001-02	102	4,102

Notes
FAE
A FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
Assessing growth through time
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the national health service, there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.
Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
Diagnosis (primary diagnosis)
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
The ICD10 Codes used to define alcohol related conditions are as follows:
T51—Toxic Effect of Alcohol
K70—Alcoholic Live Disease
F10—Mental and behavioural disorders due to alcohol
Age:
Data is for those who were between 13 and 19 years old at the start of the episode
Admission Method:
Admission method 21 and 28 were selected for A & E admissions
This data is for patients admitted to hospital as an inpatient, via A & E. This does not reflect the number of A & E attendances.
Source:
HES, The Information Centre for Health and Social Care

Assertive Outreach Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the *(a)* distribution and *(b)* effectiveness of assertive outreach services. [151022]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Assertive outreach teams provide intensive support for people with severe mental illness who find it difficult to engage in more traditional mental health services. At 31 January 2006, there were 525 assertive outreach (AO) teams in England.

Assertive outreach services are effective in caring for about 18,400 people (at 31 March 2007). The table shows the distribution of AO teams across England by strategic health authority (SHA). The difference between the SHA total and the England total is due to some teams not being assigned to an SHA.

Number of AO teams in England by strategic health authority in January 2006

SHA name	*Total AO teams*
North East	18
North West	30
Yorkshire and the Humber	22
East Midlands	19
West Midlands	26
East of England	26
London	40
South East Coast	22
South Central	19
South West	29
SHA total	251
England total	525

Source:
Service mapping.

Autism

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to collect national figures on the number of people with autism. [151951]

Ann Keen: The Department has no plans to collect national figures on the number of people with autism.

Blood Transfusions

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the *(a)* direct and *(b)* indirect costs of a blood transfusion. [151995]

Dawn Primarolo: We cannot estimate the cost of an individual blood transfusion. However, the cost of a unit of red blood cell is £134.

Cancer: Anaemia

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of cancer patients who suffer from anaemia; [151996]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the potential effect on costs to the NHS of using erythropoietin for the treatment of cancer-related anaemia; [152022]

(3) what treatments are *(a)* licensed, *(b)* recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and *(c)* being reviewed by NICE for the treatment of cancer-related anaemia; [152023]

(4) what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of cancer patients receiving treatment for cancer-related anaemia. [152098]

Ann Keen: Options available to address anaemia in cancer patients include blood transfusions, iron supplementation, erythropoietin and adjustments to a patient's cancer treatment regime.

On 29 June 2007 the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published its preliminary recommendations on the use of erythropoietin for the treatment of anaemia induced by cancer treatment.

These preliminary recommendations are currently with stakeholders for consultation and they have until 23 July 2007 to submit comments. Final guidance from NICE is expected later this year.

The Department has not made any estimate of the number of cancer patients who suffer from anaemia or who receive treatment for anaemia.

However, the NICE appraisal of erythropoietin sets out that a large European study of almost 15,000 cancer patients found that, at enrolment, around half of the patients had anaemia. This proportion increased during treatment, particularly with chemotherapy. Proportions also appeared to be larger in patients with lymphoma, myeloma and gynaecological cancers than in patients with other types of cancer.

The Department has not made an assessment of the potential effect on costs to the national health service of using erythropoietin. However, NICE estimates that the cost of a course of treatment with erythropoietin is approximately £2,500 to £5,000, excluding VAT.

Cancer: Medical Treatments

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who will be responsible for implementing the cancer reform strategy. [151721]

Ann Keen: The cancer reform strategy is currently being developed and mechanisms to implement the strategy will be considered as part of this in due course. The Department aims to publish the strategy before the end of the year.

Care Homes

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* state and *(b)* privately-funded care home places in (i) Eastbourne, (ii) East Sussex and (iii) England per head of population. [151406]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Neither the Department nor the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) collects data on population numbers. Information on the number of care and nursing homes and registered places is collected by CSCI as part of its registration and inspection activities.

The Office for National Statistics has supplied data on numbers of adults aged 18 and over in England and the East Sussex council areas. Numbers of care and nursing home places in England and East Sussex as percentages of the numbers of adults aged 18 and over are shown in the table. Data on numbers of places in Eastbourne is not available.

Care home places are not registered as state or privately funded; care is funded in a variety of ways. Depending on their circumstances, residents may fund their own care, or be partly or wholly supported by councils or the national health service, or organisations such as charities and previous employers. As a result, the same place may, at different times, be state or privately funded depending on the circumstances of the resident occupying it.

Area	*Places*[1]	*Number of adults aged 18 and over*[2]	*Number of places as a percentage of adults aged 18 and over*[3]
England	441,581	39,383,400	1.12
East Sussex	8,086	393,700	2.00

[1] Numbers include residential and nursing home places for older people and for younger adults (aged 18 to 64).
[2] Figures rounded to the nearest 100. These data are Crown copyright.
[3] Percentages rounded to two decimal places.
Sources:
1. CSCI registration and inspection database, 10 July 2007
2. Office for National Statistics mid-2005 population estimates (latest available figures)

Care Homes: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* occupied and *(b)* available extra care housing places there are in (i) Eastbourne and (ii) East Sussex. [151407]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not collected centrally.

Chemicals: Health Hazards

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the impact on human health of man-made chemicals found in household goods, with particular reference to *(a)* perfluorinated compounds, *(b)* phthalates, *(c)* phenolic compounds and *(d)* brominated flame retardants; and what measures the Government plans to protect human health against the effects of such chemicals. [151748]

Dawn Primarolo: Regulations are in place that require the manufacturers of household goods to make risk assessments on the impact of the chemicals found in those household goods, and this would include any impacts on human health. Responsibility for these regulations lies with other Departments.

Manufacturers and suppliers of chemicals and chemical products are required under the Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations 2002 to classify their products in line with an European Union-wide classification system and to label them accordingly. When appropriate, the product must carry a warning symbol and risk phrases that indicate the category of hazard. When supplied for workplace use, the products must additionally have a safety data sheet that sets out the particular risks associated with the use of the product.

Since 1993, over one hundred hazardous substances have been assessed for their risk to human health and the environment under the European Union's Existing Substances Regulation (EC/793/93). Where appropriate, control measures have been put in place including, in some cases, restrictions on the marketing and use of these substances.

Other regulations for protecting the consumer are the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's General Product Safety Regulations 2005 (GPSR) which implement the European Commission (EC) General Product Safety Directive (2001/95/EC) and apply to all consumer products that are not covered (and to the same extent) by specific European safety legislation.

The GPSR requires manufacturers to ensure that products present no risk or only the minimum risk compatible with the product's use, and that they are accompanied by appropriate warnings and instructions for use.

The EC has adopted the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, and amending Directive 67/548/EEC and Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006 (COM(2007) 355 final). This proposed act will align the EU system of classification, labelling and packaging substances and mixtures to the United Nations Globally Harmonised System (GHS). It will complement the new EU Regulation on the Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation Chemicals (REACH).

Perfluorinated compounds

The Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COT) provided advice on the toxicity and tolerable daily intake of perfluorooctanoic acid and perfluorooctane sulfonate. The statement was published in November 2006.

Phthalates

Phthalates are a family of chemical substances with a range of properties. Extensive research into the effects of certain phthalates on both the environment and human health has been carried out at a European level, under the auspices of the EU's Existing Substances Regulation (793/93/EC). Details of the programme can be found on the European Chemicals Bureau website at:

ecb.jrc.it/existing-chemicals/.

The United Kingdom takes the view that phthalates must be considered on a case-by-case basis and that risk assessments should be based on evidence. Where the database is insufficient to complete a risk assessment, it is normally expected that the industry will carry out the required additional research. However, Government have asked its expert committee, COT, to keep the area of environmental chemicals and reproductive health under review and will consider their advice on the need for additional research in this area.

Phenolic compounds

The term used may apply to phenolic disinfectants, phenolic resins or to the vast range of chemicals which include a phenol ring, some of which will have had assessments carried out.

Brominated flame retardants

COT reviewed the toxicology of the brominated flame retardant, tetrabromobisphenol A, in relation to potential environmental contamination and their statement was published in 2004.

The UK has carried out the EC risk assessment for three (octa-, deca-, and penta-bromodiphenyl ether) of the commercially available brominated flame retardants. There was concern about the long-term effects of brominated flame retardants, which are necessarily stable in conditions of extreme heat, and in some cases are persistent. Strategies to reduce exposure are developed if an unacceptable risk is identified. For example, the brominated flame retardant Pentabromodiphenyl ether has been banned in the EU since 15 August 2004 under the EU's Marketing and Use Directive for all uses, except for a temporary derogation until March 2006 for it use in aircraft emergency evacuation slides. This ban is implemented in Great Britain by Statutory Instrument 2004/3278 and in Northern Ireland by SI 2004/509.

Children: Deviance and Behaviour Disorders

Mr. Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures his Department has adopted to ensure that agencies working with under 18-year-olds with conditions that can cause severe behavioural problems co-ordinate their work in the best interests of those people. [150210]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Agencies are committed to working together to help young people with severe behavioural disorders and there are local authority targets to ensure protocols are in place for those with complex needs. Multi-agency teams, such as youth offending teams, work co-operatively to ensure that needs are met. The National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services encourages and promotes increased efforts to develop multi-agency services to promote the mental health of all children and young people. Partnership working across agencies will help to eradicate many problems.

This of course only reflects the position in England.

Mr. Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what facilities there are to provide support, assistance and respite care for the families of under 18-year-olds with conditions that can cause severe behavioural problems; [150211]

(2) what facilities there are for the residential care of under 18-year-olds with conditions that can cause severe behavioural problems; and where those facilities are located. [150215]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The publication in September 2004 of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) standard of the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services gives guidance on what is envisaged in a comprehensive CAMHS service. It stresses that services must also ensure support for parents or carers and other family members.

There are inpatient units for under 18s with severe mental health problems resulting in behavioural disorders run by the national health service and privately. These are commissioned as part of CAMHS commissioning. These are located all around the country. In some instances young people end up on adult wards. However, the most important change that has been made to the Mental Health Bill is that it will now require hospital managers to ensure that patients under 18 who are admitted to hospital for assessment or treatment, either under the Act or as voluntary patients, are placed in an environment that is suitable for their age.

For severe behavioural disorders that are not due to mental health disorders there are also local authority secure children's homes and secure forensic units for young offenders with mental health problems. We do not collect information on where these facilities are located. This of course only reflects the position in England.

Chlamydia Infection: Screening

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the national screening programme for chlamydia has been rolled out completely in all trusts; and if he will make a statement. [152234]

Dawn Primarolo: To March 2007, 50 per cent. of primary care trusts in England were part of the national chlamydia screening programme. This covers 46 programme areas. Over 330,000 screens have been reported to the Health Protection Agency since the programme started. During this year we expect every area to start screening covering the whole of England.

Clostridium

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the additional time spent in hospital by those who contracted clostridium difficile in the last 12 months. [152101]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 24 July 2007]:* No specific estimate has been made in the last 12 months. A frequently quoted figure is that Clostridium difficile infection adds 21 days[1] to length of stay but this was based on health service practice in 1996.

[1] *Source:*

Wilcox, M. H., Cunniffe, J. G., Trundle, C. & Redpath, C. (1996). Financial burden of hospital-acquired Clostridium difficile infection. Journal of Hospital Infection 34, 23-30.

Colorectal Cancer: Screening

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the hubs and centres involved in the NHS bowel cancer screening programme which are operational; and what the timeframe is for implementation of the NHS bowel cancer screening programme at new hubs and centres across England. [151965]

Ann Keen: Within the national health service bowel cancer screening programme, five programme hubs across England are inviting men and women aged 60 to 69 to participate in the programme, sending out the faecal occult blood (FOB) testing kits, analysing the returned kits and sending out results. The five programme hubs are located in Rugby (covering the west midlands and the north-west), Guildford (southern), St. Mark's Hospital (London), Gateshead (north-east) and Nottingham (eastern). All five hubs were operational by March 2007.

Around 75 local screening centres will provide endoscopy services for those people with a positive FOB test once the programme is fully rolled out by December 2009. 15 local screening centres became operational in wave 1 of the programme in 2006-07. These were: Wolverhampton; Norwich; Cheshire and Merseyside; Bolton, Wigan and Salford; South Devon; Gloucester; Solent and West Sussex; St. Mark's Hospital, London; St. George's Hospital, London; Inner North East London; University College, London; South Tyne; Tees; Hull; and Derby.

Two local screening centres have already become operational in wave 2 of the programme in 2007-08. These are Heart of England and Coventry and Warwickshire. A further 25 local screening centres are expected to open as part of wave 2 by March 2008.

Strategic health authorities will be invited to bid for their local endoscopy units to become local screening centres as part of wave 3 of the programme (2008-09) in the autumn.

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information has been provided to *(a)* GPs and *(b)* the media on the roll-out of the national bowel cancer screening programme. [151966]

Ann Keen: When the national health service bowel cancer screening programme is rolled out to primary care trust areas, all general practitioners within the locality are sent a primary care resource pack about the programme to help them support their patients through the process. The pack, produced in collaboration with Cancer Research UK, includes: a sample faecal occult blood testing kit; an information for primary care booklet; a summary sheet of how the programme works; a publicity poster; a copy of information leaflets sent to people taking part in the programme; a sample invitation letter; and a copy of the Cancer Research UK statistics on bowel cancer.

It is for strategic health authorities, working in partnership with their primary care trusts and local stakeholders, to decide how to publicise the programme in their areas. We are aware that many have worked with the local media to publicise the launch of the programme in their areas. National information about the programme is given to the media on request.

Compulsorily Detained Mental Patients

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients, subject to sectioning orders, have absconded from secure mental hospitals in each of the last five years. [150369]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: An abscond occurs when a mental health patient detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 goes missing outside the secure perimeter of a unit, e.g. when on a scheduled visit. Absconds do not occur from within secure units. If a patient managed to get out from within the secure perimeter of a unit, this would be termed an escape.

The Department does not routinely collect data on absconds centrally in regard to all mental health services, with the exception of high secure mental health hospitals.

An abscond can be either non-serious or a serious untoward incident (SUI). In relation to mental health patients detained under the Mental Health Act 1983, an abscond is treated as an SUI where a significant risk is posed to the patient or to others. An abscond would not necessarily be treated as an SUI where the abscond is unintentional, due for example to a patient missing a bus or train when returning from leave.

The reporting of SUI absconds is stringent. Individual national health service organisations are responsible for identifying SUIs and there must be clear local procedures at each NHS organisation to identify, report and investigate SUIs. Information is collected by, and is available on request from, each strategic health authority about all SUIs reported

during each calendar year by month, type and NHS organisation. There are no similar requirements in relation to collecting non-serious absconds data.

The data on absconds from high secure mental health hospitals for the last five years is in the following table.

	Rampton	Ashworth	Broadmoor	Total
2007	—	—	—	0
2006	—	—	—	0
2005	—	1	—	1
2004	—	—	1	1
2003	1	—	—	1
Total absconds in last five years from high secure	—	—	—	3

All absconds occurred while patients were on escorted leave. Escorted leave is authorised as necessary, for instance if the patient needs to visit a general hospital for treatment of a physical health problem that cannot be dealt with at the high security hospital. In all cases, the leave will be risk assessed by mental health professionals before being authorised.

There have been no escapes in the last five years by patients in high secure hospitals.

Contraceptives

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women were fitted with a contraceptive implant in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* type of device and *(b)* age of patient. [150982]

Dawn Primarolo: The information available is shown in the following tables.

The table shows data on prescriptions dispensed in the community (almost all of these prescriptions are written by general practice). Data on the number of women fitted with an implant by age are not available.

	Implanon Implant 68mg	Norplant Implant[1] 38mg (6 Cap)	Total
1997	—	834	834
1998	—	689	689
1999	441	1,034	1,475
2000	5,133	7	5,140
2001	7,084	1	7,085
2002	9,714	—	9,714
2003	12,747	—	12,747
2004	15,557	—	15,557
2005	23,469	—	23,469
2006	37,951	—	37,951
Total	112,096	2,565	114,661

[1] Norplant Implant is no longer available

Source:

Prescription information is taken from the prescription cost analysis (PCA) system, supplied by the prescription pricing division (PPD) of the Business Services Authority (BSA), and is based on a full analysis of all prescriptions dispensed in the community i.e. by community pharmacists and appliance contractors, dispensing doctors, and prescriptions submitted by prescribing doctors for items personally administered in England. The data do not cover drugs dispensed in hospitals.

The table shows first contacts with women at community contraceptive clinics showing the number of implants fitted by age and year.

First contacts with women at community contraceptive clinics, showing the number of contraceptive implants fitted by age and year: England

Thousands

	All ages	Under 16	16-19	20-24	25-34	35 and over
2005-06	25.7	0.8	5.6	7.3	8.1	3.9
2004-05	16.6	0.4	3.1	4.7	5.6	2.8
2003-04	12.4	0.3	2.2	3.6	4.2	2.1
2002-03	7.8	0.2	1.2	2.4	2.7	1.4
2001-02	5.0	0.1	0.6	1.3	2.0	1.0
2000-01	3.4	0.1	0.4	0.8	1.4	0.7
1999-2000	2.4	0.0	0.2	0.5	1.1	0.6
1998-99	1.3	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.3
1997-98	1.3	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.2

Source:

The Information Centre KT31 return.

Contraceptives: Young People

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many girls aged *(a)* 11, *(b)* 12, *(c)* 13, *(d)* 14, *(e)* 15 and *(f)* 16 years were given the morning after pill in each of the last three years. [151062]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on prescriptions dispensed in the community for contraception by age are not available (almost all of these prescriptions are written by general practice).

The available information on emergency hormonal contraception supplied by community contraception clinics is shown as follows. We are unable to provide data by individual ages; data are only collected by the age-bands shown.

Occasions on which emergency hormonal contraception were supplied by community contraception clinics by age and year—England

Thousand

			of which:	
	All ages	under 15	15	16-17
2003-04	[1]183.2	8.7	18.2	43.7
2004-05	174.1	7.9	16.4	41.7
2005-06	164.5	7.2	14.8	41.1

[1] data revised in 2004-05 publication.

Source:

The Information Centre KT31 return.

Dental Services

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department categorises teeth bleaching carried out by dentists as a health procedure. [152011]

Ann Keen: Yes, we share the view taken by the General Dental Council that all tooth whitening procedures, including bleach and laser treatment, constitute the practice of dentistry. Consequently the procedures may only be carried out by a dentist.

Dental Services: Waiting Lists

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the average

waiting time for NHS dental work in *(a)* Southampton, *(b)* Hampshire and *(c)* England in each year since 1997; [151025]

(2) what assessment he has made of the trends in waiting times in *(a)* Southampton, *(b)* Hampshire and *(c)* England since 1997. [151026]

Ann Keen: Information is held centrally on waiting times for dental services provided in hospital settings. The available information for the period requested has been placed in the Library.

Information on waiting times for dental treatment in primary care is not held centrally.

Dental Services: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children were registered with NHS general dental practices in York as at March 2007. [151620]

Ann Keen: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent NHS general dental practitioners there are in York. [151621]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the requested format. As of 31 March 2007, there were a total of 342 dentists on open national health service contracts in the North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust area.

Doctors: Vetting

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* Criminal Records Bureau, *(b)* security, *(c)* health and *(d)* registration status checks are carried out on overseas doctors seeking to work in the United Kingdom. [151149]

Ann Keen: The national health service is required to undertake a wide range of pre and post employment checks, as set out in guidance issued by NHS Employers in May 2005 on safer recruitment. The guidance covers all procedures for the full range of checks to be made, before appointment of anyone in the NHS. It applies to all NHS settings. The Healthcare Commission monitor NHS trusts on their compliance with the guide. A copy of this guidance, entitled "Safer Recruitment, A Guide for NHS Employers", has been placed in the Library.

In February 2005 Ministers decided that Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks should be mandatory for all staff with access to patients in the normal course of their duties. However, CRB checks are limited to the United Kingdom and will not reveal anything on staff who have just entered the UK for the first time. NHS Employers guidance states that employers who recruit staff from abroad should carry out the necessary police checks in line with that country's justice system and UK requirements.

Family Planning

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many appointments there have been *(a)* at family planning clinics and *(b)* for family planning domiciliary visits in each health trust in each of the last five years; [150972]

(2) how many attendances at family planning clinics there were in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* trust. [150983]

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children and young people *(a)* under 16-years-old and *(b)* between 16 and 18 years visited a sexual health clinic in each of the last five years. [150643]

Dawn Primarolo: Data for community contraceptive services are reported by attendances rather than by appointment.

Data on attendances at community contraceptive clinics by age and trust can be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, data for England for first contacts by age are published in "NHS Contraceptive Services, England, 2005-06", copies of which have been placed in the Library; data for attendance by trust have been placed in the Library.

Data are not available for attendances at genito-urinary clinics but are available for the five major sexually transmitted infection diagnoses, chlamydia, gonorrhoea, genital warts, genital herpes and syphilis. The data are published by the Health Protection Agency in "Diagnoses of selected STIs by Strategic Health Authority, country, sex and age group, United Kingdom: 1997-2006", copies of which are available in the Library.

Genito-Urinary Medicine: Waiting Lists

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made and what the timetable is for future steps to be taken towards the commitment in the White Paper "Choosing Health" that everyone referred to a genito-urinary medicine clinic should be able to have an appointment within 48 hours; and if he will make a statement. [152236]

Dawn Primarolo: We are making excellent progress on our target. Data from the genito-urinary medicine monthly monitoring return showed that in May 2007, 85 per cent. of first attendances were offered an appointment to be seen within 48 hours of contacting a service.

A National Support Team is supporting those primary care trusts that are most challenged in meeting the target.

Health Services

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1148W, on health services, by what means research required by the working groups on the White Paper will be financed. [152057]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has put aside funding for the working groups in 2007-08, which will include funding for any research they commission. Resources for future years will be subject to the availability of funds approved by Parliament.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1148W, on health services, whether documents made available to the working groups on the White Paper will also be made available to *(a)* stakeholder organisations (i) represented and (ii) not represented on the working groups and *(b)* the public. [152058]

Mr. Bradshaw: Wherever possible, and subject to any legal constraints, any information made available to the working groups and any subsequent documents produced as a result of consultation from working group meetings will be publicly available. However, there may be exceptional circumstances in which, after consultation with the chairs of the working groups, we may need to share information with Members on an in confidence basis.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1148W, on health services, by what means the patient and public stakeholders on the working groups on the White Paper are being *(a)* nominated and *(b)* selected; and what expenses will be met for them in their work. [152059]

Mr. Bradshaw: On 5 June 2007, the Department held a conference for interested groups, where views were sought on taking forward the implementation of the White Paper. A number of patient and public involvement groups attended the conference and we also intend that future meetings of the National Advisory Group will include a wide regional representation. Proposals for the membership and terms of reference of the national working groups were presented and views and expressions of interest sought. The detailed membership of the groups is now being finalised by the Department, working with the chairs and taking into account views expressed by stakeholders. Each working group will include patient/public representatives. Reasonable expenses will be met for such members of the working groups.

Health Services: West Sussex Primary Care Trust

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost is of West Sussex Primary Care Trust's Fit for the Future consultation exercise. [152764]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not held centrally but can be obtained from West Sussex Primary Care Trust.

Health Services: Asylum

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the provision of NHS care for failed asylum seekers who are temporarily unable to leave the UK. [151492]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No one in need of immediately necessary treatment to save life or prevent a condition from becoming life-threatening will ever have that treatment refused or denied, irrespective of their immigration status. However, the principle still remains that the national health service is intended primarily for those who are legally resident in this country. Under the "NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989", as amended, anyone not ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom will be liable for charges for any NHS hospital treatment they receive unless they are exempt from charge under one of several exemption categories.

Asylum seekers whose applications are under consideration are exempt from charges but failed asylum seekers are not exempt from charges except for the continuation of a course of treatment begun before their application was ultimately rejected, or where the treatment needed is itself exempt from charge.

The Home Office document "Enforcing the rules: a strategy to ensure and enforce compliance with our immigration laws", published in March, announced that a review of access to the NHS by foreign nationals would be carried out jointly by the Home Office and the Department. The review, to be completed by October, will specifically consider the position of failed asylum seekers, including those who are temporarily unable to leave the United Kingdom for whatever reason.

Health Services: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* out-patient appointments and *(b)* operations there were in (i) Eastbourne and (ii) East Sussex in each of the last 10 years. [151408]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not collected in the format requested.

The number of out-patient appointments for all specialities for national health service trusts in the East Sussex area is shown in the table.

Out-patient appointments, all specialties, selected NHS trusts

	Code	Name	First attendances seen	Subsequent attendances seen	Total out-patient appointments
1997-98	RDL	Eastbourne Hospitals Trust	41,675	101,283	142,958
1997-98	RDM	Hastings and Rother NHS Trust	36,353	99,888	136,241
1997-98	RGX	Eastbourne and County Healthcare NHS Trust	5,290	14,023	19,313
1997-98	RDR	South Downs Health NHS Trust	3,945	23,236	27,181
1998-99	RDL	Eastbourne Hospitals Trust	41,957	108,291	150,248
1998-99	RDM	Hastings and Rother NHS Trust	35,487	102,393	137,880
1998-99	RGX	Eastbourne and County Healthcare NHS Trust	4,606	13,042	17,648
1998-99	RDR	South Downs Health NHS Trust	3,979	23,427	27,406
1999-2000	RDL	Eastbourne Hospitals Trust	43,955	113,630	157,585
1999-2000	RDM	Hastings and Rother NHS Trust	51,797	81,728	133,525
1999-2000	RGX	Eastbourne and County Healthcare NHS Trust	5,316	13,567	18,883

Out-patient appointments, all specialties, selected NHS trusts

	Code	Name	First attendances seen	Subsequent attendances seen	Total out-patient appointments
1999-2000	RDR	South Downs Health NHS Trust	3,947	23,921	27,868
2000-01	RDL	Eastbourne Hospitals NHS Trust	46,050	117,320	163,370
2000-01	RDM	Hastings and Rother NHS Trust	54,711	82,276	136,987
2000-01	RGX	Eastbourne and County Healthcare NHS Trust	4,647	12,114	16,761
2000-01	RDR	South Downs Health NHS Trust	4,546	27,648	32,194
2001-02	RDL	Eastbourne Hospitals NHS Trust	45,051	114,607	159,658
2001-02	RDM	Hastings and Rother NHS Trust	53,950	87,081	141,031
2001-02	RGX	Eastbourne and County Healthcare NHS Trust	5,989	11,477	17,466
2001-02	RDR	South Downs Health NHS Trust	4,568	28,754	33,322
2002-03	RXD	East Sussex County Healthcare NHS Trust	25	47	72
2003-04	RXD	East Sussex County Healthcare NHS Trust	2	—	2
2004-05	RXD	East Sussex County Healthcare NHS Trust	260	150	410
2005-06	RXD	East Sussex County Healthcare NHS Trust	99	152	251
2002-03	RXC	East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	94,543	201,997	296,540
2003-04	RXC	East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	99,305	197,791	297,096
2004-05	RXC	East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	87,038	198,362	285,400
2005-06	RXC	East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	69,569	151,930	221,499
2006-07	RXC	East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	91,435	188,033	279,468

Note:
The following NHS trusts merged in 2002-03
RXD East Sussex County Healthcare NHS Trust:
RGX Eastbourne and County Healthcare NHS Trust;
RDM Hastings and Rother NHS Trust (MH and LD services); and
RDR South Down Health NHS Trust (MH and LD services).
RXC East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust:
RDL Eastbourne Hospitals NHS Trust; and
RDM Hastings and Rother NHS Trust (acute services).
Source:
Department of Health form QMOP and QM08s.

The definition of operations is not clear. A count of finished consultant episodes that include an operation (for OPCS codes A01-X59 and not known) at the trusts identified for Eastbourne and East Sussex. The 'not known' operation codes occur when an entry has been made in the operation field (thus indicating an operation has occurred). However, this entry does not match the valid OPCS4 codes.

The number of finished consultant episodes is shown in the table.

Count of finished consultant episodes with an operation (OPCS-4 codes between A01-X59 or and (operation code not known)) at three selected trusts, NHS hospitals, England

	Trust	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03
RXC	East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	60,010	52,566	53,067	50,037
RXD	East Sussex County Healthcare NHS Trust	64	78	52	94
RXH	Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	63,290	59,271	50,954	52,661

Notes:
Finished consultant episode (FCE)
An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
FCE with an Operation
A count of FCEs with an operation is the number of episodes with at least one coded procedure field. More procedures are carried out than finished consultant episodes with an operation. For example, patients undergoing a cataract operation would tend to have at least two procedures—removal of the faulty lens and the fitting of a new one—counted in a single finished consultant episode.
Data Quality
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Assessing growth through time
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected, in the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.
Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
Ungrossed Data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Health Services: Research

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department expects to publish the results of its scoping study of the burden of disease that will inform future work on health priorities; how that study has been structured; and who is leading it. [150407]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department expects to receive the final report on the scoping study by the end of August. No decision has been taken about its publication.

The study is based on a review of existing datasets and has been commissioned from Dr. Stephen Green and Dr. Rebecca Miles of Oxford Healthcare Associates.

Health Services: Tourism

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to promote travel health consultations. [150953]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department transferred the function of providing health advice to British travellers to the Health Protection Agency (HPA)/National Travel Health Network and Centre in 2003. Their responsibilities include providing evidence-based advice to travellers (including updating the 2001 Yellow Book Health Information for Overseas Travel), surveillance of imported infections and providing a telephone helpline.

The HPA are also directed under regulation 7(a) of the HPA Regulations 2005 to undertake the function of the designation of vaccinating centres in England for vaccination or revaccination against Yellow Fever for the purposes of the International Health Regulations 1969.

Travel advice for children is also contained in the booklet produced by the Department entitled 'A guide to childhood immunisations for babies up to 13 months of age', copies of which have been placed in the Library and which is also available at:

www.immunisation.nhs.uk.

Health Trainers

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* full and *(b)* part-time health trainers there are in each trust. [152228]

Dawn Primarolo: Health trainers are employed in a variety of settings and the plurality of employment models means that we do not collect data by individual primary care trust. We do not distinguish between full-time and part-time health trainers in the data we do collect. In total there are 1,200 health trainers employed across the country, with an additional 450 currently undergoing training within the British Army.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the cost of employing NHS accredited health trainers; and what estimate he has made of the number of health trainers needed to implement the scheme in all trusts. [152232]

Dawn Primarolo: The guide cost of employing a health trainer at band 3 under the "Agenda for Change" is £30,000, but this will vary considerably across trusts and depend upon the delivery models chosen, which may, for example, include volunteers. The numbers of health trainers engaged within each trust will vary, according to locally identified needs and priorities and it is not possible at this stage to estimate future total numbers.

Health: Schools

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on what progress has been made and what the timetable is for future steps towards all schools reaching healthy status by 2009 as described in the White Paper 'Choosing Health'; and if he will make a statement. [152233]

Dawn Primarolo: As at 23 July, there were 10,280 schools (46 per cent.) who had gained the national healthy schools status and 90 per cent. of all schools in England have joined the national healthy schools programme. We are on track to meet our December 2007 milestone for there to be 55 per cent. of schools achieving national healthy schools status and 65 per cent. by December 2008. We expect that all schools will have achieved or be working towards the national healthy schools status by 2009 as set out in the 'Choosing Health' White Paper.

Henderson Hospital

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were *(a)* referred to and *(b)* funded for treatment at the Henderson hospital in each of the last five years. [150651]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not held centrally. However, this information can instead be obtained direct from the South West London and St. George's Mental Health NHS Trust.

Home Care Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received domiciliary care packages in each health trust in each of the last five years. [151010]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The table shows the number of people aged 18 and over receiving home care services for each council with Social Services responsibilities area in England from 2001-02 to 2005-06. Information by health trust is not available centrally.

Number of clients aged 18 and over receiving home care[1] by councils with Social Services responsibilities in England from 2001-02 to 2005-06 (CSSRs)

Rounded numbers

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05[2]*	*2005-06[2]*
England	597,000	581,000	589,000	584,000	596,000
Cumbria	7,440	6,440	5,540	5,700	6,100
Northumberland	7,380	6,540	5,750	5,360	5,120
Gateshead	3,130	3,040	3,180	3,040	2,820
Newcastle upon Tyne	4,960	5,450	5,570	5,740	4,890
North Tyneside	3,130	3,230	3,310	2,610	2,980
South Tyneside	4,350	[3]—	[3]—	2,800	2,960
Sunderland	6,560	6,510	6,180	5,580	6,150
Hartlepool	1,610	1,430	1,390	1,200	1,340
Middlesbrough	1,370	1,470	1,560	1,510	1,350
Redcar and Cleveland	1,130	1,720	1,500	1,670	1,580

Number of clients aged 18 and over receiving home care[1] by councils with Social Services responsibilities in England from 2001-02 to 2005-06 (CSSRs)

Rounded numbers

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05[2]*	*2005-06[2]*
Stockton on Tees	2,590	2,510	2,460	2,350	2,170
Durham	6,970	7,020	7,210	7,580	7,560
Darlington	1,130	1,110	1,110	1,020	1,120
Barnsley	3,560	3,310	3,290	4,860	6,020
Doncaster	3,400	2,930	2,570	2,410	2,570
Rotherham	3,370	3,270	3,130	3,040	3,300
Sheffield	5,780	5,880	6,330	7,010	6,080
Bradford	4,980	4,820	5,740	5,400	5,340
Calderdale	2,090	3,810	3,150	2,220	2,610
Kirklees	4,650	6,180	4,970	5,050	5,250
Leeds	13,490	12,480	10,490	9,170	5,070
Wakefield	3,760	3,310	3,360	3,360	3,120
East Riding	3,630	3,640	3,610	3,550	3,420
Kingston-upon-Hull	2,550	2,480	2,330	1,920	1,800
North East Lincolnshire	2,860	2,220	1,180	1,450	2,030
North Lincolnshire	1,650	2,190	2,600	2,880	1,980
North Yorkshire	5,750	5,990	5,710	7,110	8,180
York	2,070	2,680	2,730	2,520	2,550
Bolton	3,470	3,160	3,370	3,390	3,130
Bury	1,900	1,900	1,710	2,010	1,990
Manchester	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	4,710	4,610
Oldham	3,570	3,430	3,240	2,950	2,690
Rochdale	2,940	2,560	2,470	2,280	2,410
Salford	4,200	4,880	4,700	4,180	4,240
Stockport	4,530	2,840	3,120	3,180	2,860
Tameside	2,770	3,450	2,120	2,190	6,480
Trafford	2,800	1,940	2,510	2,480	2,650
Wigan	4,670	4,550	4,510	4,230	3,550
Knowsley	1,980	2,010	1,890	1,870	2,130
Liverpool	4,120	5,450	3,220	5,000	6,700
Sefton	2,890	2,700	2,710	4,300	3,380
St. Helens	1,870	2,250	2,170	2,170	2,260
Wirral	4,330	4,990	5,060	5,000	4,590
Cheshire	7,820	7,970	8,340	8,570	9,100
Halton	1,100	1,140	1,190	1,410	1,350
Warrington	1,650	2,100	2,310	2,560	2,600
Lancashire	11,880	13,740	15,910	16,840	17,410
Blackburn with Darwen	1,870	2,050	1,890	1,870	1,900
Blackpool	2,270	2,390	2,170	2,400	2,270
Warwickshire	6,380	6,430	6,060	6,800	5,570
Birmingham	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	10,140
Coventry	[3]—	3,760	3,520	1,670	3,070
Dudley	4,960	3,920	3,800	3,800	3,690
Sandwell	[3]—	3,710	3,540	3,260	3,120
Solihull	1,930	1,940	2,050	2,110	2,190
Walsall	4,410	3,860	3,070	3,100	3,240
Wolverhampton	3,590	3,530	3,400	3,510	3,590
Staffordshire	9,450	9,830	9,440	9,250	8,840
Stoke-on-Trent	2,480	3,950	3,680	3,110	3,020
Herefordshire	1,150	1,090	1,120	1,040	1,430
Worcestershire	3,610	5,910	5,860	5,620	5,470
Shropshire	2,430	2,560	2,690	2,200	2,620
Telford and Wrekin	1,350	1,510	1,520	1,580	1,960
Lincolnshire	6,470	6,770	6,290	5,950	6,270
Northamptonshire	10,170	5,930	5,850	7,950	8,780
Derbyshire	20,470	15,450	14,280	14,370	14,730
Derby	6,100	4,600	5,320	4,920	4,780
Leicestershire	5,910	6,030	6,190	6,320	6,530
Leicester	3,360	2,560	3,460	3,290	3,280
Rutland	250	430	450	180	440
Nottinghamshire	7,840	7,650	6,790	6,530	6,830
Nottingham	[3]—	3,090	4,800	3,370	3,380
Hertfordshire	9,620	10,070	11,040	11,800	12,570
Norfolk	9,540	9,220	11,080	11,180	11,300

Number of clients aged 18 and over receiving home care[1] by councils with Social Services responsibilities in England from 2001-02 to 2005-06 (CSSRs)

Rounded numbers

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05[2]*	*2005-06[2]*
Oxfordshire	[3]—	[3]—	4,270	4,510	5,070
Suffolk	6,940	8,080	8,970	9,720	10,340
Bedfordshire	3,750	4,280	4,510	4,880	3,100
Luton	1,580	1,360	1,480	1,550	1,470
Buckinghamshire	4,470	4,260	3,940	4,150	4,050
Milton Keynes	1,970	2,130	2,310	1,880	2,030
Bracknell Forest	980	1,110	1,620	740	660
West Berkshire	1,320	1,230	1,290	1,320	1,420
Reading	1,840	1,780	1,630	1,510	1,530
Slough	1,190	940	980	1,040	1,060
Windsor and Maidenhead	1,200	1,080	1,160	1,090	1,080
Wokingham	840	1,090	1,140	1,180	1,190
Essex	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	13,070
Southend	1,610	2,700	2,050	2,070	2,420
Thurrock	1,490	1,460	1,400	1,170	1,180
Cambridgeshire	4,710	5,080	5,230	5,190	5,570
Peterborough	1,240	1,250	1,380	1,460	1,640
Camden	3,620	3,360	3,080	3,000	3,130
Greenwich	2,350	2,890	2,840	2,830	2,800
Hackney	[3]—	1,860	[3]—	2,330	2,290
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,080	3,020	3,300	3,160	3,060
Islington	2,300	[3]—	2,310	2,600	2,630
Kensington and Chelsea	1,970	2,370	2,510	2,120	2,000
Lambeth	4,600	4,430	3,810	3,260	2,570
Lewisham	3,690	2,830	2,990	2,580	2,460
Southwark	3,810	3,340	2,810	2,920	2,900
Tower Hamlets	3,310	3,610	3,370	3,340	3,110
Wandsworth	5,070	4,350	4,260	4,070	3,700
Westminster	3,950	3,920	3,770	3,200	3,310
City of London	70	170	190	100	120
Barking and Dagenham	1,940	1,760	2,580	1,910	2,100
Barnet	2,850	2,850	2,510	2,500	2,540
Bexley	2,960	2,970	2,940	2,860	2,890
Brent	1,700	1,620	1,550	2,470	2,490
Bromley	6,430	4,160	[3]—	4,300	3,840
Croydon	4,370	4,290	4,730	3,360	3,090
Ealing	3,730	3,170	4,010	2,950	4,170
Enfield	2,250	2,320	2,290	2,410	2,460
Haringey	2,010	2,000	2,040	1,890	1,930
Harrow	2,560	2,290	2,360	2,720	2,690
Havering	3,100	3,050	2,950	3,050	3,170
Hillingdon	2,440	2,210	2,290	2,300	2,020
Hounslow	890	1,750	1,660	1,740	1,960
Kingston-upon-Thames	1,610	1,850	1,510	1,590	1,510
Merton	1,490	1,540	1,910	1,940	1,960
Newham	2,610	3,000	2,930	2,570	2,530
Redbridge	3,550	3,830	4,030	2,340	2,470
Richmond-upon-Thames	1,490	1,370	1,370	1,500	1,610
Sutton	2,190	2,240	2,270	2,280	1,930
Waltham Forest	2,240	2,460	2,240	2,030	1,890
Isle of Wight	1,360	1,970	2,260	1,750	1,290
Surrey	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	4,920	5,320
West Sussex	6,820	4,310	7,520	6,690	6,980
Dorset	3,580	3,650	4,090	3,960	3,930
Bournemouth	2,010	1,060	990	1,140	1,300
Poole	1,690	1,640	1,490	1,460	1,550
Hampshire	10,730	10,660	11,690	13,270	11,460
Portsmouth	3,100	3,250	2,990	2,780	2,870
Southampton	3,510	3,520	5,280	3,650	4,100
East Sussex	4,500	4,160	5,160	4,400	4,280
Brighton and Hove	4,000	3,640	3,630	2,490	2,730
Wiltshire	3,590	4,660	5,640	7,160	6,720
Swindon	1,640	1,610	1,520	1,550	1,520
Kent	19,140	26,050	17,100	19,480	19,010

Number of clients aged 18 and over receiving home care[1] by councils with Social Services responsibilities in England from 2001-02 to 2005-06 (CSSRs)

Rounded numbers

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05[2]	2005-06[2]
Medway Towns	2,690	2,740	2,680	3,070	3,000
Cornwall	7,620	8,420	8,920	9,620	9,960
Gloucestershire	5,010	4,570	5,970	4,960	5,580
Somerset	7,810	8,340	8,270	7,410	7,120
Isles of Scilly	20	20	20	20	30
Bath and North East Somerset	[3]—	2,450	2,300	2,090	1,700
Bristol	6,150	5,950	5,580	5,120	4,300
North Somerset	2,050	1,990	1,730	1,190	1,880
South Gloucestershire	2,320	2,190	2,260	2,190	2,500
Devon	9,080	8,500	8,060	8,610	8,140
Plymouth	1,360	1,230	1,660	2,140	2,280
Torbay	2,580	2,290	2,210	2,030	2,190

[1] Home care covers both "home help/home care" and "overnight respite—clients home"
[2] In 2004-05 restated guidance was issued to exclude people receiving services from grant funded organisations and who had not had a community care assessment. Therefore, data for 2004-05 onwards is not comparable to previous years.
[3] Data not available.
Note:
Figures may not add up due to rounding.
Source:
RAP P2F

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the guidance relating to home care to ensure that assessment of means is separate from assessment of needs has been changed. [152150]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 24 July 2007]:* No. On 1 January 2003, the Department issued 'Fair Access to Care Services', guidance on eligibility criteria for adult social care, to councils for implementation by April 2003. It was issued under cover of Local Authority Circular—LAC (2002)13—and is still in force.

Practice guidance in support of the policy guidance was published on 2 August 2002 and updated on 6 March 2003 to assist councils with their final preparations for implementation by 7 April 2003. The practice guidance makes it clear that the carrying out and completion of a community care assessment should not be contingent on whether or not an individual can pay for care services, be they provided in a care home or the individual's own home.

Infant Foods

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to extend the consultation on the partial regulatory impact assessment on the Infant Formula and Follow-on Formula (England) Regulations 2007 to obtain views on a third option of fully implementing the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and subsequent World Health Assembly resolutions on the health, social and environmental aspects of marketing breastmilk substitutes, giving these precedence over trade considerations; and if he will make a statement. [152498]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency launched, on 2 July, a 12-week public consultation on draft domestic regulations which will lay down rules about the composition, labelling and advertising of formulae requesting views from stakeholders on a range of issues. Any responses received, including those that suggest alternative options, will be considered as part of the consultation exercise. The agency will consider all responses to the consultation before finalising the regulations.

Infectious Diseases: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of healthcare-acquired infections there were while in *(a)* hospital and *(b)* care homes in (i) Eastbourne and (ii) East Sussex in each of the last 10 years. [151355]

Ann Keen: The data is not available as requested.

The best available information is from the mandatory surveillance systems for Meticillin resistant *staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), Clostridium difficile infection and Glycopeptide resistant enterococci for acute national health service trusts in England rather than individual hospitals, these commenced in April 2001, January 2004 and October 2003 respectively.

Data for care homes is not collected centrally as mandatory surveillance only covers acute trusts.

Reported cases of health care associated infection for the East Sussex NHS trust in Eastbourne are shown in the following tables with reports from other NHS acute trusts in East Sussex.

Number of reported MRSA bloodstream infections (bacteraemias)

Trust	April 2001 to March 2002	April 2002 to March 2003	April 2003 to March 2004	April 2004 to March 2005	April 2005 to March 2006	April 2006 to December 2006
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	67	52	60	42	59	71
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	86	74	107	129	141	80

Number of reported MRSA bloodstream infections (bacteraemias)

Trust	April 2001 to March 2002	April 2002 to March 2003	April 2003 to March 2004	April 2004 to March 2005	April 2005 to March 2006	April 2006 to December 2006
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	28	47	48	35	37	17

Number of reported cases of Clostridium difficile infection

Trust	January to December 2004	January to December 2005	January to December 2006
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	393	387	374
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	368	472	588
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	315	283	282

Number of reported cases of glycopeptide-resistant enterococci (GRE) bacteraemia

Trust	October 2003 to September 2004	October 2004 to September 2005
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	2	4
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	5	2
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	3	0

Source:
Health Protection Agency

Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his estimate is of the number of additional call handlers in England required to maintain 24/7 access to local health services during an influenza pandemic; what role NHS Direct will have in the event of an influenza pandemic; and if he will make a statement. [152312]

Dawn Primarolo: Work is currently taking place to scope the additional numbers of call handlers required to support local health services. The Department is working closely with stakeholders such as NHS Direct and the Central Office of Information to test assumptions and inform estimations.

In the event of a pandemic, NHS Direct will continue to provide advice and information to non-flu patients (who will continue to require access to health care in a pandemic), and will provide key services to flu patients, in support of local services.

Influenza Pandemic

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 13 September 2006, *Official Report*, columns 2284W, on influenza pandemic, which research groups have been *(a)* offered and *(b)* taken delivery of A/H5N1 vaccine from the 3.5 million stockpile; how many vaccines have been delivered to research groups; what the current size of the remaining stockpile is; what safety data his Department has received on the A/H5N1 vaccine which contribute to the stockpile; and if he will make a statement. [152242]

Dawn Primarolo: To date no research groups have requested any materials from the stockpile. Safety data were submitted as part of the tenders. The most common adverse reactions were soreness at the injection site and malaise. No serious reactions were reported.

Influenza: Disease Control

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what further discussions he has held with *(a)* EU Health Ministers and *(b)* the European Commission on the subject of building an EU-wide stockpile of antivirals for use in the event of an influenza pandemic since the informal meeting of 25 and 26 April 2006. [152126]

Dawn Primarolo: The idea of a European Union stockpile of antivirals medicines for use in the event of an influenza pandemic was discussed by Health Ministers at the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council on 2 June 2006. No consensus could be reached on the idea and in view of this the European Commission concluded that the idea should not be pursued.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the names are of each strategic health authority's influenza lead, as described on page 13 of the Chief Medical Officer's 2006 Annual Report, On the State of Public Health. [152170]

Dawn Primarolo: The names of the strategic health authority influenza leads are as follows:

Roger Gross—London
Linda Sheridan—East of England
Hannah Wall—East Midlands
Eugene Milne—North East
Kate Ardern/Frank Whiteford—North West
Anna Taylor—South East Coast
Sally Casley—Yorkshire and Humber
Jody James—South West
Ian Cave—South Central
Gillian Smith—West Midlands

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the scope is of the audit of NHS pandemic preparedness described on page 13 of the Chief Medical Officer's 2006 Annual Report, On the State of Public Health; which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* other parties will be subject to audit; who will conduct the audit; when the decision was taken to conduct the audit; whether the results of the audit will be published; and if he will make a statement. [152171]

Dawn Primarolo: The audit tool is specific to national health service organisations. NHS organisations will self assess their state of preparedness and will use the results to target the areas that need additional development. Strategic health authorities will use the results to work with the NHS organisations in their area. It was decided that the audit should coincide with the formal publication of the National Framework and supporting guidance.

Information Services: Expenditure

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Government has spent on *(a)* sexual health information and *(b)* travel health awareness in (i) Hampshire and (ii) England since 1997. [150954]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not collect information on expenditure in Hampshire.

The Department's expenditure on sexual health campaigns, including HIV, contraception and prevention of sexually transmitted infections is set out in the following table.

	£ million
1997-98	4.700
1998-99	4.800
1999-2000	6.000
2000-01	4.600
2001-02	4.600
2002-03	6.600
2003-04	6.600
2004-05	6.600
2005-06	5.120
2006-07	11.100
2007-08	9.800

Information on expenditure on travel health awareness is not identified separately, but is undertaken as part of wider departmental work programmes. Work currently includes travel health awareness initiatives undertaken by the National Travel Health Network and Centre, based at the Health Protection Agency, the leaflet 'Travelsafe', covering HIV hepatitis C and hepatitis B and the health information for overseas travel, for general practitioners and practice nurses. The Department also produces information for travellers to Mecca as part of the Hajj campaign.

The Department is also running various summer holiday activities as part of the Condom Essential Wear campaign, and we have also funded the Terrence Higgins Trust to produce booklets on HIV prevention for gay travellers overseas.

Kidney Patients: Portsmouth

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has *(a)* to replace, *(b)* to refurbish and *(c)* to expand renal units in Portsmouth. [151520]

Ann Keen: It is for the local national health service, in partnership with strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders to plan, develop and improve services for local people.

Medical Equipment

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has taken a decision on whether to procure and stockpile face masks centrally. [152313]

Dawn Primarolo: No decision has been taken on whether to procure and stockpile face masks centrally.

Mental Health Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many children are receiving cognitive behavioural therapy funded by the NHS; [150354]

(2) how many accredited child specialist mental health practitioners are working in the NHS. [150355]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not available in the format requested. The "National Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Mapping Exercise for 2006", asked each CAMHS team whether they carry out cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) and how often they did so. They found that 642 teams used CBT on a weekly basis, 207 less than weekly and 147 teams never.

Data from the 2006 CAMHS Mapping shows that the CAMHS teams had a total of 9,796 staff. This includes child psychotherapists, doctors, nurses and other therapists and staff in both the national health service and local authority sector dedicated to caring for children and young people who have mental health problems.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many mental health beds there were in each of the last 10 years, broken down by trust. [151020]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information about mental health bed numbers for each trust from 2000-01 to 2005-06 has been placed in the Library.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many mental health beds there were for *(a)* children and *(b)* female patients in each of the last 10 years. [151023]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information about the number of mental health beds available for children in the national health service in England, for each year from 1996-97 to 2005-06 is shown in the table. Data on mental health bed availability is not collected by the Department on the basis of gender.

Average daily total children's mental health bed numbers in the NHS in England: combined male and female

	Number
1996-97	538
1997-98	522
1998-99	538
1999-2000	482
2000-01	531
2001-02	484
2002-03	504
2003-04	518
2004-05	525
2005-06	509

Source:
Department of Health Hospital Activity Statistics Form KH03.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many mental health beds there were in: *(a)* low, *(b)* medium and *(c)* high secure units in each of the last 10 years. [151024]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not available in the requested format. Data is available for the average daily total number of beds in all secure units for each year between 1996-97 and 2005-06, except for 2001-02 and 2002-03 when this data was not collected, and this is shown in the table. Separate data on bed numbers for each security level is not collected.

Average daily total secure unit bed numbers in the National Health Service in England: combined male and female

	Number
1996-97	1,575
1997-98	1,921
1998-99	1,747
1999-2000	1,882
2000-01	1,952
2001-02	n/a
2002-03	n/a
2003-04	2,569
2004-05	2,696
2005-06	2,807

Source:
Department of Health Hospital Activity Statistics Form KH03

Mental Health Services: Crimes of Violence

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many attacks there were on *(a)* staff and *(b)* patients (i) on mental health wards and (ii) in specialist mental health units in each of the last 10 years, broken down by sex. [151018]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not available in the requested format. The NHS Security Management Service (SMS) collects data on reported physical assaults against national health service staff in England by trusts providing mental health services. Data is available from 2004-05 to 2005-06 and is shown in the following table, but data is not available prior to this nor is it collected by gender.

	Total assaults	*Total staff*	*Assaults per 1,000 staff*
2004-05	43,097	208,488	206.71
2005-06	41,345	210,528	196.39

Source:
NHS Security Management Service.

Information about attacks on patients is collected by the National Patient Safety Agency through its national reporting and learning system. Between November 2003 to September 2005, 10,467 patient safety incidents involving disruptive or aggressive behaviour in all in-patient settings were recorded, out of a total of 44,656 patient safety incidents related to mental health. Of these 10,467 incidents, 558 were categorised as patient abuse by a third party. This included both physical and verbal incidents. Data is not available outside of this reporting period nor on a gender basis.

Mental Health Services: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many mental health patients moved on to independent living in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each of the last five years. [151409]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not collected centrally by the Department.

Mental Health Services: Hertfordshire

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will take steps to increase the funding allocated to Hertfordshire's mental health services; [151684]

(2) what the total amount of NHS funding made available to the Hertfordshire Partnership Mental Health Trust was in each financial year from 2001. [151685]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department allocates funding directly to primary care trusts (PCTs). It is the responsibility of PCTs to ensure that the services they commission meet the needs of the communities that they serve.

Hertfordshire Partnership Mental Health Trust's planned investment is as follows, these are the latest data available.

	Planned investment in mental health (£ million)
2002-03	39.9
2003-04	57.2
2004-05	55.2

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that the Hertfordshire Partnership Mental Health Trust is not making a disproportionate financial contribution towards meeting Hertfordshire's NHS deficits. [151686]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The East of England Strategic Health Authority (SHA) has advised that none of the Mental Health Trusts in the East of England were top sliced. The SHA is the headquarters for the national health service locally and has a statutory responsibility to ensure that the health economy achieves financial balance year on year.

Mental Health Services: Safety

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure the safety of patients and staff on mental health wards. [151019]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In line with standard 5 of the National Service Framework for Mental Health, we continue to seek ways of promoting improvements to mental health wards that enhance the safety of patients and staff and the quality of care provided. Specific steps taken recently include the investment of an extra £130 million capital in 2006-07 to update the mental health estate and to ensure that each mental health trust has access to an appropriate place of safety. Out of this sum, £100 million is being allocated to psychiatric intensive care units and places of safety between 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Last November, we announced that the remaining £30 million should focus on capital schemes in 2007-08, promoting safety in acute wards, particularly for women service users.

The Healthcare Commission (HC) and the National Institute of Mental Health in England (NIMHE), with support from the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the Mental Health Act Commission, have developed the assessment framework which underpins the HC's 2006-07 national acute in-patient service review. The review was launched in June and will assess whether admissions to acute in-patient mental health services are appropriate, purposeful, therapeutic and safe. The results will be published in the autumn.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published guidelines on the management of violence in health care settings in 2004 and NIMHE is now finalising specific guidance for mental health service providers in the light of NICE's recommendations.

NIMHE are currently developing joint positive practice guidance with the Association of Chief Police Officers on health and police liaison. This will include key areas around absence without leave, places of safety, patient safety and ward violence and drugs, public safety and learning the lessons from homicides. This is due for publication at the end of the year.

Mental Health Services: Young People

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services cases underwent treatment which lasted under *(a)* under one month, *(b)* under three months, *(c)* under six months and *(d)* over a year in each of the last three years. [150655]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not collected centrally.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many strategic health authorities offer a child and adolescent mental health services specialist on 24-hour call out service; [150657]

(2) which child and adolescent mental health services facilities *(a)* closed and *(b)* experienced a reduction in services during each of the last three years. [150660]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not collected centrally on the child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) that may have closed or have reduced services in the last three years.

However, the latest information coming from the Department's public service agreement standard of a comprehensive CAMHS in every area shows that every primary care trust, bar two, has met the assessment of this standard. Achievement of the standard has been assessed against three proxy measures, one of which is the provision of a 24/7 emergency service.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much is allocated to child and adolescent mental health services for each of the next three years. [150658]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In December 2005, the Department announced that £88.2 million would be allocated to local authorities in 2007-08 via the child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) grant. This grant is to be used by local authorities to improve CAMHS, in accordance with local needs and priorities, as set out in local CAMHS development strategies. In 2007-08, £50 million has been made available to strategic health authorities for CAMHS as part of a larger bundle of revenue funding for the national health service. In 2007-08, we have also made available to the NHS £31 million of capital funds for investment by providers of CAMHS. Bids for these funds have been invited and priority will be given to projects which will help to eliminate the inappropriate use of adult psychiatric wards for children and young people.

The annual CAMHS mapping exercise shows that overall expenditure on specialist CAMHS increased from £431 million in 2004-05 to a projected £513 million in 2005-06, an increase of 19 per cent.

Funding for CAMHS beyond 2007-08 is being considered as part of the comprehensive spending review (CSR). It is anticipated that details of the CSR settlement will be announced in autumn 2007.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* health professionals and *(b)* administrators were employed by the child and adolescent mental health services in each of the last three years. [150659]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Data from the 2006 child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) mapping shows that the CAMHS teams had a total of 9,796 staff. This includes child psychotherapists, doctors, nurses and other therapists and staff in both the national health service and local authority sector dedicated to caring for children and young people who have mental health problems. The following table gives the total number of staff for both health professionals and administrative staff for each year since 2003.

Overall CAMHS mapping work force figures 2003 to 2006

	2003	2004	2005	2006
Administration	1,230	1,393	1,552	1,559
Child psychotherapists	270	312	289	287
Doctors	866	1,008	1,019	1,064
Family therapist	—	—	274	296
Managers	120	161	227	188
Nurses	2,038	2,517	2,600	2,770
Occupational therapist	159	165	176	157
Other qualified staff	426	254	352	262
Other qualified therapist	507	522	447	396

Overall CAMHS mapping work force figures 2003 to 2006

	2003	2004	2005	2006
Other qualified staff	511	219	394	400
Primary mental health worker	—	382	506	548
Psychologists	997	1,320	1,320	1,269
Social workers	638	640	722	599
Total work force	7,761	8,894	9,876	9,796

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting times were to see a child and adolescent mental health services specialist in each of the last five years. [150661]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not collected in the format requested. The most recent information available is from the 2006 child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS) mapping exercise. In November 2006, there were 23,705 children and young people waiting to be seen by specialist CAMHS in England, a reduction of 2,494 from the previous year. There were 26,199 children and young people waiting in 2005, 30,716 in 2004 and 28,880 in 2003.

In November 2006 51 per cent. of new cases were seen by specialist CAMHS within four weeks, an additional 36 per cent. within 13 weeks, and a further 9 per cent. within 26 weeks.

In November 2005 52 per cent. of new cases were seen by specialist CAMHS within four weeks, an additional 33 per cent. within 13 weeks, and a further 10 per cent. within 26 weeks. 5 per cent. of children and young people waited over 26 weeks to be seen by specialist CAMHS. In 2002, only 24 per cent. of new cases were seen within four weeks and just over 50 per cent. were seen with 13 weeks.

Waits for cases still waiting to be seen by the end of the sample period

	<= 4 weeks	5 to <= 13 weeks	14 to <= 26 weeks	> 26 weeks	Total cases
2002	—	50.8	29.4	19.8	21,329
2003	28	32	22	18	28,880
2004	30	33	18	20	30,716
2005	35	32	15	18	26,199
2006	40.2	36.1	13.5	10.1	23,705

Waits for new cases

Percentage

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
< 4 weeks	24.10	48.10	50.62	52.26	50.72
5 to <= 13 weeks	40.90	29.20	31.13	32.26	35.72
14 to <= 26 weeks	20.20	13.70	10.69	10.08	8.79
> 26 weeks	14.80	9.00	7.55	5.40	4.77

The majority of new cases (51 per cent.) were reported as having waited less than four weeks to be seen by a CAMHS team. The wait of four weeks or less in the 2005, 2004 and 2003 mapping was experienced by 52 per cent., 51 per cent., and 48 per cent. of new cases respectively. 49.2 per cent. of new cases waited for more than four weeks in 2006, this is a higher proportion than the 47.7 per cent. in 2005, but lower than 49.4 per cent. in 2004 and 51.9 per cent. in 2003. 13.6 per cent. of new cases waited for more than 13 weeks in 2006, a lower proportion than 15.5 per cent. in 2005, 18.3 per cent. in 2004 and 22.7 per cent. in 2003. Waits over six months continued to fall, to 4.7 per cent. in 2006, from 5.4 per cent. in 2005, 7.6 per cent. in 2004 and 9.0 per cent. in 2003.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of children treated by a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services specialist in each of the last five years was prescribed *(a)* a talking therapy, *(b)* medication and *(c)* an alternative treatment. [150662]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not collected centrally. It is for primary care trusts to decide how best to work with local partners to obtain the best possible outcomes for patients.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services have set up projects within the last year to work jointly with *(a)* schools, *(b)* youth offending teams and *(c)* social workers. [150663]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not collected centrally.

Mentally Ill: Children

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children have been diagnosed with mental health disorders, broken down by type of disorder. [151000]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We do not collect such information centrally. However, the Office for National Statistics has produced a report "Mental health of children and young people in Great Britain, 2004" based on a survey of the mental health of children. This gives the prevalence of mental disorder in children aged between five and 16 as 9.6 per cent., broken down as follows: emotional disorders 3.7 per cent.; conduct disorders 5.8 per cent.; hyperkinetic disorders 1.5 per cent.; and less common disorders 1.3 per cent.

MRSA: Medical Treatments

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of using photodynamic therapy to treat patients with MRSA within the NHS. [151347]

Ann Keen: The Department has not made any specific assessments regarding the effectiveness of photodynamic therapy to treat patients with methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*.

Musculoskeletal Disorders: Health Services

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps have been taken to implement the Musculoskeletal Services Framework; and if he will make a statement. [151486]

Ann Keen: The Musculoskeletal Services Framework was published as good practice guidance, and as such the Department is not mandating its implementation. However, adopting this good practice will help organisations towards achieving the 18 weeks target.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how he communicates Government health policy to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE); and what requirements are placed on NICE to follow such policies. [151907]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department and national health service priorities are encapsulated in the published criteria for the selection of topics for referral to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). As part of the topic selection, proposed topics are assessed against the published criteria by one of a number of consideration panels. The panels are chaired by national clinical directors or other leading experts and are attended by relevant departmental policy officials who ensure the process is informed by Government policy.

NHS Next Stage Review

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his oral statement of 4 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 91-3, on NHS next stage review, if he will refer the decision of the Oxfordshire Radcliffe NHS Trust to reconfigure services at the Horton General hospital in Banbury, referred to him by the Oxfordshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to the independent reconfiguration panel. [151599]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 23 July 2007]*: The oral statement of 4 July clearly stated that while Lord Darzi is undertaking his wide-ranging review of the NHS, the Secretary of State will, as a matter of course, ask the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) for advice on any decisions made at a local level which have been referred by Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

As of 17 July 2007, a letter of referral from Oxfordshire Overview and Scrutiny Committee has not been received by the Department. Should such a referral be forthcoming, we would expect to seek the advice of the IRP on the case.

NHS: Carbon Emissions

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the annual carbon dioxide output of the NHS; and whether his Department is meeting its set targets to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. [151049]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The most recent available figures show that in 2005-06 the estimated carbon dioxide output in the national health service was 3.31 million tonnes.

The NHS was set mandatory targets in respect of energy efficiency and carbon emissions in 2001. In order to maintain the progress it has been making towards meeting these targets, the then Minister of State for Health Delivery and Reform (Andy Burnham) launched a £100 million capital energy and sustainability fund in January 2007. The fund will allow improvements in electrical efficiency and reduced carbon emissions in the NHS through a combination of various schemes. These will include identifying renewable energy sources, the installation of better building insulation, installation of combined heat and power units and the replacement of inefficient boilers and distribution systems.

In respect of its own separate operational estate, the Department is currently on track to meet its target to reduce office carbon dioxide emissions by 12.5 per cent. by 2010-11, relative to 1999-2000 levels. It is also on track to meet the target to reduce its road transport emissions by 15 per cent. by 2010, relative to 2005-06 levels, including a new transport policy that will offer the opportunity to identify further savings.

NHS: Managers

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department is considering phasing out national clinical directors. [151720]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has no plans to phase out national clinical directors.

Osteoporosis: Medical Treatments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to publish mandatory alternative treatment options for patients for whom Alendronate is unsuitable; and if he will make a statement. [152363]

Ann Keen: We have no plans to publish mandatory alternative treatment options for patients for whom Alendronate is unsuitable.

Prescriptions: Contraceptives

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions were issued for emergency contraceptives in each month since January 2001. [150956]

Dawn Primarolo: The available information is shown in the following tables.

The information shown in the table is for prescriptions dispensed in the community (almost all of these prescriptions are written by general practice) for emergency hormonal contraception.

	Quarter[1]	Items (Thousand)
2001	January-March	91.3
2001	April-June	87.8
2001	July-September	88.4
2001	October-December	98.0
2002	January-March	98.1
2002	April-June	95.2
2002	July-September	96.3
2002	October-December	93.9
2003	January-March	93.4
2003	April-June	93.9
2003	July-September	95.6
2003	October-December	89.9
2004	January-March	90.1
2004	April-June	87.2
2004	July-September	85.4
2004	October-December	79.4
2005	January-March	75.9
2005	April-June	80.5
2005	July-September	83.0
2005	October-December	76.0
2006	January-March	75.1
2006	April-June	77.1
2006	July-September	76.2
2006	October-December	70.3
2007	January-March	69.9

[1] Figures are held on a quarterly not monthly basis.

Source:

Prescription information is taken from the Prescription Cost Analysis system, supplied by the Prescription Pricing Division of the Business Services Authority, and is based on a full analysis of all prescriptions dispensed in the community i.e. by community pharmacists and appliance contractors, dispensing doctors, and prescriptions submitted by prescribing doctors for items personally administered in England. The data do not cover drugs dispensed in hospitals.

The information on emergency contraception supplied by community contraception clinics is shown in the following table:

Occasions on which emergency contraception was supplied at community contraception clinics by type, 1995-96 to 2005-06, England

Thousand

	All ages		
Year[1]	Total occasions	Hormonal	IU Device
2001-02	198.5	193.4	5.1
2002-03	191.6	187.0	4.6
2003-04	187.4	183.2	4.2
2004-05	178.5	174.1	4.5

Occasions on which emergency contraception was supplied at community contraception clinics by type, 1995-96 to 2005-06, England

Thousand

	All ages		
Year[1]	Total occasions	Hormonal	IU Device
2005-06	169.3	164.5	4.8

[1] Data are collected annually and are therefore not available monthly.

Source:

The Information Centre for Health and Social Care KT31 return © 2007 The Information Centre. All rights reserved.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women were *(a)* given prescriptions for the oral contraceptive and *(b)* given depot contraceptive injections in each of the last 10 years, broken down by (i) age and (ii) trust. [150980]

Dawn Primarolo: The available information on prescriptions dispensed in the community (almost all of which are written by general practice) for oral and injectable contraceptives by trust has been placed in the Library. Data on prescriptions by age are not available.

Data for oral and injectable contraceptives supplied by community contraceptive clinics for the nine years preceding 2005-06 can be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, 2005-06 data for first contacts with women are available and have also been placed in the Library.

Primary Care Trusts: Redundancy Pay

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of redundancy payments associated with the reconfiguration of primary care trusts in the East of England in the financial year 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [151556]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There were 255 compulsory redundancies made in East of England strategic health authority area in the 2006-07 financial year.

The costs of early retirement and redundancy payments is not collected centrally.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many diagnoses of sexually transmitted infections there were in *(a)* Hampshire and *(b)* England in each month since January 2001. [150936]

Dawn Primarolo: Data are not currently available for Hampshire and are not collected monthly. Hampshire is in the South Central Strategic Health Authority (SHA) and data for this SHA by quarter are given in the following table:

STI diagnoses—South Central SHA

Quarter	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
January-March	7,622	7,681	8,399	9,716	9,532	8,984
April-June	7,504	7,705	8,502	9,649	10,598	10,118
July-September	7,627	8,207	10,112	9,622	9,965	8,503
October-December	7,619	7,987	9,232	8,937	9,638	6,726

Data for England are given in the following table.

STI diagnoses—England

Quarter	2001	2002[a]	2003	2004	2005	2006
January-March	107,935	113,664	123,253	130,217	132,055	128,694
April-June	105,343	113,807	122,685	128,714	142,074	125,701
July-September	110,123	118,745	129,405	134,502	137,955	137,982
October-December	108,875	116,853	121,514	132,445	133,278	125,461

Note:
The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for diagnoses made in genito-urinary clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as general practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Young People

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children and young people under the age of 18 years have been diagnosed with *(a)* chlamydia, *(b)* gonorrhoea, *(c)* genital herpes, *(d)* genital warts, *(e)* hepatitis B and *(f)* syphilis in each of the last 10 years. [150638]

Dawn Primarolo: Data for chlamydia, gonorrhoea, genital herpes, genital warts and syphilis are published by the Health Protection Agency in their annual report "Diagnoses of selected STIs by Strategic Health Authority, country, sex and age group, United Kingdom: 1997-2006", copies of which have been placed in the Library. Data is not collected by age for hepatitis B.

This data is available at:

www.hpa.org. uk/infections/topics_az/hiv_and_sti/epidemiology/datatables2006.htm.

Smoking: Death

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deaths there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* Hampshire and *(c)* Southampton as a result of (i) the consumption of alcohol and (ii) smoking in each of the last five years. [150967]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table provides the number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause in England, Hampshire, and Southampton from 2002-06 (the latest year available).

Number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause of death[1], England, Hampshire and Southampton[2], 2002-06[3]

Deaths (persons)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
England	5,582	5,981	6,036	6,191	6,517
Hampshire	93	139	118	128	142
Southampton	36	31	25	35	32

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown as follows.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2007.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
Source:
ONS National Statistics Online

Alcohol-related causes of death—international classification of diseases, tenth revision (ICD-10).

Cause of death	ICD-10 code(s)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	F10
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	G31.2
Alcoholic polyneuropathy	G62.1
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	I42.6
Alcoholic gastritis	K29.2
Alcoholic liver disease	K70
Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified	K73
Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis)	K74 (excl. K74.3-K74.5)
Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis	K86.0
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X45
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X65
Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent	Y15

Figures on the numbers of deaths attributable to smoking among people aged 35 or over are given in the following table. Figures are only available for Hampshire and Southampton for the periods 2002-04 and 2003-05 and for England for the periods 1998-02, 2002-04 and 2003-05. The figures for 2003-05 are not directly comparable with the figures for earlier years because of a change in methodology.

Deaths attributable to smoking among people aged 35 or over[1]

	1998-2002[2]	2002-04[2]	2003-05[2]
England	86,500	86,100	87,000
Hampshire	n/a	1,873	1,931
Southampton	n/a	376	374

Note:
The figures for 2003-05 are not directly comparable with the figures for earlier years: the 2003-05 figures are based on the method developed by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, whereas the figures for earlier years are based on the method developed by the Institute for the Geography of Health at University of Portsmouth.
Sources:
[1] "The Smoking Epidemic in England", Health Development Agency, 2004
[2] "Community Health Profiles", APHO and Department of Health

Social Services: Manpower

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are employed in adult social care in the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector in (i) Leicestershire, (ii) the east midlands and (iii) England. [150882]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* This information is not collected centrally. The local government annual social services work force survey, undertaken by Local Government Analysis and Research, provides figures for the public sector only. As at 30 September 2005, there were approximately 108,435 people (headcount)

employed in the public sector within the adult social care work force for England. Local and regional figures are not available.

The Wanless Social Care Review, Kings Fund 2006, is another source of data across client groups and the private and voluntary sectors, further information can be found at:

www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications.

Solvents: Misuse

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times the stakeholder group set up under the Volatile Substance Abuse Framework has met; and if he will place in the Library the minutes from these meetings. [150374]

Dawn Primarolo: A stakeholder group made up of key players in the field was set up in December 2004 to develop and implement the national framework for volatile substance abuse. The group was revised in December 2006 to include key departments across Government.

The stakeholder group has met five times since its conception. Minutes, where available, have been placed in the Library. However, early meetings of the group were not minuted. In addition, minutes of the last stakeholder group meeting have yet to be finalised, and therefore are not available.

Transplant Surgery

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in how many cases cold perfusion of body parts has been *(a)* started and *(b)* continued to transplant in each year since 2000; and what the success rate has been. [151691]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* This information is not held centrally.

Tuberculosis

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of tuberculosis were diagnosed in England between 2000 and 2006. [152397]

Dawn Primarolo: Details of tuberculosis cases reported in England between 2000 and 2005 are shown as follows. Data for 2006 are expected later this year.

The following information is available on the Health Protection Agency website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/tb/epidemiology/tables.htm

Number of Tuberculosis case reports in England

2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
6,091	6,414	6,638	6,741	7,049	7,846

Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the main limiting factors are in the timescale of the development of new tuberculosis vaccine. [152395]

Dawn Primarolo: There are several organisations globally that are developing new tuberculosis vaccines, and currently four vaccines are in clinical trial phase. One of these vaccines is being developed by the University of Oxford. These vaccines have to be tested in clinical trials to show that they are both safe and effective before they can be used widely.

Wheelchairs

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he plans to publish data provided by local wheelchair services in England to inform the new model of wheelchair service delivery; [150379]

(2) when he will publish the outline model for wheelchair service as part of the Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchair Services Programme; and whether he will consult stakeholders on the suitability of the proposed model of wheelchair services following publication; [150380]

(3) what research has been undertaken to determine the adequacy and merits of a retail market model of provision for *(a)* community equipment and *(b)* wheelchair services for children and young people with complex disabilities; [150382]

(4) whether the demand forecasting tool envisaged by the proposed retail market model for community equipment services will record the unmet needs of children and young people. [150385]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have agreed a further data gathering exercise to be provided by local wheelchair services and have asked the care services efficiency delivery (CSED) programme to report to me in autumn 2007. A decision to publish data, research and the outline model will be made at that time.

The outline model for community equipment services was published on the CSED website on 31 May 2007 at www.csed.csip.org.uk and has been placed in the Library. The Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchair Services programme is a collaborative programme. CSED has worked in collaboration with over 250 stakeholders including users of services and their carers, local authority and health practitioners, current providers and suppliers, the third and private sectors, representatives of voluntary organisations, professional bodies and trade and provider associations to design a conceptual model suitable for adults and children.

The programme is currently holding nine public regional events that are designed to share information, canvass opinion and collect feedback.

The research undertaken has included determination of the adequacy and merits of a retail market model of provision for community equipment for children and young people with complex disabilities. A further validation exercise will take place in August 2007 to confirm that detailed design development is consistent with the needs of children.

CSED are looking to adapt the projecting older people population information as the demand forecasting tool to take children's needs into account.

Wheelchairs: Children

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has included additional funding to improve the stock of wheelchairs provided to young children and young people in its submission to the Comprehensive Spending Review. [150381]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has worked closely with HM Treasury in preparation for the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR), and made clear its priorities for the CSR period. These discussions are ongoing and full details of the Department's settlement will be set out in the CSR White Paper.

Wheelchairs: Young People

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many requests for new wheelchairs for children and young people in each of the last five years were granted *(a)* within a month, *(b)* within three months and *(c)* after over six months; [150712]

(2) how many children are on a waiting list to receive *(a)* a lightweight manual wheelchair and *(b)* powered mobility equipment; [150713]

(3) how many NHS wheelchairs available for children and young people have been in service for *(a)* less than one year, *(b)* less than five years and *(c)* more than 10 years. [150714]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally. National health service wheelchair services are funded and managed at a local level. It is up to individual primary care trusts to determine the appropriate level of funding for their service and to assess and meet the needs of each individual using their service.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the review of community equipment and wheelchair services will address the specific needs of children and young people; and if he will make a statement. [150731]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The transforming community equipment and wheelchair services project is addressing the specific needs of children. The project scope includes all community equipment provided to children, their families and carers.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 26 July 2007

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what means the Fleet will be protected against aerial attack prior to the advent of the Future Aircraft Carriers. [152061]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 25 July 2007]:* The Fleet relies on a layered defence approach to defeat an aerial attack. The backbone of the Fleet's ability to defend itself from air attack in the outer layer of maritime air defence will continue to be provided by destroyers. At present, this is achieved using the Type 42 Destroyers equipped with the medium range Sea Dart surface to air missile system. Type 45 Destroyers will gradually replace the Type 42 destroyers. These new ships will be armed with the Principal Anti Air Missile System, enhancing the Fleet's capability to counter the most sophisticated aircraft and anti-ship missiles in the world.

In the inner layer of Maritime Air Defence the Fleet's close range air defence capability will continue to be provided by Type 22 and Type 23 Frigates equipped with the Seawolf point defence missile system. Additional air defence capability will also come from a combination of close-in weapon (gun) systems, such as Goalkeeper and Phalanx, and decoys.

Airborne Early Warning Sea King helicopters will provide the long range detection of airborne contacts.

Ammunition

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on researching enhanced blast munitions; what orders have been made for them; and what plans there are for future procurement of the munitions. [152215]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence has current research programmes relevant to enhanced blast munitions valued at approximately £10 million, spread over more than five years. These are to investigate the underlying science and are aimed at the assessment of the threat to UK armed forces, what protection is appropriate, and the advantage of incorporation of such technology into weapons.

The MOD has one programme which incorporates enhanced blast technology, the Anti-Structures Munition (ASM), as announced by my predecessor on 6 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 34WS, due to enter service at the end of 2009. It will enable infantry to defeat hardened structures such as buildings or bunkers, reducing casualties to our forces while minimising collateral damage. In the interim an off the shelf system has been procured until the ASM becomes available. There are currently no plans for future procurement of enhanced blast munitions.

Armed Forces: Desertion

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel were reported as absent without leave in each *(a)* month and *(b)* year since January 2004. [152359]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the number of Royal Navy personnel absent without leave in each month since January 2004 to June 2006.

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
January	13	23	19	12
February	14	28	14	10
March	18	16	19	9
April	11	16	12	5
May	12	22	14	6
June	23	20	13	15
July	12	15	5	—
August	11	14	11	—
September	17	4	13	—
October	26	12	15	—
November	20	18	13	—
December	7	8	9	—

The following table shows absence without leave statistics by calendar year from January 2004:

	Navy	*Army*	*RAF*
2004	185	3,030	55
2005	195	2,715	35
2006	155	2,330	10
2007	55	1,275	15

Notes:
1. Both the Navy and the Army record AWOL statistics by the number of incidences of AWOL rather than the number of people who have gone AWOL, so there may be a number people who are represented more than once in these figures.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest five and are as at 23 July 2007.
3. Differences in figures for individual years compared to previous answers occur because personnel may have been wrongly reported as AWOL in the first instance, or conversely they may have subsequently been found to have been AWOL and the records rectified later.

Monthly breakdowns of the figures for the Army and the Royal Air Force could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel classed as being absent without leave since 1997 have not yet been accounted for. [152360]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The numbers of personnel who have gone absent without leave from the services since 1 January 1997 and remain so are, as at 23 July 2007,

Navy: 30

Army: 1,175

RAF: 15

These figures are rounded to the nearest five. They are subject to daily changes as individuals return to their units.

There is no evidence to suggest that operational commitments or any other factors are causing a significant increase. There are a number of reasons why personnel may go AWOL but anecdotal evidence suggests that

most incidents are caused by domestic circumstances, such as family problems, rather than any wish to avoid military service.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the suitability of 36 Grays Lane, Headley Court for temporary service family accommodation. [152356]

Derek Twigg: The generous offer by the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association Forces Help (SSAFA—Forces Help) to use this property in Ashtead to provide short-term accommodation for families visiting relatives who are being treated at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC), Headley Court is very welcome. DMRC staff have advised that the accommodation, with minor alterations to facilitate access, will be entirely suitable for the proposed purpose.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will support the Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen and Families Association in its application to the local council to make alterations to its property in Ashtead, Surrey, for armed forces' families visiting Headley Court. [152357]

Derek Twigg: As I made clear on a recent visit to Headley Court, when I opened a new ward, I am most grateful for the Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) Forces Help's offer to provide a property for the short-term accommodation of families visiting relatives being treated there.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps are being taken to *(a)* support and *(b)* accommodate service families when visiting injured relatives at Headley Court. [152358]

Derek Twigg: Family visits are an integral part of the rehabilitation of injured service personnel being treated at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Headley Court.

The staff at Headley Court welcome such visits. The unit meets appropriate travel and subsistence costs, including overnight accommodation if it is in the patient's interests to have their family close by. In addition to local hotels, accommodation currently available to visiting families includes Pigeon House, a four-bedroom house in the Headley Court grounds, and Dale View, a converted three-bedroom service married quarter.

Armed Forces: Human Rights

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the section of the transcript of the Bulford Camp court martial relating to advice on application of the Human Rights Act 1998 and the European Convention on Human Rights. [144589]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The trial in question lasted some six months and the transcript comprises approximately 15,000 pages. Evidence concerning advice on the application of the Human Rights Act and the European Convention on Human Rights was given on 8 December 2006. An electronic version of the complete trial transcript of open court sessions, including that day's evidence, will be made available in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department made of the NHS's requirement for *(a)* psychologists, *(b)* psychiatrists, *(c)* mental health nurses and *(d)* occupational therapists in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007. [148364]

Derek Twigg: The requirements for uniformed consultant psychiatrists and mental health nurses on 1 April 2006 and 1 April 2007 are shown as follows:

	Service consultant psychiatrists	*Service mental health nurses*
2006	26	113
2007	28	123

Source:
DMSD quarterly manning return 1 April 2006/March 2007 PPSG.

As stated in my answer of 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1985-88W, the armed forces no longer employ uniformed psychologists and mental health occupational therapists, but the MOD does employ civilian clinical psychologists, psychiatrists and mental health nurses. The required numbers for these grades are not held centrally. I will write to the hon. Member with these figures once they have been collated and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Temporary Accommodation

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service families have been placed by MoDern Housing Solutions in *(a)* Premier Travel Inns and *(b)* other hotels in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [150026]

Derek Twigg: The Housing Prime Contract was awarded to MoDern Housing Solutions on 14 November 2005 and was rolled out in January 2006. The number of families placed in Premier Travel Inns and other hotels since 1 January 2006 is as follows:

	Premier Travel inns	*Other hotels*
2006	9	46
Up to 30 June 2007	7	23

Hotels are provided where service families need to be away, for a short period, from their SFA while repairs are carried out.

Army: Travel

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on travel costs for *(a)* members of the Army Board, *(b)* the Adjutant-General and *(c)* the Chief of the General Staff in 2006. [118181]

Derek Twigg: In 2006, the Army Board spent £463,010 on travel in total. Of this total, the

Adjutant-General spent £3,783 and the Chief of General Staff spent £78,814.

These figures include accommodation costs for ministerial members of the Army Board, which cannot be separated from travel costs. Totals also contain travel costs incurred by the relevant Army Board Member and their supporting staff, where appropriate, but excludes spouses. Costs relating to military flights and use of official staff cars have not been included.

Atomic Weapons Establishment: Sales

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what safeguards the Government have put in place to ensure that *(a)* national security and *(b)* sensitive design and manufacture systems are safeguarded from foreign powers following the auction of the Government stake in the Atomic Weapons Establishment. [150724]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As indicated by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform in his written statement to the House on 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1WS, as part of the process of the sale of British Nuclear Group's share in AWE Management Ltd (AWEML), the Government will be seeking to ensure the enduring performance of AWEML in continuing to meet the requirements of its customer, the Ministry of Defence.

Such performance covers all aspects of work at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, with particular emphasis on the protection of national security and warhead design information, which are paramount considerations. We shall be applying a strict set of criteria in order to establish the acceptability of prospective purchasers before finalising an agreed shortlist of potential bidders. All factors will be taken into account in our analysis.

Bombs

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason a direct fire capability prevents a rocket with a sub-munition capability from being defined as a cluster munition, with particular reference to the CRV-7 MPSM rocket; and if he will make a statement. [152213]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The cluster munitions of humanitarian concern are those fired in the indirect role, whereas certain sub-munition variants are direct fire weapon systems. In the direct fire role the firing crew has line of sight from the platform to the target and has a sophisticated target identification and acquisition system to aid discrimination. In seeking the balance between humanitarian concern and military necessity the UK's definition of cluster munitions therefore excludes direct fire systems.

Departments: Legislation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Bills introduced by his Department in the last five years have contained sunset clauses; and what plans he has for the future use of such clauses. [151842]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence has introduced only one Bill (which became the Armed Forces Act 2006) in the last five years that contains a time limit which may be regarded as a sunset clause. The clause continues the previous practice of making the main legislation governing the armed forces subject to a requirement for annual renewal by Order in Council approved by Parliament and for renewal by Act of Parliament every five years. This accords with the procedure which Parliament has adopted for this legislation in the past.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Bills introduced by his Department in the last five years did not contain sunset clauses; and if he will make a statement. [152485]

Derek Twigg: The Department has been responsible for the introduction of two Bills in the last five years which became:

The Armed Forces Pay and Compensation Act 2004

The Armed Forces Act 2006

The 2004 Act does not contain a sunset clause.

The 2006 Act contains a time limit which may be regarded as a form of sunset clause. The clause continues the previous practice of making the main legislation governing the armed forces subject to a requirement for annual renewal by Order in Council approved by Parliament and for renewal by Act of Parliament every five years.

Departments: Recruitment

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Department paid in fees to recruitment agencies for *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent staff in each year since 1997. [151673]

Derek Twigg: The information requested on how much the Department paid in fees to recruitment agencies for temporary workers and permanent staff in each year since 1997 is not held centrally. It could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Sales

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was raised from the sale of departmental real estate for housing in each year since 1997. [149665]

Derek Twigg: The total accrued disposal receipts for each year since 1997 are published in the Defence Estates annual reports and accounts, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Departments: Written Questions

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish his Department's guidance on answering written parliamentary questions. [152661]

Derek Twigg: Yes. I have placed a copy of the Department's guidance on answering written parliamentary questions in the Library of the House.

Ex-servicemen: Mental Health Services

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria have been established for assessing the success of the Community Based Mental Health Service for Veterans pilot scheme; what the cost is for *(a)* the national roll-out of the service and *(b)* the pilots; and what alternatives for the delivery of the service have been considered. [151591]

Derek Twigg: A process and outcome evaluation of the pilots over their two-year duration is an integral part of the project. The key measures, advised on by national clinical experts, will be the assessment and treatment regimes provided, and the patient (and carer) experience and outcomes.

The costs of running the pilot scheme are not yet available as negotiations for the funding of individual sites are still continuing between the MOD, the Department of Health and NHS trusts. The cost of rolling out the scheme nationwide will depend on the outcomes of the pilots.

The proposed service is advised on by clinical and health care experts and reflects the long established intention that veterans' health care is primarily a matter for the NHS. Using NHS best practice and processes, veterans-sensitive evidence-based interventions will be delivered by public, private or charitable providers. These will be modified as necessary in the light of the pilot evaluation.

In addition, we have recently announced the expansion of our Medical Assessment Programme (MAP) based at St Thomas' Hospital, London, to include assessment of veterans with mental health symptoms with operational service from 1982 (including veterans of the Falklands campaign). The clinician in charge is a recently retired service military psychiatrist, who will provide support and advice to GPs and other civilian health professionals where the individual is concerned that the service background of their condition may not have been understood within the NHS or where the health professional is seeking expertise on the assessment or treatment of a veteran's condition.

Iraq-Kuwait Conflict: Gulf War Syndrome

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the case for establishing a public inquiry to examine illnesses resulting from the Gulf War; and if he will make a statement. [149989]

Derek Twigg: It has been the Government's policy since 1997 to be open and transparent about Gulf veterans issues, including the publication of all relevant documents. We have identified and published the lessons of the past, accepting that mistakes were made in 1990-91, particularly with regard to medical record keeping. The Government's view is that there are no substantive issues to be addressed by a public inquiry and that, in particular, it would not help to resolve the long outstanding issue of why veterans are ill; only scientific research might do this. We have funded a substantial programme of research designed to address the key candidate causes so far put forward, but recognising that it would not be sensible to duplicate work being undertaken elsewhere.

Military Bases: Germany

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many standard *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2, *(c)* 3 and *(d)* 4 accommodation units there are at UK bases in Germany. [151760]

Derek Twigg: Service families accommodation (SFA) and single living accommodation (SLA) in Germany is assessed by grade for charge (rather than Standard for Condition which is used in Great Britain).

On that basis, the total number of SFA and SLA by grade is as follows:

	Germany	
	SFA	*SLA*
Grade 1	2,101	1,658
Grade 2	5,376	1,354
Grade 3	4,743	3,475
Grade 4	982	9,782
Total	13,202	16,269

Grade for charge is broken down on amenities and location. Grade for charge 1 would be accommodation that is close to all amenities. Grade 4 would be properties further away. This differs from standard for conditions, which relates to the physical condition of the property.

Navy: Drug Seizures

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how the cocaine seized by the Royal Navy in 2006-07 was disposed of. [149480]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The physical seizure of cocaine on Royal Navy interdiction operations is conducted by personnel from relevant local law enforcement agencies embarked on Royal Naval vessels. Once retrieved, the cocaine becomes the responsibility of the relevant law enforcement agency.

Navy: Warships

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the *(a)* destroyers, *(b)* frigates and *(c)* attack submarines (i) currently deployed and (ii) available for short-notice deployment with the fleet. [152063]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 25 July 2007]:* As at 19 July 2007, the following vessels were deployed:

Destroyers:

HMS Manchester
HMS Edinburgh
HMS Southampton
HMS York

Frigates:

HMS Cornwall
HMS Kent
HMS Monmouth
HMS Portland
HMS Richmond
HMS Montrose

Attack Submarines:

The general policy is that we do not discuss submarine operations. Fleet Attack Submarines (SSN) are on patrols in various locations.

As my predecessor made clear in his letter of 6 March 2007, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House, it is not MOD policy to publish details of the readiness states of individual RN vessels or types. I am not prepared, therefore, to provide details of vessels available for short-notice deployments.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made with planning for the use of dual crews for warships; and in respect of which classes of warships it is being considered. [152064]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 25 July 2007]:* The Royal Navy is conducting trials and experimentation programmes to help determine optimal manning solutions, both in the short and mid to longer term, that will maximise the contribution to defence by enabling ships to remain deployed for extended periods, while minimising the impact on personnel. These programmes include swapping ship's companies of HMS Edinburgh and HMS Exeter (Type 42 destroyers), and several Mine Counter Measure Vessels; and providing temporary relief for some personnel on the extended deployment of HMS Sutherland and HMS Monmouth (Type 23 frigates). The trials are continuing.

Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many repatriations of bodies have occurred *(a)* via RAF Brize Norton and *(b)* via RAF Lyneham in each year since 2003. [150163]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is shown in the following table.

	RAF Brize Norton	*RAF Lyneham*
2003	53	0
2004	38	0
2005	16	14
2006	64	0
2007 (as at 20 July)	15	36
Total	186	50

In the process of answering this question, it has become apparent that some of the figures provided in response to the hon. Member's parliamentary question of 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1359W, were incorrect.

Unfortunately there were errors in the source documentation for the 2004, 2005 and 2007 figures for repatriations held by Headquarters Air Command. A figure for 2005 was inadvertently reflected in 2004. Also, the figures for 2006 did not include the 14 personnel who were killed in the Nimrod XV230 crash in September 2006. This was because the repatriation ceremony for these personnel was held at RAF Kinloss, but because their bodies were repatriated through, and returned to, RAF Brize Norton, with hindsight it is clear that they should have been included.

RAF Personnel Management Agency: Finance

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* initial resource provision, *(b)* in-year variation and *(c)* resource outturn was for the RAF Personnel Management Agency in each financial year since 1997. [146959]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The RAF Personnel Management Agency relinquished Government agency status at the start of financial year 2004-05. Therefore budgetary information for that agency is only available up to the financial year 2003-04.

The resource outturn for financial years 1997-98 to 2003-04 can be found in the RAF Personnel Management Agency annual report and accounts, which are available in the Library of the House.

The figures for initial resource provision and in-year variations are not held.

Territorial Army: Recruitment

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the number of Territorial Army (TA) posts which will not be filled as a result of the decision to freeze recruiting in some TA units; and what proportion of TA manpower this represents; [152662]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1769W, on reserve forces: recruitment, which Territorial Army units have a recruitment freeze; and what the *(a)* establishment and *(b)* current manning level is of each, broken down by (i) rank and (ii) appointment. [152809]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It is not possible to provide the information requested, as the details of measures limiting the strength of selected Territorial Army units have not yet been finalised. However, I can assure the hon. Member that a rigorous process involving a wide range of army stakeholders is currently assessing the likely impact of these measures and ensuring that coherence and effectiveness are maintained. I will write to the hon. Member with the results of that process once it is complete and will place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Trident

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to make the first of the regular reports to Parliament on progress made in the Trident replacement programme, as referred to by the former Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on 14 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 309. [150280]

Des Browne: In accordance with the usual practice on major procurement projects, the first full progress report on the programme to maintain the UK's nuclear deterrent will be made after the Initial Gate for the new class of submarines, currently estimated to be in 2009. Interim reports will be provided depending on progress with the programme.

Type 45 Destroyers

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether there has been a change in the intention to build eight Type-45 Destroyers. [151186]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 25 July 2007]:* No decision has yet been made to order the seventh and eighth Type 45 destroyers. A number of factors will be taken into account as part of the decision-making process, including affordability, value for money, and the wider context of the defence industrial strategy.

Unmanned Air Vehicles: Costs

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the projected costs are of the Watchkeeper UAV system programme; and if he will make a statement on progress in delivering the programme. [148568]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The acquisition costs for the Watchkeeper system are expected to be around £840 million. The planned in-service date is 2011.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Scientific Research

23. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the level of public funding for scientific research. [152575]

Ian Pearson: Public investment in R and D in 2005 was £7.4 billion. It has grown by almost 30 per cent. in real terms since 1997. The CSR07 period will see the science budget continue to rise above inflation.

Adult Education

24. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what change there has been in the number of adult learning courses in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [152576]

Mr. Lammy: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave the hon. Member for South-West Norfolk (Mr. Fraser).

Apprenticeships

25. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many apprenticeships were *(a)* started and *(b)* finished in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2006. [152577]

Mr. Lammy: In the 1996-97 academic year 70,100 apprentices started. Information on framework completions was not collected at that time. In the 2005-06 academic year, 171,300 apprentices started and 99,000 completed the full framework.

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to increase the number of people applying for adult apprenticeships. [152468]

Mr. Lammy: The continuing expansion of apprenticeships provision, for both young people and adults, is a priority for the Government. Currently around one third of apprentices are aged 19 to 24, and evidence from recent trials of 25+ apprenticeships suggests that they can be a useful method of learning for some people. Therefore the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is making available £16.7 million in 2007-08 to fund 8,000 additional places for this age group.

The Government will naturally encourage and support employers, LSC and sector skills councils (SSCs) in their normal promotion practices to recruit adult apprentices to fill the 8,000 places.

The Government are also supporting the LSC in its new skills campaign 'Our future. It's in our hands' launched on 9 July. This campaign is aimed at improving the skills of the nation and will include the promotion of adult apprenticeships.

Science and Innovation

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what progress has been made on the Government's 10-year strategy on science and innovation published in 2004; and if he will make a statement. [152571]

Ian Pearson: The Government published their third annual report on the Science and Innovation Investment Framework on Monday (23 July). The report shows that over the last year there has been continued, good progress in implementing the Government's challenging vision for science and innovation.

Apprentices: Cumbria

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many apprenticeships there were in Westmorland and Lonsdale in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [152894]

Mr. Lammy: Figures for those participating in apprenticeships can be derived from the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) Individualised Learner Record (ILR). There were 440 learners on apprenticeships and 250 on advanced apprenticeships in the Westmorland and Lonsdale parliamentary constituency (based on home post code of the learner) in 2005/06. Comparable figures for 2006/07 will not be available until December 2007.

Source:

Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Work Based Learning (WBL) Individualised Learner Record (ILR).

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Basic Skills: Training

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many organisations have signed up to the Skills Pledge scheme. [152566]

Mr. Denham: More than 150 leading private and public sector employers from across England made the Skills Pledge at its launch on 14 June. This means that

over 1.7 million employees are covered by a Skills Pledge. Since 14 June an additional 146 companies have expressed an interest in the Skills Pledge through the Train to Gain website and helpline. Brokers are currently working with these employers to take their commitment forward.

Unemployment: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of 16 to 19-year-olds in York were registered as unemployed in January 2007. [151627]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 July 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what percentage of 16 to 19 year olds in York were registered as unemployed in January 2007. (151627)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for parliamentary constituencies from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following ILO definitions.

For the 12 months ending in December 2006, the latest available data, there were 1,000 persons aged 16 to 19, resident in the City of York constituency, who were unemployed. This estimate is 16 per cent of the resident population aged 16 to 19. The unemployment rate, which is the number of unemployed expressed as a percentage of the economically active population, in that age group, was 25 per cent.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). For January 2007, there were 200 persons aged 16 to 19, resident in the City of York constituency, claiming JSA. The corresponding figure for the latest available month, June 2007, is 180.

Table 1: employment by sex; City of York parliamentary constituency

Thousand

	Men		*Women*		*Total*	
12 months ending	*Level*[1]	*Rate*[2] *(percentage)*	*Level*[1]	*Rate*[2] *(percentage)*	*Level*[1]	*Rate*[2] *(percentage)*
February 1997	22	71	22	65	44	68
February 1998	24	74	21	63	45	69
February 1999	28	81	20	65	48	73
February 2000	25	81	20	72	45	77
February 2001	27	81	24	76	51	79
February 2002	28	81	24	72	51	77
February 2003	29	83	25	72	54	77
February 2004	28	80	25	73	53	77
March 2005	29	80	26	71	55	75
March 2006	27	79	25	73	52	76

[1] Persons aged 16 and over.
[2] Persons of working age—males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59.
Note:
Estimates are subject to sampling variability. Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with particular caution.
Source:
Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population Survey

Table 2: employment by sex; City of York unitary authority

Thousand

	Men		*Women*		*Total*	
12 months ending	*Level*[1]	*Rate*[2] *(percentage)*	*Level*[1]	*Rate*[2] *(percentage)*	*Level*[1]	*Rate*[2] *(percentage)*
February 1997	43	79	39	71	82	75
February 1998	43	79	34	65	77	72
February 1999	45	82	38	71	83	76
February 2000	44	81	39	71	83	76
February 2001	49	84	44	78	93	81
February 2002	49	84	43	75	93	80
February 2003	50	84	43	74	93	79
February 2004	48	82	43	77	92	79
March 2005	49	82	43	76	92	79
March 2006	48	81	45	76	93	79

[1] Persons aged 16 and over.
[2] Persons of working age—males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59.
Note:
Estimates are subject to sampling variability. Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with particular caution.
Source:
Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population Survey

Table 3: employment by sex: Yorkshire and the Humber

Thousand

	Men		*Women*		*Total*	
12 months ending	*Level*[1]	*Rate*[2] *(percentage)*	*Level*[1]	*Rate*[2] *(percentage)*	*Level*[1]	*Rate*[2] *(percentage)*
February 1997	1,163	74	988	66	2,151	70
February 1998	1,178	76	993	66	2,170	71
February 1999	1,202	77	1,010	68	2,212	73
February 2000	1,197	77	1,014	68	2,211	73
February 2001	1,208	78	1,051	70	2,259	74
February 2002	1,221	78	1,044	69	2,265	73
February 2003	1,233	78	1,047	68	2,280	73
February 2004	1,248	78	1,064	69	2,312	74
March 2005	1,252	79	1,068	69	2,320	74
March 2006	1,251	78	1,072	69	2,322	74

[1] Persons aged 16 and over.
[2] Persons of working age – males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59.
Note:
Estimates are subject to sampling variability. Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with particular caution.
Source:
Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population Survey

Young People: Training

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the provision of youth training opportunities in the public sector. [152569]

Mr. Lammy: Around a third of the current total of 250,000 apprenticeships are being delivered in the public sector. We want to expand apprenticeships to meet Lord Leitch's ambition for 500,000 apprentices in learning in the UK (400,000 in England) by 2020. I will be speaking to my ministerial colleagues about this over the coming weeks.

PRIME MINISTER

Parliamentary Questions

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister what criteria apply in deciding which ordinary written parliamentary questions of which no previous notice has been given shall be answered on the next day. [153753]

Helen Goodman: I have been asked to reply.

All Ministers aim to answer all parliamentary questions as soon as possible.

WALES

Administration of Justice

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has held with Welsh ministers on the possible devolution of responsibility for criminal justice to the National Assembly for Wales. [151855]

Mr. Hain: None.

Departments: Official Hospitality

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many receptions were held at Gwydyr House in each of the last five years. [152836]

Mr. Hain: The following is a breakdown of the number of receptions hosted year on year in Gwydyr House.

	Receptions
2003	3
2004	3
2005	6
2006	5
2007	4

Departments: Stationery

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on stationery in each of the last five years. [152835]

Mr. Hain: Stationery is supplied under a general office supplies contract, and its cost within the total is not identified separately.

National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) Order 2007

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when he expects the draft National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) Order 2007 to be laid before the House. [152696]

Mr. Hain: The proposed draft order was placed in the Vote Office and Library of the House today, 26 July 2007. Copies can also be downloaded via the Wales Office website.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Official Report: Paper

Andrew George: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, what estimate he has made of the amount of paper required to distribute copies of the *Official Report* to all right hon. and hon. Members' Westminster and constituency offices during a sitting week. [152903]

Nick Harvey: Copies of the daily part of the *Official Report* are not distributed to all right hon. and hon. Members' offices, but 252 copies are distributed to the offices or other addresses of Members who have specifically requested such a distribution by completing a sessional demand form.

In all an average of 1,758 copies of the *Official Report* are produced daily. The total amount of paper, including run-up, waste and trimmings, used in the production of the daily part of the *Official Report* during a typical sitting week of four sitting days is approximately 3 tonnes. The 252 copies distributed on request to the Members' offices equate to an amount of paper of just under 450 kg.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Coal: Sulphur

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will undertake research on the sulphur content of coal mined in the United Kingdom. [150716]

Malcolm Wicks: Information about the typical sulphur content of UK coal reserves is readily available in a range of technical publications. In addition, integrated pollution prevention and control regulations require regular sampling and analysis of the sulphur content of coal being used in processes within their scope, such as electricity generation, with the amalgamated reported data being published by the Environment Agency. This is in addition to any sampling carried out by UK producers and their customers to ensure that shipments comply with contract terms.

Electricity: Energy Supply

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations his Department has made to electricity providers on disruptions to the electricity supply in the last three years. [152734]

Malcolm Wicks: Electrical inspectors in my Department receive reports of significant interruptions to electricity supply and investigate incidents if the circumstances are warranted. For example inspectors looked into the interruptions at Hurst, London, in October 2006 (National Grid—transformer failure); Carnaby Street, London, in July 2006 (EDF—transformer and underground cable failure); in southern Scotland in March 2006 (storm impact); at Bournemouth in November 2005 (Southern Electricity—fire affecting overhead power line); at Carlisle in January 2005 (United Utilities—substation flooded); and at Birmingham in February 2004 (Aquila now Central Networks—fire in cable tunnel).

Inspectors also look into circumstances of specific localised power failures affecting individual customers, if problems remain unresolved.

My officials also liaise closely with electricity companies on an ongoing basis to ensure arrangements are in place to handle large-scale emergency situations.

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what records his Department keeps of disruptions to the electricity supply. [152737]

Malcolm Wicks: My Department maintains records of significant interruptions to electricity supply in GB.

These are reported to the Department in accordance with regulation 32 of the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002 as amended. Electricity transmission and distribution companies are required to report incidents affecting 20 MW of demand or more for more than three minutes, or 5 MW of demand or more for more than one hour, or 5,000 customers or more for more than one hour.

Electricity: Meters

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will have a meeting with the gas and electricity suppliers, smart meter manufacturers and environmental stakeholders including Energywatch and the Carbon Trust to discuss the Government's plans for smart meters. [148223]

Malcolm Wicks: My Department has had and will continue to have further discussion on its proposals for smart meters with a range of interested parties, including energy suppliers, metering manufacturers and environmental stakeholders. The Government have also indicated that they will consult on the implementation of proposals in the context of their ambition to see a roll-out of smart meters within 10 years.

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department has taken to raise awareness with the public and business of obligations and responsibilities relating to the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive. [151735]

Malcolm Wicks: The WEEE regulations place a number of obligations on producers and retailers of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) to provide information to consumers as to how best they can dispose of their WEEE to help protect the environment. From 1 July consumers are receiving information from retailers when they buy a new item of electrical equipment on how they can do this.

A number of trade associations have been helping to raise awareness among their members. The Department

has organised roadshows, seminars and mailouts as well as press and publicity in national, regional and trade publications. Further briefing events will be taking place in September across the UK for small businesses.

Energy Development Unit

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what measures are in place in the Energy Development Unit to govern gifts and hospitality provided by energy companies; and if he will make a statement; [151772]

(2) what the total value is of gifts and hospitality received by the Energy Development Unit from energy companies in each year since 1997. [151773]

Malcolm Wicks: All civil servants in the Department are required to follow the Department's guidance on the acceptance of hospitality and gifts, set out in the staff handbook.

The guidance recognises that, in the business world, hospitality is a common and well established means of maintaining working relationships and conducting business and that, in these circumstances, civil servants may accept it when the issues of propriety and possible conflicts of interest have been properly considered.

Under this guidance, a gifts and hospitality register was established in 1998, on which is registered all gifts over £10 in value and all material hospitality accepted.

The register was not set up to record the estimated value of gifts or hospitality until 2001 and the guidance does not require estimates to be entered when they may not be known or meaningful, for instance in the case of lunches or dinners. The following table shows the total of the values recorded between 2001 and 22 July 2007, and the percentage of entries where no value was given.

Value of gifts and hospitality received from energy companies: 2001-07

Year	*Value recorded (£)*	*Percentage that were not given a value*
2001	2,242	74
2002	1,741	65
2003	612	71
2004	1,442	51
2005	1,313	54
2006	3,403	32
2007[1]	1,626	38

[1] To 22 July

Export Controls

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans the Government have to tighten end-use controls over the re-export of UK supplies components as part of their review of export control legislation. [152259]

Malcolm Wicks: As the hon. Member is aware, I announced on 18 June 2007 a review of the export control legislation introduced in 2004 under the Export Control Act 2002. This includes a public consultation which seeks comments on the impact and effectiveness of the legislation and whether there is a need to change or enhance the controls.

In these circumstances I am unable to comment substantively on the potential for changes to the controls as this would risk prejudging the outcome of the review. However, the consultation document includes options for amending the Military End-Use Control, which currently applies in specified circumstances to components that are not controlled elsewhere in the legislation.

Where items that are being exported are licensable under current UK export control legislation, all known relevant factors, including whether the items are for incorporation into other equipment for re-export to a third country, are taken into account in the assessment of licence applications. When it is clear that military goods will be re-exported or that the equipment into which they are incorporated will be re-exported to a country covered by a full scope military arms embargo, the application for those items will be refused under the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria.

Respondents to the consultation will be able to provide their views, reasoning and evidence on this issue, as well as raising any other areas where they believe that the Government should consider changing the controls.

Housing: South East Region

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations the South East England Development Agency has made to the South East England regional assembly on the level of the yearly house building target in the Regional Spatial Strategy. [153738]

Mr. Timms: Following the South East England regional assembly's adoption of housing growth options in October 2004, SEEDA commissioned work to explore the needs of the region's economy. This established that maintaining present economic growth rates would require up to 45,000 new houses per annum, and that improvements in productivity and economic activity rates could reduce this requirement to 34,800 new houses per year while maintaining overall growth rates.

On the basis of this work (which was published by SEEDA), SEEDA's board agreed in March 2005 a response to the Regional Spatial Strategy consultation draft (published in April 2005) which made the case for a minimum average level of housing growth of 34,800 units per year 2006-26. The regional assembly adopted a proposed profile of 32,000 units per annum for 2006-11 and 36,000 units per annum for 2011-26.

Once the draft RSS was published in April 2006, SEEDA's board reconsidered the evidence at its June 2006 meeting and reaffirmed its support for the housing growth levels given above.

On this basis, SEEDA submitted written objections to the draft RSS which were considered by the Panel of Inspectors at the Examination in Public (October 2006-March 2007).

Manufacturing Industries: Balance of Trade

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the latest annual figure is for the trade deficit in manufacturing; and what steps his Department is taking to reduce it. [153307]

Mr. Timms: The Office for National Statistics estimates that the UK trade deficit in manufactures (Standard International Trade Classification sections 5 to 8) was about £51.9 billion in 2006 on a balance of payments basis.

The Government are strongly committed to the development of a high-value modern manufacturing sector which competes effectively in global markets. We have been successful in providing a stable macro-economic framework in which business can prosper and grow and are taking action through the manufacturing strategy to enable manufacturers to move to high value-added production through the application of science and innovation and the development of world class skills.

Nuclear Power Stations

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral answer of 4 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 954-5, whether the Government have made a decision to build new nuclear power stations; and if he will make a statement. [152314]

Malcolm Wicks: Before we make a decision on nuclear, we are committed to consulting. Our nuclear consultation was published on 23 May. The Government have a preliminary view that it would be in the public interest to give energy companies the option to consider nuclear alongside other forms of low carbon electricity generation, but have not made a decision.

The Government will consider all responses as part of the consultation and will make a decision later this year after, and in the light of, the consultation.

Renewables Obligation

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect of the renewables obligation on carbon dioxide emissions. [151950]

Malcolm Wicks: Between 2002-03, when the RO was introduced, and 2005-06—the latest date for which figures are available from Ofgem—the RO was responsible for 37.9 TWh of generation from renewable sources. This amounts to a saving of 5.2 MtC.

Work by Oxera, published alongside the consultation on banding the RO on 23 May 2007, suggests that unchanged, the RO is estimated to save 90.6 MtC over its lifetime (until 2026-27).

Renewables generation assets, such as wind farms, which have been built to take advantage of the RO will continue in operation after the RO has come to an end, providing further savings beyond 2026-27.

Severn Barrage

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, *(b)* the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and *(c)* the wildlife trusts on the proposal to build a Severn tidal barrage. [151704]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 24 July 2007]:* There is no specific proposal at present to build a Severn barrage, so I have not had any discussions with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) or any of the wildlife trusts on this issue.

However, the Sustainable Development Commission, with financial support from various parties including my Department, is undertaking a major study of tidal power in the UK. The study is looking at various options for harnessing the potential tidal energy resource that exists around the UK, including within the Severn estuary.

The study has included a programme of stakeholder and public engagement, as part of which the SDC has held discussions with the RSPB and the statutory conservation agencies. The SDC's final report is expected to be published in September and further details of the study can be seen at

www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/tidal.html.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will ask the Sustainable Development Commission to take evidence from right hon. and hon. Members representing constituencies in the areas around the river Severn as part of its study of tidal power in the UK. [151896]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 24 July 2007]:* A central part of the Sustainable Development Commission's (SDC) work has been a public and stakeholder engagement programme. Although not aimed exclusively at Members for the Severn region constituencies, a stakeholder workshop held in Cardiff and an online forum on the SDC website have provided Members with the opportunity to contribute to the study.

Given that the study is now at an advanced stage and with the final report expected in September, I am doubtful about whether the SDC would find it reasonably practicable to accommodate such a request. However, Members are free to directly approach the SDC, with which any decision on whether or not to accept further representations rests.

It is worth pointing out that were any specific development proposal taken forward, significant public consultation would be required.

Shipping

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will *(a)* initiate and *(b)* evaluate research on the effect on the UK economy of the diminishing size of the UK merchant navy's (i) number of British-registered ships, (ii) number of UK merchant navy officers and (iii) UK maritime skills base; and if he will make a statement. [R] [152366]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

Government reports and statistics monitor changes in the UK merchant navy and the effect of these changes on the UK economy on a regular basis. The Department for Transport's (DfT) annual "Maritime Statistics" records the size of the UK merchant fleet.

In recent years, the UK registered fleet has not been diminishing, as the hon. Member suggests. Between December 1997 and March 2007 the number of UK registered ships increased by over a quarter to over 1,900 (of which 1,459 are merchant vessels), while their deadweight capacity increased fourfold from 3.5 million tonnes to 14 million tonnes.

The DfT has commissioned London Metropolitan University to produce an annual assessment of the number of UK merchant navy officers, ratings, and new trainees, published in "United Kingdom Seafarers Analysis". The DfT has also commissioned two studies from Cardiff University in 1996 and 2003 on "The UK economy's requirements for people with experience of working at sea". In addition the Inland Revenue and the DfT produced a "Post Implementation Review of Tonnage Tax" in 2004.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women aged *(a)* under 16, *(b)* 16 to 18, *(c)* 19 to 24, *(d)* 25 to 29, *(e)* 30 to 34, *(f)* 35 to 39 and *(g)* over 40 years of age in (i) Essex strategic health authority and (ii) England and Wales who had an abortion in 2006 had (A) no children, (B) one child, (C) two children, (D) three children, (E) four children and (F) five or more children. [152785]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is set out in the following table.

(i) Total abortions for residents of Essex PCTs[1] by number of previous births, 2006

	Total previous pregnancies that resulted in a live or still birth						
Age[2]	0	1	2	3	4	5 and more	Total
under 18	533	—	—	—	—	—	554
18 to 19	549	—	—	—	—	—	636
20 to 24	931	300	140	—	—	—	1,427
25 to 29	448	266	241	86	—	—	1,072
30 to 34	172	190	247	114	—	—	781
35 to 39	121	117	265	112	—	—	686
40 and over	34	45	116	66	—	—	283
Total all ages	2,788	1,009	1,025	424	133	60	5,439

[1] Totals shown relate to PCTs for Mid Essex, North East Essex, South East Essex, South West Essex and West Essex.
[2] Age groups are shown as published so as not to overlap ages and (for reasons of confidentiality) reveal small numbers, suppressed value or where a presented total would reveal a suppressed value.

(ii) Total abortions by number of previous births, England and Wales, 2006

	Total previous pregnancies that resulted in a live or still birth						
Age[1]	0	1	2	3	4	5 and more	Total
under 16	3,960	—	—	—	—	—	3,990
16 and 17	13,721	—	—	—	—	—	14,629
18 and 19	18,625	3,448	533	—	—	—	22,667
20 to 24	35,293	12,751	5,600	1,360	274	62	55,340
25 to 29	18,735	9,341	7,828	3,244	928	320	40,396
30 to 34	7,981	6,491	8,020	3,670	1,323	668	28,153
35 to 39	3,682	3,903	6,877	3,481	1,341	790	20,074
40 and over	1,174	1,504	3,066	1,693	630	421	8,488
Total all ages	103,171	38,295	31,985	13,495	4,517	2,274	193,737

[1] Age groups are shown as publisned so as not to overlap ages and (for reasons of confidentiality) reveal small numbers, suppressed value or where a presented total would reveal a suppressed value.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortions were carried out at each week of gestation *(a)* between four and 17 weeks and *(b)* from 24 weeks in 2006; what the (i) age of mother, (ii) residency of mother, (iii) grounds for abortion, (iv) marital status of mother, (v) number of previous children and (vi) number of previous abortions were in each case; and how many and what percentage of those abortions were performed in the (A) public and (B) private sectors. [152857]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is set out in the following tables.

(i) Abortions by age and gestation, residents, England and Wales, 2006

	Gestation										
Age	3 & 4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
u20	124	1,118	4,085	6,411	7,860	5,601	4,888	3,127	2,344	1,271	1,050
20-24	254	2,156	6,715	9,659	10,351	7,337	6,138	3,763	2,770	1,502	1,157
25-29	270	2,120	5,872	7,915	7,457	5,014	3,976	2,365	1,707	935	620
30-34	199	1,536	4,424	5,536	5,039	3,420	2,671	1,637	1,160	654	408
35+	205	1,670	4,632	5,753	5,088	3,220	2,578	1,499	1,208	763	456

(i) Abortions by age and gestation, residents, England and Wales, 2006

	Gestation										
Age	*3 & 4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*9*	*10*	*11*	*12*	*13*	*14*
Total	1,052	8,600	25,728	35,274	35,795	24,592	20,251	12,391	9,189	5,125	3,691

	Gestation										
Age	*15*	*16*	*17*	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21*	*22*	*23*	*24+*	*Total*
u20	810	553	483	375	357	262	213	175	168	11	41,286
20-24	891	619	516	386	324	280	207	172	121	22	55,340
25-29	513	352	311	250	180	176	125	112	98	28	40,396
30-34	369	222	194	165	104	117	113	76	66	43	28,153
35+	341	256	203	181	146	97	96	81	57	32	28,562
Total	2,924	2,002	1,707	1,357	1,111	932	754	616	510	136	193,737

Note:
Totals are grouped where there are less than 10 (0 to 9) cases, or where a presented value would reveal a total less than 10 (0 to 9) when used with data already published.

(ii) Abortions by country of residence and gestation, performed in England and Wales, 2006

	Gestation										
Country of residence	*3 & 4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*9*	*10*	*11*	*12*	*13*	*14*
England and Wales	1,052	8,600	25,728	35,274	35,795	24,592	20,251	12,391	9,189	5,125	3,691
Scotland	—	—	43	57	48	19	16	—	—	—	—
Republic of Ireland	—	—	482	1,015	968	735	438	353	246	171	91
Other non England and Wales residents	—	—	186	333	348	238	182	119	86	54	68

	Gestation										
Country of residence	*15*	*16*	*17*	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21*	*22*	*23*	*24+*	*Total*
England and Wales	2,924	2,002	1,707	1,357	1,111	932	754	616	510	136	193,737
Scotland	—	—	—	11	20	27	20	31	—	—	362
Republic of Ireland	94	71	77	56	28	37	25	15	—	—	5,042
Other non England and Wales residents	57	59	55	45	35	28	25	20	—	—	2,032

Note:
Totals are grouped where there are less than 10 (0 to 9) cases, or where a presented value would reveal a total less than 10 (0 to 9) when used with data already published.

(iii) Abortions by grounds, residents, England and Wales, 2006

	Gestation								
Grounds	*9 and under*	*10*	*11*	*12*	*13*	*14*	*15*	*16*	*17*
Section 1(1)(a) and other[1]	131,020	20,240	12,333	8,964	4,823	3,515	2,819	1,889	1,589
Section 1(1)(d)	21	11	58	225	302	176	105	113	118
Total	131,041	20,251	12,391	9,189	5,125	3,691	2,924	2,002	1,707

	Gestation							
Grounds	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21*	*22*	*23*	*24+*	*Total*
Section 1(1)(a) and other[1]	1,242	1,021	787	573	485	398	0	191,698
Section 1(1)(d)	115	90	145	181	131	112	[1]136	2,039
Total	1,357	1,111	932	754	616	510	136	193,737

[1] Abortions 24 weeks and over and carried out under sections 1(1)(b), 1(1)(c) and 1(4) of the Abortion Act are included in total 136.
Note:
Totals are grouped where there are less than 10 (0 to 9) cases, or where a presented value would reveal a total less than 10 (0 to 9) when used with data already published.

More detail for grounds by gestation group can be found in Table 7b of Abortion Statistics, England and Wales, 2006

Section 1(1)(a): that the pregnancy has not exceeded its twenty-fourth week and that the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk, greater than if the pregnancy were terminated, of injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman or any existing children of her family.

Section 1(1)(b): that the termination is necessary to prevent grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman.

Section 1(1)(c): that the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk to the life of the pregnant woman, greater than if the pregnancy were terminated.

Section 1 (1)(d): that there is a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped

Section 1(4): that the termination is immediately necessary to save the life or to prevent grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman.

(iv) Abortions by marital status and gestation, residents, England and Wales, 2006

	Gestation										
Marital status	*3 & 4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*9*	*10*	*11*	*12*	*13*	*14*
Single	614	4,793	14,752	21,967	24,110	16,997	14,141	8,663	6,505	3,459	2,645
Married	126	1,322	3,638	5,301	4,854	3,138	2,407	1,424	1,112	754	408
Divorced, separated, widowed	39	295	782	1,025	1,003	657	551	298	236	140	102
Not known/not stated	273	2,190	6,556	6,981	5,828	3,800	3,152	2,006	1,336	772	536
Total	1,052	8,600	25,728	35,274	35,795	24,592	20,251	12,391	9,189	5,125	3,691

	Gestation										
Marital status	*15*	*16*	*17*	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21*	*22*	*23*	*24+*	*Total*
Single	1,931	1,355	1,127	924	750	625	504	397	349	49	126,657
Married	300	231	225	177	150	154	147	117	99	66	26,150
Divorced, separated, widowed	87	52	35	34	23	14	—	11	—	—	5,403
Not known/not stated	606	364	320	222	188	139	—	91	—	—	35,527
Total	2,924	2,002	1,707	1,357	1,111	932	754	616	510	136	193,737

Note:
Totals are grouped where there are less than 10 (0 to 9) cases, or where a presented value would reveal a total less than 10 (0 to 9) when used with data already published.

(v) Abortions by number of previous live or stillbirths and gestation, residents, England and Wales, 2006

	Gestation										
Number of previous live or stillbirths over 24 weeks	*3 & 4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*9*	*10*	*11*	*12*	*13*	*14*
0	630	4,697	13,815	18,880	19,204	13,029	10,428	6,443	4,766	2,699	1,921
1	192	1,495	4,795	6,579	6,964	4,924	4,239	2,567	1,962	1,130	833
2	162	1,549	4,571	6,128	5,989	4,071	3,295	1,960	1,415	736	556
3 or more	68	859	2,547	3,687	3,638	2,568	2,289	1,421	1,046	560	381
Total	1,052	8,600	25,728	35,274	35,795	24,592	20,251	12,391	9,189	5,125	3,691

	Gestation										
Number of previous live or stillbirths over 24 weeks	*15*	*16*	*17*	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21*	*22*	*23*	*24+*	*Total*
0	1,555	1,060	915	730	641	550	445	386	313	64	103,171
1	671	431	362	298	239	186	164	122	103	39	38,295
2	390	307	232	169	118	113	89	64	52	19	31,985
3 or more	308	204	198	160	113	83	56	44	42	14	20,286
Total	2,924	2,002	1,707	1,357	1,111	932	754	616	510	136	193,737

Note:
Totals are grouped where there are less than 10 (0 to 9) cases, or where a presented value would reveal a total less than 10 (0 to 9) when used with data already published.

(vi) Abortions by number of previous abortions, residents, England and Wales, 2006

	Gestation										
Number of previous abortions	*3 & 4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*9*	*10*	*11*	*12*	*13*	*14*
0	711	5,771	17,303	23,597	24,646	16,696	13,945	8,380	6,210	3,514	2,542
1	278	2,159	6,432	8,925	8,463	5,966	4,772	3,007	2,307	1,257	883
2 or more	63	670	1,993	2,752	2,686	1,930	1,534	1,004	672	354	266
Total	1,052	8,600	25,728	35,274	35,795	24,592	20,251	12,391	9,189	5,125	3,691

	Gestation										
Number of previous abortions	*15*	*16*	*17*	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21*	*22*	*23*	*24+*	*Total*
0	1,995	1,365	1,193	961	788	657	586	471	379	123	131,833
1	709	473	396	305	252	220	124	117	—	—	47,156
2 or more	220	164	118	91	71	55	44	28	—	—	14,748
Total	2,924	2,002	1,707	1,357	1,111	932	754	616	510	136	193,737

Number of previous abortions	Gestation 15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24+	Total

Note:
Totals are grouped where there are less than 10 (0 to 9) cases, or where a presented value would reveal a total less than 10 (0 to 9) when used with data already published.

Abortions by purchaser and gestation, numbers and percentages, residents, England and Wales, 2006

	Purchaser							
	NHS		NHS Agency		Private		Total	
Gestation	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
3 & 4	73	7	440	42	539	51	1,052	100
5	1,285	15	4,193	49	3,122	36	8,600	100
6	6,194	24	12,759	50	6,775	26	25,728	100
7	10,153	29	18,715	53	6,406	18	35,274	100
8	16,173	45	16,124	45	3,498	10	35,795	100
9	12,493	51	10,394	42	1,705	7	24,592	100
10	11,535	57	7,625	38	1,091	5	20,251	100
11	6,722	54	4,999	40	670	5	12,391	100
12	4,425	48	4,214	46	550	6	9,189	100
13	2,004	39	2,786	54	335	7	5,125	100
14	1,246	34	2,273	62	172	5	3,691	100
15	786	27	1,897	65	241	8	2,924	100
16	569	28	1,264	63	169	8	2,002	100
17	409	24	1,160	68	138	8	1,707	100
18	276	20	953	70	128	9	1,357	100
19	17	16	837	75	99	9	1,111	100
20	182	20	660	71	90	0	932	100
21	212	28	490	65	52	7	754	100
22	152	25	383	62	81	3	616	100
23	128	25	328	64	54	11	510	100
24+	136	100	0		0		136	100
Total	75,328	39	92494	48	25,915	13	193,737	100

Note:
Percentages are rounded and may not add up to 100.

Abortion: Children

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many children under 18 years had *(a)* a third and *(b)* fourth abortion in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; [152782]

(2) how many women in *(a)* Essex Strategic Health Authority and *(b)* England and Wales had an abortion in 2006 who had already had (i) six and (ii) seven previous abortions. [152784]

Dawn Primarolo: Numbers of abortions to women age under 18 who have had a third or fourth abortion are not available for release for confidentiality reasons. This is because either the totals are less than 10 (between zero and nine cases) or because a presented total would reveal the value of a suppressed total already published. This is in line with the Office for National Statistics' guidance on the disclosure of abortion statistics (2005).

Numbers of women resident in the Essex Primary Care Trusts of Mid Essex, North East Essex, South East Essex, South West Essex and West Essex who had an abortion in 2006 who already had (i) six and (ii) seven previous abortions are also not available for release for the same reasons stated above. The numbers for England and Wales are published in Table 4b of the Statistical Bulletin "Abortion Statistics, England and Wales: 2006", copies of which are available in the Library.

Abortion: Private Sector

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the independent-sector places which applied to be registered with the Healthcare Commission to perform abortions in each of the last 12 months; how many applications were *(a)* accepted and *(b)* rejected; and if he will make a statement. [152858]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Healthcare Commission had three new applications from independent-sector places to register for the termination of pregnancy between July 2006 and the end of June 2007. The applications have yet to be determined and therefore remain commercial in confidence.

Admissions: Heart Diseases

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were admitted to hospital with congestive heart failure in each of the last five years, broken down by strategic health authority. [152919]

Ann Keen: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement by the Minister of State on 15 May 2007, *Official Report,* column

203WH, on the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy, whom the Minister of State has met; and which further stakeholders she plans to meet. [153372]

Dawn Primarolo: As the ministerial reshuffle occurred shortly after publication of the strategy and the recess is now imminent, no ministerial meetings with alcohol stakeholders have taken place since the strategy was published. However, early meetings are being sought by industry organisations, and Ministers would expect to meet them, as well as non-governmental organisations such as Alcohol Concern and senior medical representatives.

Alcoholic Drinks: Females

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the potential impact of smoke-free pubs on levels of binge drinking by women. [153632]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is not aware of any assessment or evidence on the potential impact of smoke-free pubs on levels of binge drinking by women.

Alcoholic Drinks: Health Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to incorporate alcohol monitoring in the Quality and Outcomes Framework. [147980]

Mr. Bradshaw: As part of the ongoing development of the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF), indicators and clinical areas will be reviewed in the light of the clinical evidence base. The Expert Panel which advises the QOF negotiations looks at new areas for clinical intervention by practices, in the context of value for money and the benefits to patients.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish regular progress reports on the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy. [153634]

Dawn Primarolo: The ministerial group on alcohol harm reduction, which is chaired jointly by myself and the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Gedling (Mr. Coaker), continue to monitor and manage the delivery of the priority actions and outcomes that are set out in 'Safe. Sensible. Social. The next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy'.

Information on progress against the priority actions that are detailed in 'Safe. Sensible. Social.', and links to statistical data assessing reductions in alcohol harm or changes in public awareness will be published regularly on a new Government website, the details of which will be announced in the near future.

Ambulance Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which conditions are treated by ambulance trusts as Category *(a)* A and *(b)* B emergencies. [151817]

Mr. Bradshaw: Emergency 999 calls made to ambulance control centres are prioritised so that each can be responded to according to clinical need and receive a level of care appropriate to the patient(s) condition. In order to do this national health service ambulance trusts within England use a process of call categorisation.

Call categorisation means that the caller is asked a series of questions about the patient. From the responses provided, the call is allocated a code (determinant). This provides a description of the caller's injury/illness and the severity of that problem. Software products are used to help call handlers triage and categorise calls, and the code allocated will depend on the software product used.

Each determinant has been allocated a response level, by the Department, based on independent expert advice, according to the perceived severity of the determinant description. There are three response levels:

category A applies to a call where there appears to be an immediate threat to life.

category B identifies cases that appear to be serious in nature and require urgent assessment.

category C identifies cases that appear to be neither immediately serious or life-threatening.

Lists of codes for each software product, grouped by response level, are produced annually and are published on the Department of Health's website. Copies have been placed in the Library.

Ambulance Services: Manpower

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many paramedics worked for the North West Ambulance Service and its predecessors in each of the last five years; and what the projected numbers are for *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [152870]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of paramedics (headcount) working in the specified organisations as at 30 September each year for the period 2002 to 2006 is shown in the table.

Specified organisation	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Cumbria Ambulance Service National Health Service Trust	121	144	148	146	[1]—
Greater Manchester Ambulance Service NHS Trust	334	358	381	387	[1]—
Lancashire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	166	198	210	232	[1]—
Mersey Regional Ambulance Service NHS Trust	281	337	298	416	[1]—
North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	1,175
Total of specified organisations	902	1,037	1,037	1,181	1,175

[1] Not applicable.

Source:
Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census.

Workforce planning is a matter for individual trusts to undertake, working with their commissioners and strategic health authorities. Plans need to be, and are,

regularly reviewed as circumstances change. North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust has recently provided information to the Department on projected numbers for paramedics. I understand that the trust intends to have 1,347 whole-time equivalents in employment as paramedics in 2007-08, 1,361 in 2008-09 and 1,375 in 2009-10.

In 2006, numbers of ambulance staff were collected under new, more detailed occupation codes. This included the introduction of a code for emergency care practitioners and the North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust recorded 39 ECPs in 2006.

More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total workforce figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full-time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration by those analysing trends over time.

Anaemia: Medical Treatments

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the impact of the negative guidance by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in its final appraisal of the frequent use of erythropoietins in managing cancer-related anaemia on UK blood stocks; [152992]

(2) what guidance his Department provides to clinicians managing cancer-related anaemia on the account to be taken of *(a)* the Chief Medical Officer's advice to conserve blood stocks and *(b)* the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's cost-effectiveness advice on the use of erythropoietins. [152993]

Ann Keen: We have made no such assessment. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has not yet issued final guidance to the NHS on the clinical and cost effectiveness of erythropoietins in the management of cancer treatment-induced anaemia. NICE issued an appraisal consultation document on 29 June and its Appraisal Committee will consider the responses received. NICE expects to issue final guidance later this year.

Arthritis: Young People

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what treatment options are available to people with juvenile arthritis. [153343]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Children living with juvenile arthritis are able to access a range of treatment options depending on the severity of their condition. Drugs that health professionals are able to prescribe include analgesics, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, disease-modifying drugs, corticosteroids, and anti-tumour necrosis inhibitors. Surgery and joint replacement are also available for those severely affected.

Asthma: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults were diagnosed with asthma in each London borough in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [153561]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of cases of adult and childhood asthma is not collected centrally.

Autism: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what services were provided for autistic children in each London borough in each of the last five years. [153639]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally. It is for primary care trusts to decide what services to provide for their local communities.

Blood Transfusions: Cancer

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of *(a)* the proportion and *(b)* the number of blood transfusions given to cancer patients in the latest period for which figures are available. [151997]

Ann Keen: It is estimated that at least 25 per cent. of red cells are given to patients with cancer. Not all of these units are given for direct treatment of cancer. Figures for the actual number of transfusions are not collected, but in 2006-07 the National Blood Service issued 1,864,271 units of red blood cells.

These figures are based on provisional results from the Epidemiology and Survival of Transfusion Recipients study, a National Blood Service study of patients transfused in England in 2001-02. The study is in the final stages and will be submitted for publication soon. However, it is based on data collected five years ago so it is likely that changes in blood use have occurred since then.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will introduce family history breast screening as part of the national breast screening programme; and if he will make a statement. [152926]

Ann Keen: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published a clinical guideline on familial breast cancer in May 2004, partially updated in October 2006.

The clinical guideline relates to the classification and care of women at risk of familial breast cancer in primary, secondary and tertiary care. The guideline recommends that women at moderate familial risk of breast cancer or greater should receive annual mammography or magnetic resonance imaging surveillance.

NICE clinical guidelines are covered by the Department's developmental standards, standards which the national health service is expected to achieve

over time. The Healthcare Commission has responsibility for assessing progress towards achieving these standards.

As part of the development of the new Cancer Reform Strategy, we are examining the feasibility of bringing the management of surveillance of women at moderate familial risk of breast cancer or greater into the NHS breast screening programme.

Cancer: Anaemia

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the economic cost of working days lost due to cancer-related anaemia and fatigue. [152021]

Ann Keen: The Department has made no estimate of the economic cost of working days lost due to cancer-related anaemia and fatigue.

Cancer: Drugs

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1437-40W, on cancer: drugs, what the date of licence in the UK was for each drug. [152435]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table shows the date on which each specific indication was authorised (information current at 24 July 2007).

Condition and Drugs	*Date of authorisation for specific indication*	*Drug substance*	*Notes*
Aggressive non-Hodgkin's lymphoma—rituximab (MabThera)	Specific indication is not licensed	Rituximab	MabThera is licensed for the treatment of patients with CD20 positive diffuse large B cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.
Breast cancer—docetaxel (Taxotere)	28 August 2000	Docetaxel	First line treatment for advanced or metasiatic breast cancer
Breast cancer—paclitaxel (Taxol)	27 March 2000	Paclitaxel	
Breast cancer bevacizumab (Avastin)	27 March 2007	Bevacizumab	
Breast cancer (advanced or metastatic)—lapatinib (Tyverb)	Drug substance not licensed	Lapatinib	
Breast cancer (advanced)—tratuzumab (Herceptin)	28 August 2000	Tratuzumab	
Breast cancer (advanced)—vinorelbine (Navelbine)	10 May 1996	Vinorelbine	
Breast cancer (early)—anastrozole (Arimidex)	29 October 2002	Anastrozole	
Breast cancer (early)—docetaxel (Taxotere)	Specific indication is not licensed	Docetaxel	Current licence is for advanced or metastatic breast cancer
Breast cancer (early)—exemastane (Aromasin)	26 August 2005	Exemastane	
Breast cancer (early)—letrozole (Femara)	9 September 2004	Letrozole	
Breast cancer (early)—paclitaxel (Taxol)	Specific indication is not licensed	Paclitaxel	Current licence is for advanced or metastatic breast cancer
Breast cancer (early)—trastuzumab (Herceptin)	22 May 2006	Trastuzumab	
Breast cancer (locally advanced)—capecitabine (Xeloda)	21 March 2002	Capecitabine	
Chronic lymphocytic leukaemia—fludarabine (Fludara)	11 August 1994	Fludarabine	
Chronic myeloid leukaemia—imatinib (Glivec)	7 November 2001	Imatinib	
Colon cancer (adjuvant)—capecitabine (Xeloda)	30 March 2005	Capecitabine	
Colon cancer (adjuvant)—irinotecan (Campto)	Specific indication is not licensed	Irinotecan	Not licensed for adjuvant treatment
Colon cancer (adjuvant)—oxaliplatin (Eloxatin)	18 October 2004	Oxaliplatin	
Colorectal cancer (advanced)==irinotecan (Campto)	14 July 1999	Irinotecan	
Colorectal cancer (advanced)—oxaliplatin (Eloxatin)	23 August 1999	Oxaliplatin	
Colorectal cancer (advanced)—ralitrexed (Tomudex)	11 August 1995	Ralitrexed	
Colorectal cancer (metastatic)—capecitabine (Xeloda)	2 February 2001	Capecitabine	
Colorectal cancer (metastatic)—tegafur + uracil (Uftoral)	5 January 2001	Tagafur + uracil	
Follicular lymphoma—rituximab (MabThera)	2 June 1998	Rituximab	
Gastro-intestinal stromal tumours (GIST)—imatinib (Glivec)	7 November 2001	Imatinib	
Glioblastoma multiforme (recurrent)—carmustine (Gliadel)	28 September 2000	Carmustine	

Condition and Drugs	*Date of authorisation for specific indication*	*Drug substance*	*Notes*
Glioma (newly diagnosed and high-grade)—carmustine (Gliadel)	14 December 2004	Carmustine	
Glioma (newly diagnosed and high-grade)—temozolomide (Temodal)	21 April 2005	Temozolomide	
Head & neck cancer—cetuximab (Erbitux)	29 March 2006	Cetuximab	
Lung cancer (non small cell)—bevacizumab (Avastin)	Specific indication is not licensed	Bevacizumab	Not licensed for lung cancers of any type
Lung cancer (non small cell)—erlotinib (Tarceva)	19 September 2005	Erlotinib	
Lung cancer (non small cell)—gefitinib (Iressa)	Not licensed	Gefitinib	Drug substance not licensed
Lung cancer (non small cell)—pemetrexed (Alimta)	20 September 2004	Pemetrexed	
Lung cancer (non-small cell)—paclitaxel (Taxol)	18 November 1998	Paclitaxel	
Lung cancer (non-small cell) docetaxel (Taxotere)	20 January 2000	Docetaxel	
Lung cancer (non-small cell) gemcitabine (Gemzar)	26 April 2000	Gemcitabine	
Lung cancer (non-small cell) vinorelbine (Navelbine)	10 May 1996	Vinorelbine	
Mesothelioma pemetrexed (Alimta)	20 September 2004	Pemetrexed	
Metastatic breast cancer—gemcitabine (Gemzar)	25 November 2004	Gemcitabine	
Metastatic colorectal cancer—bevacizumab (Avastin)	12 January 2005	Bevacizumab	
Metastatic colorectal cancer—cetuximab (Erbitux)	24 June 2004	Cetuximab	
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma—rituximab (MabThera)	21 March 2002	Rituximab	
Ovarian cancer—paclitaxel (Taxol)	11 October 1996 (for first line treatment of advanced ovarian cancer)	Paclitaxel	Original licence was for second-line treatment only
Ovarian cancer—pegylated liposomal doxorubicin (Caelyx)	24 October 2000	Doxorubicin	
Ovarian cancer (advanced)— topotecan (Hycamtin)	12 November 1996	Topotecan	
Pancreatic cancer gemcitabine (Gemzar)	30 October 1996	Gemcitabine	
Pancreatic cancer—Rubetican	Not licensed	Rubetican	Drug substance not licensed
Prostate cancer Atrasentan	Not licensed	Atrasentan	Drug substance not licensed
Prostate cancer—docetaxel (Taxotere)	6 February 2004	Docetaxel	
Recurrent malignant glioma—temozolomide (Temodal)	20 January 1999	Temozolomide	
Relapsed multiple myeloma—bortezomib (Velcade)	26 April 2004	Bortezomib	
Renal cell carcinoma—bevacizumab (Avastin)	Specific indication is not licensed	Bevacizumab	Substance not licensed for renal cancers
Renal cell carcinoma—sorafenib tosylate (Nexavar)	29 July 2004	Sorafenib tosylate	
Renal cell carcinoma—sunitinib (Sutent)	11 January 2007	Sunitinib	

Cardiovascular System: Screening

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in identifying a suitable risk assessment engine to calculate cardiovascular risk in patients in England and Wales; and what consideration has been given to the importance of including waist circumference for assessment by such a tool. [152178]

Ann Keen: Recent publications by the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network and by the QResearch group, the latter in the *British Medical Journal*, have outlined new approaches to cardiovascular risk assessment. These publications offer significant contribution to the debate that will now take place as a result of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's recent publication of draft clinical guidelines on lipid modification, which covers cardiovascular risk assessment. The Department is monitoring this debate with interest.

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the reasons are for the delay in his Department's Vascular Programme and guidance on vascular assessment; and when he expects this to be published; [152179]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that the guidance on vascular risk assessment being prepared by his Department will be implemented successfully at primary care level. [152361]

Ann Keen: The Department has made no commitment to publish guidance on vascular risk assessment. There has been no delay in the publication of such guidance.

The Department's Vascular Programme Board has been giving careful consideration to the potential benefits of a more integrated approach to vascular risk assessment and management. This is a complex area, which requires further study particularly in the light of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's recently published draft guidance on lipid modification, which covers cardiovascular risk assessment.

Chiropody: Training

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has taken steps to protect the numbers of pre-registration training commissions for podiatrists. [149269]

Ann Keen: Within the overall resources allocated, it is a matter for each strategic health authority (SHA) to determine its own priorities including how much is spent on pre-registration training commissions for podiatrists. Under the current service level agreement with SHAs each SHA is expected to provide for investment in training commissions based on long-term work force need and local financial plans.

Chronically Sick People

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the role of specialist nurses in the delivery of health and social care to those with long-term conditions. [152007]

Ann Keen: Specialist nurses provide a valuable additional resource in the treatment and management of many long-term conditions. They can help people to manage their condition to maintain stability, improve quality of life and prevent frequent admission to hospital and reduce length of stay

The Government remain committed to the continued development of such roles, and to ensuring that there are enough specialist nurses and other health care professionals to provide high quality services for all client groups.

The responsibility for specific staffing numbers and skill mix rests with the local national health service. We have given local NHS organisations the freedom to decide how best to use their resources, in consultation with local stakeholders, as they know the health needs of their local communities best.

CJD: Blood

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to make the use of prion removal blood filters mandatory in the UK should the tests on prion removal blood filters in blood transfusions in Ireland prove successful. [153532]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Kettering (Mr. Hollobone), 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1298W.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely number of vCJD blood transfusion transfer cases over the next two years. [153534]

Dawn Primarolo: No estimates have been made of the likely number of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) cases arising from blood transfusion over the next two years. However the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC) did issue a position statement on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy infectivity in blood in 2006. A copy of the statement can be found on the SEAC website at

www.seac.gov.uk/statements

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what studies have been carried out on prion removal of blood filters in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [153535]

Dawn Primarolo: The United Kingdom blood services are independently evaluating the efficacy of the prion reduction filters that are currently available and which meet the qualifying criteria laid down by the Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs for Transplantation.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of vCJD have been recorded in the UK as a result of blood transfusions. [153536]

Dawn Primarolo: There have been three cases of Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) in the United Kingdom arising from blood transfusions from donors who subsequently died of vCJD. All three patients have died. A fourth patient who received a transfusion from a donor who subsequently died was also found to have abnormal prion protein in the spleen and a lymph node after dying of an unrelated illness.

Colorectal Cancer: Screening

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many inquiries to the *(a)* NHS Direct telephone service and *(b)* NHS Direct online service on the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme have been made since April 2006. [151967]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held centrally. This is a matter for the Chief Executive of the NHS Direct Trust.

Community First Responder Groups: North West Region

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Community First Responder groups there are in each of the five counties in the north west region. [152868]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally by the Department. This would be a matter for the chair of the North West Ambulance Service.

Community Nurses: Abuse

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many community nurses experienced *(a)* physical abuse and *(b)* verbal abuse in each year since 1997; how many representations his Department has received about abuse towards community nurses; and if he will make a statement. [151469]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected in the format requested.

In April 2003 the NHS Security Management Service (NHS SMS) was created and assumed responsibility for the issue of tackling violence against NHS staff. Since its creation, the NHS SMS has collected data on the number of reported physical assaults against national health service staff in England for the reporting periods 2004-05 and 2005-06, broken down by NHS trust. This data has been placed in the Library.

Both the Department and the NHS SMS take the security of community nurses very seriously. The NHS SMS is in continual contact with a wide range of stakeholders representing and involved in the work of community nursing.

"Not Alone: A guide for the better protection of lone workers in the NHS" was issued by the NHS SMS in March 2005.

Compulsorily Detained Mental Patients

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were sectioned under the Mental Health Act 1983 in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* type of section and *(b)* age of patient. [151021]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information about the number of patients detained in England under the Mental Health Act 1983 by type of section in national health service hospitals and independent hospitals registered to detain people under the Mental Health Act 1983 between 1997 and 2006 has been obtained from the Information Centre for health and social care. This information is shown in the following table.

Information about the age of patients detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 is not held centrally.

All formal admissions to independent hospitals registered to detain patients under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation, by legal status, 1996-97 to 2005-06. Includes changes in legal status from informal to formal of patients while in the hospital—England

Number of admissions

	1996-97	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*[R]	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Total formal admissions[1]	1,297	1,451	1,842	1,968	1,816	2,193	1,806	1,829	2,029	1,934
From informal to formal— total	399	486	583	555	410	524	503	426	400	321
informal to 5(2) and 5(4)	232	291	346	308	251	283	273	292	274	194
informal to 2	83	90	109	139	96	140	116	65	48	45
informal to 3	84	105	128	108	63	101	114	69	78	82
Formal admissions into hospital (excl. place of safety detentions)	898	965	1,259	1,413	1,406	1,669	1,303	1,403	1,629	1,613
Part II patients—total	773	866	1,045	1,233	1,208	1,439	1,056	1,119	1,220	1,301
2	322	389	454	545	491	573	423	460	483	582
3	412	457	561	669	705	846	621	652	732	712
4	38	20	30	19	12	20	12	7	5	7
Court and prison disposals—total	122	93	205	173	185	217	244	279	405	302
35	7	7	8	7	14	11	10	11	15	16
36	2	1	2	—	3	4	2	3	3	1
37(4)[2]	22	25	52	39	—	—	—	—	—	—
37 (with S41 restrictions)	30	17	73	51	48	74	65	46	88	92
37 (without S41 restrictions)	—	—	—	—	56	61	66	62	99	93
45A	5	7	17	21	—	—	—	—	—	—
47 (with S49 restrictions)	—	—	—	3	8	12	38	48	71	31
47 (without S49 restrictions)	9	26	31	33	10	5	7	15	21	9
48 (with S49 restrictions)	1	5	6	4	34	36	31	73	64	33

All formal admissions to independent hospitals registered to detain patients under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation, by legal status, 1996-97 to 2005-06. Includes changes in legal status from informal to formal of patients while in the hospital—England

Number of admissions

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04[R]	2004-05	2005-06
48 (without S49 restrictions)	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	6	12	—
Other sections—38, 44, 46	46	5	16	15	11	14	25	15	31	27
Previous legislation (Fifth Schedule) and other Acts	3	6	9	7	13	13	3	5	4	10

[1] From 1995-96 transfers between providers without a change in legal status are not included. Changes from informal to formal status while in hospital area also included.
[2] From 1995-96, these admissions are counted under the appropriate section at the point was formally admitted to hospital.
[R] Revised from bulletin published in December 2004.
Source:
KH15, K037 and KP90

All formal admissions to NHS facilities (including high security psychiatric hospitals) of patients detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation, by legal status, 1995-96 to 2005-06. Includes changes in legal status from informal to formal of patients while in hospital—England

Number of admissions

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04[R]	2004-05	2005-06
Total formal admissions[1]	40,965	39,943	42,578	45,063	44,731	44,765	44,652	43,558	42,623	43,296	43,942
From informal to formal—total	16,326	17,116	18,128	19,413	19,444	19,539	20,112	18,458	17,818	18,173	18,202
informal to 5(2)	8,927	9,438	9,709	10,244	10,091	10,081	10,254	9,534	8,894	8,232	7,637
informal to 5(4)	1,315	1,505	1,616	1,706	1,773	1,932	1,948	1,909	1,779	1,839	1,673
informal to 2	2,429	2,266	2,344	2,483	2,655	2,628	2,525	2,299	2,481	3,003	3,425
informal to 3	3,655	4,107	4,467	4,980	4,925	4,898	5,385	4,716	4,664	5,099	5,467
Formal admissions into hospital (excl. place of safety detentions)	24,639	22,827	24,450	25,650	25,287	25,226	24,540	25,100	24,805	25,123	25,740
Under Mental Health Act 1983: Part II patients—total	22,570	21,045	22,659	23,980	23,807	23,890	23,211	23,812	23,468	23,834	24,317
2	12,292	11,084	12,225	13,200	12,940	13,152	13,027	13,623	13,650	14,327	14,683
3	8,915	8,479	8,854	9,091	9,030	8,955	8,149	8,386	8,235	8,236	8,435
4	1,363	1,482	1,580	1,689	1,837	1,783	2,035	1,803	1,583	1,271	1,199
Court and prison disposals—total	1,836	1,751	1,762	1,655	1,468	1,293	1,279	1,254	1,322	1,259	1,362
35	271	261	262	253	191	134	126	141	130	103	116
36	21	31	24	21	18	15	21	21	11	9	16
37(4)[2]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
37 (with S41 restrictions)	287	255	241	253	243	211	191	177	189	190	230
37 (without S41 restrictions)	504	447	391	376	338	310	264	286	257	250	229
45A	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	3	2	—	1
47 (with S49 restrictions)	211	203	209	219	190	176	173	182	204	228	242
47 (without S49 restrictions)	29	22	31	11	17	21	36	32	51	51	47
48 (with S49 restrictions)	341	333	403	374	320	262	313	266	276	282	328
48 (without S49 restrictions)	51	41	26	24	21	14	13	13	25	8	14
Other sections—38, 44, 46	121	158	175	124	128	150	141	133	177	138	139

All formal admissions to NHS facilities (including high security psychiatric hospitals) of patients detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation, by legal status, 1995-96 to 2005-06. Includes changes in legal status from informal to formal of patients while in hospital—England

Number of admissions

	1995-96	*1996-97*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*[3]	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Previous legislation (Fifth Schedule) and other Acts	233	31	29	15	12	43	50	34	15	30	61

[1] From 1995-96, transfers between providers without a change in legal status are not included. Changes from informal to formal status while in hospital are also included.
[2] From 1995-96, these admissions are counted under the appropriate section at the point when the patient was formally admitted to hospital.
[3] Revised from bulletin published in December 2004.
Source:
KH15, KO37and KP90

Conal Timoney

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1383W, on Conal Timoney, from which company Mr. Timoney's services are being contracted; what the value is of that contract; and what Mr. Timoney's salary is. [148831]

Mr. Bradshaw: Mr. Timoney is no longer a contractor with the Department. He is engaged for the Department via a short-term national health service contract. The Department does not comment on employment terms negotiated with the NHS.

Dementia: Westmorland

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what additional community-based services have been commissioned for people suffering dementia-related illnesses in Westmorland and Lonsdale since 2006. [152892]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally.

It is for primary care trusts to commission services for their local populations and to work with the local health community and other stakeholders to plan, develop and improve health services to meet the needs of the community, including people suffering dementia-related illnesses.

Dental Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 156-7W, on dental services, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that units of dental activity which were commissioned in 2006-07 but not provided by 1 April 2007 are provided by primary care trusts in 2007-08. [152220]

Ann Keen: The Department has provided guidance for primary care trusts on managing under-delivery of commissioned services in the document 'Primary care dental contracts: Advice on managing end-year issues'. Copies have been placed in the Library and are available at

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_064321

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what value of dental services were commissioned, expressed as units of dental activity, in *(a)* the test year of 1 October 2004 to 30 September 2005 and *(b)* the financial year immediately preceding the implementation of the new general dental services contract. [152222]

Ann Keen: Prior to April 2006, dentists providing general dental services were not subject to commissioning arrangements by primary care trusts (PCTs). Personal dental services pilot schemes were commissioned by PCTs but units of dental activity were not then available as a contract currency for setting or measuring levels of dental activity.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues to primary care trusts on applying the index of orthodontic treatment need. [152223]

Ann Keen: Guidance to primary care trusts on national health service orthodontic assessments and the index of orthodontic treatment need is set out in the document 'Strategic Commissioning of Primary Care Orthodontic Services', copies of which are placed in the Library and are also available at

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4139176

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of people in *(a)* Westmorland and Lonsdale, *(b)* the Morecambe Bay Primary Care Trust area, *(c)* the North West Region and (d) England are registered with an NHS dentist. [152871]

Ann Keen: Since April 2006, patients no longer have to be registered with a dental practice to receive national health service care and treatment.

The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') in a given area over a 12-month period, expressed as a percentage, of the estimated population for that area. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

The numbers of patients seen as a per cent. of the population in the 24 month periods ending 31 March, 30 June, 30 September, 31 December 2006 and 31 March 2007 are available in Table F2 of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England Q4: 31 March 2007 report. Information is available at strategic health authority and primary care trust (PCT) area in England.

This report has been placed in the Library and is also available on-line at

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalq4

Information cannot be made available at constituency level without disproportionate cost.

As from 1 October 2006, Morecambe Bay PCT was integrated into Cumbria PCT and North Lancashire PCT. Information for Cumbria PCT and North Lancashire PCT is included in the above report.

Dental Services: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dental practices *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each London borough in each of the last five years. [153560]

Ann Keen: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Contracts

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 235W, on Departments: contracts, how much was spent on contracts awarded to external suppliers by public bodies sponsored by his Department in each year since 2001. [151529]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not regularly collect data on contracts awarded to external suppliers by public bodies sponsored by the Department, including their spend. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 235W.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how his Department monitors contracts issued by public bodies reporting to his Department, with particular reference to the terms and conditions applied to their workforce. [151553]

Ann Keen: There is currently no mechanism for the Department to monitor contracts awarded by individual national health service trusts.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1383-5W, on departments: contracts, what contractual advantage service category 27 delivered over service category 11. [152083]

Mr. Bradshaw: In terms of the procurement of the Framework for procuring External Support for Commissioners, there is no contractual advantage to the Department arising from the use of service category 27 over service category 11.

Departments: Land

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what disposals his Department made of land in Hampshire in each year since 1997; and whether he required any of the land to be used for social housing. [149941]

Mr. Bradshaw: The table identifies the larger sites in Hampshire in the ownership of the Secretary of State for Health that have been disposed of since 1997.

	Disposal
1997	Part of Park Prewett, Basingstoke
	Part of Hazel Farm, Southampton
1998	Part of St. James' Hospital, Portsmouth
1999	Part of Hazel Farm, Southampton
	St. Paul's Hospital, Winchester
	Part of Prewett Park, Basingstoke
2000	Knowle Hospital, Fareham
2001	Part of Hazel Farm, Southampton
	Part of Lord Mayor Treloar, Alton
2002	Leigh House, Southampton
2003	Part of St. James' Hospital, Portsmouth
2004	Part of Lord Mayor Treloar, Alton
2005	Part of Park Prewett, Basingstoke
	Part of Lord Mayor Treloar
	Part of Coldeast Hospital, Fareham
	Tatchbury Hospital, Calmore
	Part Hazel Farm, Southampton

It is the responsibility of local planning authorities to identify and release land for housing as part of the planning process. This means that the requirement for the provision of social housing will need to be negotiated and agreed with the local planning authority. The Government have implemented a number of initiatives to assist with land supply for housing. A register of surplus public sector land held by central Government bodies has been established. English Partnerships reviews the sites on the register to identify those which could have the potential for housing development. As at June 2007, there were over 700 sites on the register. Sites are continually being added as they are identified as surplus by landowners and removed once expressions of interest are received after a site has been marketed.

The Department for Communities and Local Government and English Partnerships also maintain the national land use database of previously developed land (NLUD-PDL). This covers vacant and derelict land and also land in use with potential for development in public and private ownerships. Information on the sites is available from the NLUD website

www.nlud.org.uk.

In addition, English Partnerships is developing the National Brownfield Strategy which will provide a coherent vision for the future development of brownfield land to underpin national, regional and local development aspirations. The strategy will help our target for building new homes on brownfield land thereby reducing pressures on the greenbelt.

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what legislative provisions introduced by his Department since 1997 have not yet been brought into force; [149558]

(2) what legislative provisions introduced by his Department since 1997 have been repealed. [149587]

Dawn Primarolo: Seven Acts of Parliament introduced by the Department since 1997 include some sections and schedules not yet brought into force:

Acts introduced by the Department of Health since 1997	*Not yet in force*
National Health Service (Primary Care) Act 1997 (c.46)	Section 26(2)
	Schedule 2 Part I paras 46 and 64(3)
	Schedule 3 Part II
Health Act 1999 (c.8)	Section 61
Care Standards Act 2000 (c.14)	Section 64(1)(a) and (3)-(5)
	Schedule 4 para 5(7)(b), 12, 14(10)(b), (22) and (29)
	Schedule 5 paras 1 and 2
Health and Social Care Act 2001 (c.15)	Section 26(1) and (3)
	Section 55(7)
Community Care (Delayed Discharges etc.) Act 2003 (c.5)	Section 14
Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003 (c.43)	Section 107
	Section 116(3)
	Schedule 14 part 6
Health Act 2006 (c.28)	Section 36(2)

18 Acts of Parliament introduced by the Department since 1997 include some sections and schedules now repealed, details as follows. Many of these were repealed as a consequence of the National Health Service Act 2006 (c.41) which consolidated much of the previous health legislation.

Acts introduced by the Department of Health since 1997	*Repealed*
National Health Service (Primary Care) Act 1997 (c.46)	Sections 1-9
	Sections 11-20
	Section 21(1)
	Section 22(1)
	Section 23(1) and (2)
	Section 24(1)
	Section 25(1)
	Section 26(1)
	Section 27(1)
	Section 28(1)
	Section 29(1)
	Section 31(1)
	Section 32
	Section 33
	Section 34(1)
	Section 36
	Section 40(1) and (3)
	Schedule 1
	Schedule 2 paras 3-31, 65, 69[1]-81
National Health Service (Private Finance) Act 1997 (c.56)	Section 1
Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors Act 1997 (c.24)	Whole Act repealed by Health Act 1999
Pharmacists (Fitness to Practise) Act 1997 (c.19)	Whole Act repealed
Community Care (Residential Accommodation) Act 1998 (c.19)	Section 1[1]
	Section 3(2)[1]
Health Act 1999 (c.8)	Sections 2-12
	Section 13(1)-(4) and (6)-(11)
	Section 14
	Section 15
	Sections 17-42
	Section 62(2), (3), (5) and (8)
	Section 65(6)
	Section [illegible] and (4)
	Schedule 1
	Schedule 2
	Schedule 2A
	Schedule 3 paras 2(2), 8(3) and 11(3)
	Schedule 4 paras 2, 4-32, 33[1], 34-41, 70[1], 71, 75, 76-79, 81, 83, 84, 85(2)(b), 87, 88[1] and 89
Road Traffic NHS Charges Act 1999 (c.3)	Whole Act repealed
Care Standards Act 2000 (c.14)	Section 6
	Section 7
	Section 9
	Section 10(1)
	Section 22(8)(a)[1]
	Section 32(8)
	Section 44
	Section 45
	Section 46
	Section 47
	Section 49(2)
	Section 51
	Section 80[1]
	Sections 81-89[1]
	Section 89(4C)(d)
	Section 90
	Section 91-99[1]
	Section 100
	Section 101[1]
	Section 102
	Section 104

Acts introduced by the Department of Health since 1997	*Repealed*
	Schedule 1 paras 9-11, 15, 17, 27(a), 27(c) and 27(d)
	Schedule 2 para 6(5)
	Schedule 2A paras 4, 18, 21, 22, 24
	Schedule 4 paras 2, 5, 6[1], 7, 8[1], 13, 14(4)-(6), 16[1], 24, 25, 25(2)(a)[1], 26(2) and (4)[1], 27(b)
Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000 (c.16)	Section 5
	Section 9(a)
Health Service Commissioners (Amendment) Act 2000 (c.28)	Sections 1(2)(b), (3)(c) and (d)
Health and Social Care Act 2001 (c.15)	Sections 1-4
	Section 6
	Section 7(2)-(5)
	Sections 8-13
	Section 14(1) and (3)
	Sections 15-25
	Section 26[1]
	Sections 27-38
	Sections 40-43
	Sections 45-48
	Section 60
	Section 61
	Section 64(3)
	Section 68(2) and (3)
	Schedules 1-4
	Schedule 5 paras 5, 8, 11 and 12
National Health Service Reform and Health Care Professions Act 2002 (c.17)	Section 1
	Section 2(1)-(4)
	Section 3
	Section 4(1) and (2)
	Sections 5-18
	Section 19(1)-(5)
	Section 20
	Section 21
	Section 22(1)-(3), (4), (8) and (9)
	Section 23
	Section 24
	Section 35[1]
	Section 36
	Section 42(7)
	Schedule 1 paras 1-35, 37, 40-43, 46, 19-53, 55
	Schedule 2 paras 1-10, 11[1], 12-37, 54, 55, 58, 64, 67-69, 72-82
	Schedule 3 paras 1-11, 14-17
	Schedule 4
	Schedule 4 paras 4-20, 21[1], 22-24, 31-33, 36, 38, 43, 44, 45 and 49-51
	Schedule 6 paras 1-15
	Schedule 7 para 5
	Schedule 8 paras 1-12, 18, 23-37
Tobacco Advertising and Promotion Act 2002 (c.36)	Section 12(4)
Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003 (c.43)	Sections 1-32
	Section 33(2)
	Sections 35-40
	Section 76(2)(f), (g)
	Section 77(3)
	Section 79(7)
	Section 80(5)
	Section 110
	Section 112
	Section 116(1)
	Sections 170-172
	Section 174
	Section 175
	Sections 177-183
	Section 187(1)-(7), (9), (10)
	Section 188
	Section 189(1)-(3) and (4)[1]
	Section 191
	Section 192
	Schedule 1
	Schedule 2 paras 23-45, 83-85, 108, 109, 115-118, 123 and 124
	Schedule 5
	Schedule 6 para 3(2), (3), (9), (10), (14) and (15)
	Schedule 7 para 3(2), (6)-(8)
	Schedule 9 paras 9, 10, 14[1], 18(2), 26, 27[1], 32
	Schedule 11 paras 7-32, 33[1], 35-45, 61(b), 62(3) and 69-74
	Schedule 12 paras 1, 2(3), 3(2) and (4) and 4-8
	Schedule 13 paras 4, 6(a) and (b)
Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Deceased Fathers) Act 2003 (c.24)	Section 2(2) and (3)
	Schedule para 11[1]
Health Protection Agency Act 2004 (c.17)	Schedule 1 para 2
	Schedule 3 para 11
Health Act 2006 (c.28)	Section 34

Acts introduced by the Department of Health since 1997	*Repealed*
	Section 35
	Section 36(1)
	Sections 37-42
	Sections 44-56
	Section 74
	Section 78(3)
	Schedule 3
	Schedule 8 paras 6, 7-11, 12(a) and (b), 13(1)-(6), 14-20, 21(a), 21(b), 22-25, 29, 34, 36, 44(5), 46-50, 51 and 54
National Health Service Act 2006 (c.41)	Section 132(9)

[1] As from a day to be appointed.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which Bills introduced by his Department in the last five years contained sunset clauses; and what plans he has for the future use of such clauses; [151843]

(2) which Bills introduced by his Department in the last five years did not contain sunset clauses; and if he will make a statement. [152486]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has not introduced any Bills containing sunset clauses in the last five years. The Department has no current plans for the future use of such clauses, but their use may be considered where appropriate.

None of the Bills introduced by the Department in the last five years have contained sunset clauses.

Departments: Members

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what meetings that *(a)* he and *(b)* each of his Ministers has held with hon. Members in the last 12 months; and what was discussed in each case. [147569]

Dawn Primarolo: A comprehensive list of all meetings that Ministers have held with hon. Members in the last 12 months could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Postal Services

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what volume of correspondence his Department sent *(a)* by Royal Mail and *(b)* by other commercial delivery services in each of the last five years; and what the reasons were for the use of other commercial delivery services. [150448]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Figures for the period 2004-07 are as follows.

Delivery services	
2004-05	
Royal Mail volume	306,700 letters
Commercial carriers	88,000 letters/packets
2005-06	
Royal Mail volume	634,627 letters
Commercial carriers	90,324 letters/packets
2006-07	
Royal Mail volume	359,600 letters
Commercial carriers	91,364 letters/packets

Figures for before 2004 can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Where there is a particular requirement to deliver items in a set or urgent timeframe the Department will use commercial carriers for both national and international delivery including items that require signature.

Departments: Public Bodies

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1630-4W, for what reason a recurrent budget for 2007-08 is given for the English National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting. [151942]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: These are the residual costs from the funding of the English National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting, an arm's length body which closed in March 2002.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1385W, to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois), on Departments: public expenditure, how many such regular discussions have been held in the last 12 months. [146951]

Mr. Bradshaw: Ministers and officials regularly discuss a wide range of issues with their counterparts in the Treasury. As was the case in previous Administrations, it is not the practice of the Government to provide details of all such meetings.

Diabetes: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people participated in the *(a)* dose adjustment for normal eating and *(b)* diabetes education and self-management for ongoing and newly diagnosed courses in London in each of the last five years, broken down by primary care trust. [152798]

Ann Keen: This information requested is not held centrally. It is for primary care trusts to decide what services to provide for their local communities.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with diabetes in each London borough in each of the last five years. [153558]

Ann Keen: This information is not available in the format requested.

However, the following table shows the number of patients aged over 17 years with a record of a diagnosis of diabetes for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06. Data for 2006-07 will be published in September.

Patients aged less than 17 are considered to be cared for by hospital specialists and are not included in these numbers. Any increases in the number of patients from year-to-year cannot be assumed to represent an increase in the number of patients with diabetes, as it may reflect improved levels of recording by the practices.

Total list size and register counts for people with diabetes in the London primary care trust (PCT) for 2004-05 and 2005-06

SHA code	*Strategic health authority name*	*PCT code*	*PCT name*	*Total list size*	*Diabetes register count*
2004-05					
Q04	North West London	5AT	Hillingdon	261,750	9,154
		5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham	190,019	4,961
		5HX	Ealing	362,673	14,409
		5HY	Hounslow	251,041	9,180
		5K5	Brent	349,145	15,236
		5K6	Harrow	227,927	10,233
		5LA	Kensington and Chelsea	183,296	4,117
		5LC	Westminster	244,188	6,211
Q05	North Central London	5A9	Barnet	371,545	12,178
		5C1	Enfield	282,866	9,708
		5C9	Haringey	278,025	8,989
		5K7	Camden	245,115	5,691
		5K8	Islington	222,342	6,049
Q06	North East London	5A4	Havering	247,003	8,306
		5C2	Barking and Dagenham	172,748	6,122
		5C3	City and Hackney Primary Care Team	265,498	8,644
		5C4	Tower Hamlets Primary Care Team	225,668	9,402
		5C5	Newham Primary Care Team	310,022	13,805
		5NA	Redbridge	242,958	10,133
		5NC	Waltham Forest	250,877	10,076
Q07	South East London	5A7	Bromley	315,982	9,244
		5A8	Greenwich	258,432	7,443
		5LD	Lambeth	344,588	9,875
		5LE	Southwark	280,231	8,759
		5LF	Lewisham	278,990	9,347
		TAK	Bexley Care Trust	221,611	7,589
Q08	South West London	5A5	Kingston	178,948	5,109
		5K9	Croydon	359,874	13,052
		5LG	Wandsworth	311,003	8,856
		5M6	Richmond and Twickenham	198,448	4,235
		5M7	Sutton and Merton	389,319	12,414
2005-06					
Q04	North West London	5AT	Hillingdon	262,572	9,701
		5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham	189,293	5,236
		5HX	Ealing	368,598	15,418
		5HY	Hounslow	251,943	9,794
		5K5	Brent	342,752	15,928
		5K6	Harrow	229,704	10,846
		5LA	Kensington and Chelsea	184,295	4,436
		5LC	Westminster	244,899	6,446
Q05	North Central London	5A9	Barnet	373,036	12,915
		5C1	Enfield	284,985	10,588
		5C9	Haringey	241,664	8,468
		5K7	Camden	237,437	5,893
		5K8	Islington	223,519	6,494

Total list size and register counts for people with diabetes in the London primary care trust (PCT) for 2004-05 and 2005-06

SHA code	*Strategic health authority name*	*PCT code*	*PCT name*	*Total list size*	*Diabetes register count*
Q06	North East London	5A4	Havering	247,642	8,924
		5C2	Barking and Dagenham	176,497	6,546
		5C3	City and Hackney Primary Care Team	260,413	8,676
		5C4	Tower Hamlets Primary Care Team	223,888	9,812
		5C5	Newham Primary Care Team	309,762	14,596
		5NA	Redbridge	254,138	11,802
		5NC	Waltham Forest	265,150	10,706
Q07	South East London	5A7	Bromley	317,407	10,084
		5A8	Greenwich	262,226	8,072
		5LD	Lambeth	339,304	10,179
		5LE	Southwark	288,878	9,294
		5LF	Lewisham	283,095	10,161
		TAK	Bexley Care Trust	222,587	8,240
Q08	South West London	5A5	Kingston	180,952	5,478
		5K9	Croydon	363,708	13,915
		5LG	Wandsworth	322,855	9,410
		5M6	Richmond and Twickenham	191,245	4,413
		5M7	Sutton and Merton	396,922	13,406

Dietary Supplements: Channel Islands

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1448W, on dietary supplements: Channel Islands, (1) what meetings are planned between the Food Standards Agency and the Bailiwicks of Guernsey and Jersey to discuss implementation of the food supplements directive and the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation in the Channel Islands; [153011]

(2) whether the Food Standards Agency plans to raise at future meetings with the Bailiwicks of Guernsey and Jersey the implementation of the food supplements directive and the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation. [153666]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Food Standards Agency does not have any meetings planned to date with the Bailiwicks of Guernsey and Jersey to discuss implementation of the food supplements directive and the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation in the Channel Islands.

The Food Standards Agency is writing to the Bailiwicks of Guernsey and Jersey, regarding the implementation of the food supplements directive and the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation.

Doctors: Private Sector

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effects of independent sector treatment centres on the availability of junior doctor training posts. [152694]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has made no such assessment. Training schedules for national health service staff in independent sector treatment centres (ISTCs) are agreed locally, subject to the meeting of accreditation standards. The number of junior doctor training posts available is based on local service requirements and future workforce planning needs in discussions with strategic health authorities, deaneries and trusts. When training is attached to activity, which is transferred from the NHS to a Wave 1 ISTC, junior doctors will complete the training in the ISTC.

All ISTCs in Wave 2 are required to provide training in up to 35 per cent. of clinical services that they provide for the NHS. This includes not only medical training, but also other clinical training such as nurse or Allied Health Professional training.

Doctors: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information her Department provided to HM Treasury on the Medical Training Application Service prior to its introduction. [146406]

Ann Keen: The Medical Training Application Service project was subject to the normal business approvals process. MTAS costs fell within delegated departmental approval limits so no specific information was supplied to HM Treasury.

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which consultancy is involved in the processing of applications and appointments for hospital doctors' training posts in the London Kent Survey and Sussex Unit of Application; when it was appointed; what the process of appointment was; and what the estimated cost of the work is. [151884]

Ann Keen: The management of the application process locally is a matter for the deanery concerned.

Drugs: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on tackling *(a)* drug and *(b)* alcohol dependency in each London borough in each of the last 10 years. [153559]

Dawn Primarolo: Since 2001, the Department and the Home Office have provided for drug treatment in the form of the pooled drug treatment budget (PTB). This funding is allocated to the 149 drug action teams across the country to use, along with local mainstream funding, to provide for treatment and services according to the specific needs of each locality. We do not have information on drug treatment spend prior to 2001.

It is for primary care trusts to determine the level of expenditure on alcohol services within their area in line with local priorities. Information is not collected centrally on local spend; however the Alcohol Needs Assessment Research Project found that around £217 million was being spend on alcohol services during 2003-04. Funds from the PTB may be spent on alcohol services provided that adequate progress is being made on drugs priorities.

PTB allocations since 2001 for each London borough is shown in the following table.

	PTB channelled through PCT (£000)						*PTB channelled through PCT (£000)*
DAT	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*		*2007-08*
Barking and Dagenham	777	1,019	1,149	1,430	1,849	0.004808568	1,945
Barnet	955	1,205	1,309	1,576	2,030	0.005277353	2,210
Bexley	600	759	827	997	1,287	0.003345418	1,349
Brent	1,417	1,909	2,201	2,795	3,605	0.009372441	3,703
Bromley	716	901	978	1,175	1,510	0.003926924	1,728
Camden	2,017	2,466	2,599	3,033	3,914	0.010177088	4,401
City of London	14	23	31	44	58	0.000150157	69
Croydon	1,212	1,565	1,738	2,135	2,753	0.007156912	2,995
Ealing	1,794	2,135	2,188	2,480	3,195	0.008306342	3,622
Enfield	1,093	1,458	1,669	2,104	2,704	0.007030149	2,738
Greenwich	1,449	1,867	2,070	2,538	3,261	0.008479293	3,373
Hackney	2,112	2,749	3,077	3,806	4,920	0.012793309	5,197
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,340	1,616	1,679	1,931	2,500	0.006499001	2,955
Haringey	1,547	2,096	2,430	3,099	3,988	0.010369877	4,167
Harrow	542	689	754	914	1,185	0.003080281	1,365
Havering	566	711	770	924	1,192	0.003099463	1,280
Hillingdon	888	1,038	1,043	1,157	1,494	0.003883626	1,656
Hounslow	861	1,041	1,084	1,250	1,612	0.00419139	1,928
Islington	2,451	2,950	3,059	3,511	4,507	0.011718636	4,900
Kensington and Chelsea	1,817	1,999	1,999	2,099	2,699	0.007017021	2,973
Kingston upon Thames	658	725	725	761	977	0.002541271	1,092
Lambeth	2,439	3,266	3,748	4,739	6,083	0.015816438	6,425
Lewisham	2,023	2,586	2,847	3,468	4,469	0.011620522	4,604
Merton	804	949	964	1,081	1,389	0.003611393	1,567
Newham	2,164	2,984	3,509	4,529	5,801	0.015082032	5,835
Redbridge	678	929	1,087	1,398	1,798	0.004673789	1,933
Richmond upon Thames	687	756	756	793	1,021	0.002653966	1,233
Southwark	2,274	3,052	3,510	4,446	5,739	0.014920786	6,082
Sutton	568	662	664	733	940	0.002444265	1,143
Tower Hamlets	1,988	2,731	3,202	4,124	5,272	0.013709008	5,632
Waltham Forest	958	1,357	1,630	2,141	2,733	0.007104891	2,976
Wandsworth	1,663	2,000	2,073	2,378	3,063	0.007965414	3,383
Westminster	2,729	3,002	3,002	3,152	4,042		4,367
London total	43,801	55,195	60,371	72,741	93,590	0.010508613	100,826

Environment Protection: Dartmoor National Park

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if the Minister for the South West will make an early visit to the Holne Common in Dartmoor National Park to see the results of the Environmental Agency's action under its obligation under the Environmentally Sensitive Agreement 1999. [153663]

Mr. Bradshaw: I am aware of the work undertaken by the Environmental Agency and others on Dartmoor. Owing to current diary pressures I am currently not able to accept the hon. Member's kind invitation, but if he has particular concerns I would welcome his raising them with me in writing.

Eyesight: Testing

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pensioners in York have had free eye tests since they were reintroduced. [152198]

Ann Keen: The information is not centrally available in the format requested.

Data on the number of people aged 60 and over who have had a free national health service eye tests are collected at primary care trust (PCT) level, rather than by geographical area. Data for the former North Yorkshire health authority and York and Selby PCT are shown in the table.

Number of people aged 60 and over who have had NHS eye tests in North Yorkshire health authority and York and Selby PCT

Financial year	*North Yorkshire HA*	*York and Selby PCT*
1999-2000	52,072	—
2000-01	61,787	—
2001-02	68,855	—
2002-03	70,278	—
2003-04	—	26,254
2004-05	—	26,619
2005-06	—	25,057
April to September 2006[1]	—	12,956

[1] Total shown is for the period April to September 2006 only. October to March 2007 figures are due to be published on 31 July.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care.

Gender Identity Disorder

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 18 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 362W, on gender identity disorder, how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women from Wales received gender reassignment surgery to treat gender dysphoria from the national health service in England in each of the last 10 years. [153709]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Owing to the small number of treatment episodes involved and the need to protect patient confidentiality, the Department cannot disclose this information.

General Practitioners

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis was for the statement by the right hon. Member for Leigh (Andy Burnham) of 26 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 160, on GP out-of-hours services, that the GP out-of-hours service was close to collapse in 1997. [147974]

Mr. Bradshaw: It was clear from the rising number of complaints to the Health Service Commissioner that the previous model of provision by general practitioners (GPs) was not meeting patients' expectations and was not sustainable.

In addition, the responsibility for out-of-hours care was affecting the ability to recruit and retain GPs.

General Practitioners: Passports

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has received reports of GPs levying a charge to countersign passports for patients; and whether his Department issues guidelines to GPs who charge fees to authenticate patients' passports for renewal applications. [151557]

Mr. Bradshaw: The countersigning of passports is not part of the work that primary medical services contractors are required to do as part of their contractual arrangements with the Primary Care Trust. Should a general practitioner countersign an application it is a private matter between the doctor and the applicant. General practitioners may make a charge for this service should they wish.

The Department does not issue guidelines on this matter.

Health Professions: Qualifications

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether private-sector NHS contractors are required to ask for the same level of qualifications when recruiting staff as primary care trusts. [152902]

Mr. Bradshaw: The qualification requirements for the employment of clinical staff in Independent Sector Treatment Centres (ISTCs) are the same as those in the national health service. Surgeons must be registered with the General Medical Council and be on the specialist register in the specialty in which they are trained.

While both the NHS and ISTCs require the same level of qualifications for clinical staff, the process in which they are appointed differs.

All health practitioners employed in ISTCs are required to be registered with the relevant professional body, and providers are required to ensure that there is a programme of continuing professional development.

Health Professions: Regulation

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of those attending her Department's Call for Ideas event on medical and non-medical professional regulation in autumn 2005 were *(a)* from healthcare professional regulatory bodies, *(b)* lay members of healthcare professional regulatory bodies, *(c)* from public and patient representative organisations, *(d)* members of the public, *(e)* health officials, *(f)* from other health and social care regulators and *(g)* others. [146199]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department issued two Calls for Ideas in 2005. One was the Chief Medical Officer's (CMO) "Call for Ideas" on the review of medical regulation and the other was by Andrew Foster, the then Director of Workforce, on the review of non-medical professional regulation. Neither of these were held as actual events. The CMO's was published on the Department's website, while Andrew Foster wrote to a range of stakeholders to seek their views. This included members of the non-medical review reference group, which met twice during the course of the review, in July and November 2005. The make-up of the group is as follows.

	Percentage
Healthcare professional regulatory bodies	25
Lay members of healthcare professional regulatory bodies	6 (which is included in the above)

	Percentage
Public and patient representative organisations and members of the public	4.5
Health officials	14
Other health and social care regulators	3.5
Others	53

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements she expects to make for *(a)* periods of pre-legislative consultation and *(b)* provision of information and technical support to consultees on (i) forthcoming primary legislation on professional healthcare regulation and (ii) Orders in Council under section 60 of the Health Act 1999. [146200]

Mr. Bradshaw: There has been extensive consultation leading up to the publication of the White Paper in February. The White Paper anticipated the need for new legislation on a number of issues. Some may require primary legislation but other changes can be made under section 60 of the Health Act 1999. The procedures for the latter require that a draft order is published and consulted upon at least three months before the amended order is laid before Parliament. Other matters requiring legislation will be considered by the stakeholder working groups which will be advising on implementation of the White Paper. We will be publishing their terms of reference and membership shortly.

Health Professions: Training

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what analysis his Department has carried out on the reasons for the fall in the number of pre-registration training commissions from 2004-05 to 2005-06. [148820]

Ann Keen: The numbers of pre-registration training commissions for most professions actually increased between 2004-05 and 2005-06 with the exception of nursing where numbers fell by about 1 per cent.

Workforce planning for the health service is challenging and complex and workforce needs are difficult to predict as technological advances and social changes lead to some skills becoming redundant while demand for others will suddenly increase.

Health Professions: York Hospitals NHS Trust

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent *(a)* medical consultants, *(b)* other medical staff, *(c)* nurses, *(d)* other professional staff, *(e)* administrative and clerical staff and *(f)* auxiliary staff were employed by York NHS Trust in all areas, excluding those transferred to Selby and York Primary Care Trust, in each year since 1996-97. [151622]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is set out in the following table.

NHS Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): Medical and dental staff and non-medical staff[1] within York Hospitals NHS Trust
Full-time equivalents at 30 September each year

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
All HCHS staff	3,596	3,660	3,504	3,517	3,732	3,224	2,842	3,111	3,247	3,302	3,519
All medical and dental staff	215	261	274	283	281	258	237	294	320	344	370
Medical and dental consultants	72	102	98	110	109	120	113	119	131	149	155
Other medical and dental staff	143	159	176	172	171	138	124	174	189	195	215
All non-medical staff[1]	3,381	3,399	3,230	3,234	3,451	2,967	2,605	2,817	2,927	2,958	3,149
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	1,310	1,362	1,235	1,268	1,375	1,132	915	948	990	1,023	1,111
Clerical and administrative	552	535	532	547	571	571	565	604	644	666	795
Nursing assistant/auxiliary	422	397	357	314	337	185	99	96	89	55	49
Others	1,098	1,106	1,106	1,105	1,168	1,078	1,027	1,170	1,204	1,215	1,194

[1] More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total work force figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time.

Sources:
Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.
The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

Health Services

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answers of 5 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1148-49W, on health services, what provision there is for public and patient members of the working groups on the White Paper to discuss issues distinct to the administration of health bodies in England. [153379]

Mr. Bradshaw: The working groups have been formed to perform an advisory role in the implementation of

the White Paper "Trust, assurance and safety". This includes those elements of the White Paper relating to the administration of local health bodies in England such as primary care trust and national health service trusts.

Health Services: Finance

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps have been taken to allocate the £1 billion funding proposed in the Public Health White Paper between *(a)* health trainers, *(b)* sexual health services, *(c)* school nurses and *(d)* other services; and if he will make a statement; [152230]

(2) how much was allocated to each primary care trust for implementing the targets in the White Paper "Choosing Health"; and whether any of this funding was ring-fenced; [152240]

(3) what progress primary care trusts are making in delivering outcomes described in the White Paper "Choosing Health"; and if he will make a statement. [152241]

Dawn Primarolo: Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) were notified of their revenue allocations for 2006-07 and 2007-08 in February 2005. The allocations separately identify funding to support the initiatives set out in the White Paper "Choosing Health: Making healthy choices easier", a copy of which is available in the Library.

There had been a move away from ring-fencing allocations to PCTs as it is for PCTs to determine how best to use the funds allocated to them to commission services to meet the needs of their local population.

The funding allocated to each PCT for implementing the targets in the White Paper "Choosing Health", for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 is provided in the following table.

£000

PCT name	"Choosing Health", White Paper funding 2006-07	2007-08
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	2,167	2,611
Barking and Dagenham PCT	1,303	1,570
Barnet PCT	1,024	2,032
Barnsley PCT	1,726	2,081
Bassetlaw PCT	356	707
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	533	1,056
Bedfordshire PCT	834	2,006
Berkshire East PCT	778	1,857
Berkshire West PCT	1,248	2,474
Bexley Care Trust	669	1,327
Birmingham East and North PCT	2,498	3,098
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	1,110	1,337
Blackpool PCT	1,096	1,320
Bolton PCT	1,870	2,254
Bournemouth and Poole PCT	1,082	2,142
Bradford and Airedale PCT	3,398	4,096
Brent Teaching PCT	712	1,696
Brighton and Hove City PCT	643	1,535
Bristol PCT	1,351	2,675
Bromley PCT	930	1,846
Buckinghamshire PCT	1,371	2,718
Bury PCT	1,196	1,440
Calderdale PCT	641	1,269
Cambridgeshire PCT	1,630	3,239
Camden PCT	631	1,516
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	946	2,266
Central Lancashire PCT	1,866	3,034
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	2,030	2,447
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	1,228	2,948
County Durham PCT	3,193	3,960
Coventry Teaching PCT	1,962	2,432
Croydon PCT	1,072	2,125
Cumbria PCT	2,822	3,753
Darlington PCT	235	562
Derby City PCT	886	1,757
Derbyshire County PCT	2,751	4,621
Devon PCT	2,285	4,543
Doncaster PCT	2,113	2,546
Dorset PCT	1,230	2,443
Dudley PCT	978	1,937
Ealing PCT	1,078	2,133
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	1,615	3,208
East Lancashire PCT	2,625	3,162
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	646	1,553
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	749	1,794
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	1,804	4,197
Enfield PCT	645	1,543
Gateshead PCT	1,486	1,789
Gloucestershire PCT	1,729	3,433
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	683	1,458
Greenwich Teaching PCT	1,740	2,098
Halton and St. Helens PCT	2,282	2,749
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	1,276	1,537
Hampshire PCT	2,865	6,431
Haringey Teaching PCT	1,505	1,865
Harrow PCT	434	1,037
Hartlepool PCT	700	843
Hastings and Rother PCT	629	1,249
Havering PCT	787	1,560
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	1,890	2,345
Herefordshire PCT	556	1,105
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	1,515	1,825
Hillingdon PCT	767	1,522
Hounslow PCT	737	1,459

PCT name	"Choosing Health" 2006-07 £000	White Paper funding 2007-08 £000
Hull PCT	1,615	2,000
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	502	999
Islington PCT	1,347	1,672
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	664	1,327
Kingston PCT	477	947
Kirklees PCT	1,249	2,475
Knowsley PCT	1,318	1,587
Lambeth PCT	1,812	2,246
Leeds PCT	1,687	4,028
Leicester City PCT	2,079	2,504
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	1,773	3,524
Lewisham PCT	1,558	1,931
Lincolnshire PCT	2,944	4,759
Liverpool PCT	3,345	4,146
Luton PCT	432	1,033
Manchester PCT	3,988	4,805
Medway PCT	834	1,661
Mid Essex PCT	983	1,956
Middlesbrough PCT	1,105	1,330
Milton Keynes PCT	677	1,351
Newcastle PCT	1,948	2,345
Newham PCT	2,211	2,665
Norfolk PCT	1,598	3,835
North East Essex PCT	1,036	2,060
North East Lincolnshire PCT	1,081	1,302
North Lancashire PCT	1,522	2,340
North Lincolnshire PCT	505	1,003
North Somerset PCT	617	1,227
North Staffordshire PCT	466	1,114
North Tees PCT	1,235	1,489
North Tyneside PCT	1,408	1,696
North Yorkshire and York PCT	2,011	4,224
Northamptonshire PCT	2,900	4,345
Northumberland Care Trust	2,046	2,465
Nottingham City PCT	1,741	2,158
Nottinghamshire County PCT	1,714	3,691
Oldham PCT	1,618	1,949
Oxfordshire PCT	1,717	3,414
Peterborough PCT	544	1,090
Plymouth Teaching PCT	826	1,638
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	428	1,022
Redbridge PCT	751	1,489
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	979	1,179
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	510	1,013
Rotherham PCT	1,723	2,076
Salford PCT	1,761	2,120
Sandwell PCT	2,258	2,718
Sefton PCT	817	1,790
Sheffield PCT	1,272	3,035
Shropshire County PCT	870	1,728
Solihull Care Trust	439	1,049
Somerset PCT	1,604	3,190
South Birmingham PCT	2,057	2,551
South East Essex PCT	747	1,790
South Gloucestershire PCT	657	1,307
South Staffordshire PCT	2,160	3,609
South Tyneside PCT	1,173	1,413
South West Essex PCT	1,276	2,536
Southampton City PCT	787	1,560
Southwark PCT	1,697	2,103
Stockport PCT	901	1,783
Stoke on Trent PCT	1,594	1,975
Suffolk PCT	1,759	3,495
Sunderland Teaching PCT	2,117	2,549
Surrey PCT	3,032	6,011
Sutton and Merton PCT	1,131	2,244
Swindon PCT	578	1,147
Tameside and Glossop PCT	1,598	1,925
Telford and Wrekin PCT	514	1,022
Torbay Care Trust	509	1,012
Tower Hamlets PCT	1,925	2,321
Trafford PCT	696	1,378
Wakefield District PCT	2,350	2,833
Walsall Teaching PCT	1,780	2,144
Waltham Forest PCT	824	1,631
Wandsworth PCT	897	1,775
Warrington PCT	1,221	1,471
Warwickshire PCT	2,147	3,373
West Essex PCT	802	1,592
West Hertfordshire PCT	1,579	3,130
West Kent PCT	1,928	3,825
West Sussex PCT	2,295	4,660
Western Cheshire PCT	558	1,336
Westminster PCT	832	1,665
Wiltshire PCT	1,279	2,543
Wirral PCT	2,007	2,490
Wolverhampton City PCT	1,769	2,130
Worcestershire PCT	1,643	3,263
England	210,500	341,500

A Choosing Health progress report was published earlier this year and is available at the Department's website at

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH074286

It shows that we have made significant progress over a wide range of areas and have created drivers for change through better engagement across systems and organisations, better information and new tools and techniques to support individual action to improve health. Two years through this three-year programme, examples of progress include the following:

Smokefree legislation was implemented on 1 July 2007

80 per cent. of people are now seen within 48 hours at a GUM clinic compared to 38 per cent. in 2004.

PCTs have played their part in these improvements in public health.

Health Services: Multiple Sclerosis

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of changes in inspection fees for charitable multiple sclerosis treatment centres. [151072]

Mr. Bradshaw: Annual fees to cover the cost of providing assessment and registration services are approved by the Secretary of State, after consideration of proposals submitted by the Healthcare Commission (HC). Assessment of the effects of fees is therefore for the Commission in the first instance.

The HC on its 2007-08 independent healthcare sector fee proposals between 20 December 2006 and 20 February 2007. We understand from the chairman of the commission that during the consultation period it received numerous representations from providers asking that fees should be reduced for voluntarily funded establishments.

The HC revised its proposals after considering the comments it received. For 2007-08, annual fees for multiple sclerosis therapy centres have been reduced from £1,566 to £1,225, a reduction of 22 per cent. This is the first time that regulatory fees under the Care Standards Act 2000 have been reduced. Fees for first time registrations have increased from £907 to £990.

Health Services: Prisons

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the availability of primary care services to prison establishments during night periods; and if he will make a statement. [153681]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the coverage of health care in prisons is not collected centrally. It is for primary care trusts, working in partnership with prisons, to commission the arrangements for out of hours cover.

Local prisons do usually contain 24-hour health facilities with nursing cover. For example, all prisons in London (with the exception of HMP Latchmere House) have healthcare beds with 24-hour nursing services available.

Out-of-hours medical cover is usually provided by an on-call arrangement with local general practitioners as part of a General Medical Services contract.

Health Services: Public Appointments

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the competition for selection of the new chief executive of Connecting for Health will open; who will sit on the selection panel; what the starting salary for the post will be; and how bonuses for the post will be *(a)* set, *(b)* calculated and *(c)* paid. [151938]

Mr. Bradshaw: These matters have not been decided.

Health Services: South East Region

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that local primary care trusts are helped to engage with strategic planning organisations on long-term major regeneration programmes in *(a)* the Thames Gateway, *(b)* East London and *(c)* the London borough of Newham. [149777]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's London regional team and their London strategic health authority colleagues support the involvement of local national health service organisations in major regeneration initiatives within the Thames Gateway and East London areas, and the major developments in Newham for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

London's primary care trusts (PCTs) jointly fund with the London Development Agency the Healthy Urban Development Unit, which offers practical help to all PCTs in London, including Newham PCT. The aim is to significantly improve the health of Londoners by developing partnerships that enable health organisations to engage early, influencing the plan-making process, and have a positive effect on the outcomes of planning applications.

Health Trainers

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the introduction of health trainers; and in which primary care trusts they have been employed. [152229]

Ann Keen: Progress on the introduction of health trainers to date has been good:

as forecast and planned, 1,200 health trainers have been trained and are in post as of 2006-07 year end;

competences have been signed off and exemplar job descriptions have been developed for tailoring by local health trainer partnerships;

a national implementation team has been put in place and now provides full regional coverage;

local training programmes have been developed and local evaluation has been put in place;

national accreditation has been developed, with support from technical advisers Skills for Health, to provide City and Guilds Level 3 and Royal Institute for Public Health Level 2 awards;

prisons have begun to introduce health trainers to the system, with around 80 health trainers now in place;

the Army expects to have trained 450 physical training instructor as health trainers by December 2007, with plans for a further 2,000 personnel to receive training in 2008;

Royal Mail plans to train some of their first aid staff as workplace health trainers;

the programme is also working with organisations such as Asda, Marks & Spencer, National Pharmacies and Football Foundation, and;

The Minister of State for Public Health (Dawn Primarolo) presented the first workplace Health Trainer certificate to Audrey Carlin, of T Allen Stockholder Ltd., on 3 July 2007.

Health trainers are employed in a variety of settings and the plurality of employment models means that we do not collect data by individual primary care trust.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health trainers there are in *(a)* Southampton primary care trust, *(b)* Hampshire primary care trust and *(c)* Portsmouth primary care trust. [152231]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has been informed by the following primary care trusts that

Southampton primary care trust has 14 health trainers recruited and in training.

Hampshire primary care trust has 12 health trainers recruited and in training.

Portsmouth primary care trust has 11 health trainers recruited and in training.

Health: Disadvantaged

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in tackling health deprivation in the spearhead primary care trusts. [152237]

Dawn Primarolo: The 2010 inequalities targets for life expectancy, cardiovascular disease and cancer are based on narrowing the gap in mortality between the population as a whole and the fifth of local authority areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators (the spearhead group), and the primary care trusts that map to them, by 2010.

Life expectancy has increased for both males and females for England as a whole but it has improved more slowly in the spearhead areas. In England, average life expectancy for males is 76.9 and for females 81.1; in the spearhead group it is 74.9 for males and 79.6 for females. The slower rate of improvement in has led to a widening of the relative gap in life expectancy between England and the spearhead group. The latest data for 2003-05 show that the average life expectancy in the spearhead group was 2.61 per cent. lower than the England average for males, and 1.91 per cent. lower than the England average for females. Therefore, the relative gap has widened by 2 per cent. for men and 8 per cent. for women since the baseline (1995-97).

However, although the 2010 target for life expectancy is a challenging one, data for 2003-05 also show that some 60 per cent. of the 70 spearhead areas are on track to narrow their own life expectancy gap with that of England by 10 per cent. by 2010, compared to baseline for either males or females or both. The information is set out in the following table, with comparison data for 2002-04.

Data for 2003-05 have also shown continued improvements in CVD and cancer mortality inequalities between spearhead areas and the national average since the 1995-97 baseline. The absolute gap from circulatory disease has narrowed by 27.9 per cent., and we are on track to meet the 2010 target of at least a 40 per cent. reduction, There has been a 12.7 per cent. reduction in the absolute cancer inequality gap.

Targeted assistance to spearhead areas is being provided through a variety of programmes such as Communities for Health, Health Trainers, Life Check and smoking cessation as well as programmes on cancer, coronary heart disease and primary care.

The following table shows whether the 70 spearhead local authorities are on or off track to narrow their share of the life expectancy gap by 10 per cent. for males or females or both by 2010 according to 2003-05 data. The table also shows a comparison to 2002-04.

Spearhead Group performance on life expectancy for males and females 2003-05 v. 2002-04

	2003-05				2002-04			
	On track both	*On track male*	*On track female*	*Off track both*	*On track both*	*On track male*	*On track female*	*Off track both*
Hackney	Yes	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	—
Hammersmith and Fulham	Yes	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	—
Southwark	Yes	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	—
Tower Hamlets	Yes	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	—
Tameside	Yes	—	—	—	—	—	Yes	—
Warrington	Yes	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	—
Derwentside	Yes	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	—
Hyndburn	Yes	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	—
Islington	—	Yes	—	—	—	—	—	Yes
Lambeth	—	Yes	—	—	Yes	—	—	—
Lewisham	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes	—	—
Newham	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes	—	—
Knowsley	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes	—	—
St. Helens	—	Yes	—	—	Yes	—	—	—
Wirral	—	Yes	—	—		Yes	—	—
Sunderland	—	Yes	—	—	—	—	—	Yes
Halton	—	Yes	—	—	—	—	—	Yes
Blackburn with Darwen	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes	—	—
Chester-le-Street	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes	—	—
Sedgefield	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes	—	—
Wear Valley	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes	—	—
Burnley	—	Yes	—	—	—	—	—	Yes
Lincoln	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes	—	—
Wansbeck	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes	—	—
Tamworth	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes	—	—
Greenwich	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes	—
Haringey	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes	—
Bury	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes	—
Doncaster	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes	—
Gateshead	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes	—
Newcastle upon Tyne	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes	—
North Tyneside	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	—	Yes
Birmingham	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes	—
Coventry	—	—	Yes	—	Yes	—	—	—
Walsall	—	—	Yes	—	—	Yes	—	—
Redcar and Cleveland	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes	—
Stockton-on-Tees	—	—	Yes		Yes	—	—	—
Barrow-in-Furness	—	—	Yes	—	—	—		Yes
Carlisle	—	—	Yes	—	Yes	—	—	—
Corby	—	—	Yes	—	—	Yes	—	—
Blyth Valley	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes	—
Nuneaton and Bedworth	—	—	Yes	—	Yes	—	—	—
Barking and Dagenham	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes
Bolton	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes
Manchester	—	—	—	Yes	—	Yes	—	—
Oldham	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes
Rochdale	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	Yes	—

Spearhead Group performance on life expectancy for males and females 2003-05 v. 2002-04

	2003-05				2002-04			
	On track both	*On track male*	*On track female*	*Off track both*	*On track both*	*On track male*	*On track female*	*Off track both*
Salford	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes
Wigan	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes
Liverpool	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes
Barnsley	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	Yes	—
Rotherham	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes
South Tyneside	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes
Sandwell	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes
Wolverhampton	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	Yes	—
Bradford	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes
Wakefield	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes
Hartlepool	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes
Middlesbrough	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes
Blackpool	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes
Kingston upon Hull, City of	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes
North East Lincolnshire	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes
Leicester	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes
Nottingham	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes
Stoke-on-Trent	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes
Bolsover	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes
Easington	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes
Pendle	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	—	Yes
Preston	—	—	—	Yes	—	Yes	—	—
Rossendale	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	Yes	—

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the progress towards the pledge to reduce health inequalities measured by infant mortality by 2010. [152252]

Dawn Primarolo: The most recent assessment of progress against the infant mortality aspect of the 2010 health inequalities target shows a slight narrowing of the health inequalities gap between the routine and manual group and the rest of the population for 2003-05, compared to 2002-04 and 2001-03. Infant mortality rates are at an all-time low for both groups. However, at 18 per cent. the gap is still wider than the 13 per cent. at the 1997-99 target baseline.

A further update on the infant mortality gap will be available later this year in the 2007 edition of 'Tackling Health Inequalities: Status Report on the Programme for Action'.

Health: Nutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to tackle *(a)* overweight and obesity and *(b)* underweight in the adult population. [153404]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Present action to tackle obesity in adults includes the care pathways for national health service primary care professionals and a self-help guide, 'Your Weight, Your Health'; the National Heart Forum's toolkit 'Lightening the Load: tackling overweight and obesity'; work on foods high in salt, fat and sugar; front-of-pack labelling as an easy-to-understand way of helping individuals and families to make healthier food choices; the General Practice Physical Activity Questionnaire; Local Exercise Action Pilots; and the National Step-0-Meter Programme.

We will also continue to work closely with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to support dissemination and implementation of its guidance on physical activity public health intervention and on the prevention, identification, assessment and management of overweight and obesity in adults and children.

Regarding steps to tackle underweight, Government advice is that people should consume a healthy balanced diet, which includes a wide variety of foods, is low in fat, and is based on plenty of fruit and vegetables and starchy foods such as potatoes, bread, and other cereals. The diet should contain moderate amounts of meat, fish, meat alternatives, milk and dairy products and sparing or infrequent amounts of foods containing fat/foods and drinks containing sugar. Eating a balanced diet in combination with physical activity should enable people to maintain a healthy weight.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the percentage of adults aged 16 years and over *(a)* in England and *(b)* in each primary care trust area who had a body mass index (i) in excess of 30 and (ii) of less than 18.5 in each year since 1997, broken down by age. [153405]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information is not available in the format requested. Data on prevalence of different body mass index (BMI) values among adults aged 16 and over are available from the health survey for England. Data on the percentage of men and women in England with a body BMI of over 30 and under 18.5 are presented in Table 1, copies of which have been placed in the Library. Data are shown for the years 1997 to 2005 and are broken down by age group and gender.

Hearing Impairment

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average waiting time for a hearing test was in *(a)* Surrey, *(b)* Oxfordshire and *(c)* England in (i) 1997, (ii) 1998, (iii) 1999, (iv) 2000, (v) 2001, (vi) 2002, (vii) 2003, (viii) 2004, (ix) 2005 and (x) 2006; [152996]

(2) what the average time interval between receiving a hearing test and the fitting of a hearing aid was in *(a)* Surrey, *(b)* Oxfordshire and *(c)* England in (i) 1997, (ii) 1998, (iii) 1999, (iv) 2000, (v) 2001, (vi) 2002, (vii) 2003, (viii) 2004, (ix) 2005 and (x) 2006; [152997]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the procurement of audiology service pathways from the private sector; and if he will make a statement; [152998]

(4) what assessment he has made of the procedures for the referral of NHS patients to the independent sector for the fitting of hearing aids; and if he will make a statement; [152999]

(5) what assessment his Department has made of the fitting of hearing aids by the independent sector

following the abolition of the Hearing Aid Council; and if he will make a statement. [153000]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not collect data on waiting times for fitting of digital hearing aids. Since January 2006, the Department has been collecting data on the waiting times for audiology assessments. The latest figures, for May 2007, indicate that there are currently 1,322 people waiting over 13 weeks for assessments in Surrey and 13 people waiting over 13 weeks for assessments in Oxfordshire. In England as of May 2007, 73,381 people are waiting over 13 weeks for an assessment.

A National Framework Contract Public Private Partnership with David Ormerod Hearing Centres and Ultravox Holdings plc was in place from October 2003 until March 2007. It was fundamental to the National Framework Contract that the quality of service, and hearing aid, that the patient received mirrored those of the local NHS audiology department. Quality assurance was key in the initiative. Both companies demonstrated their commitment to meeting these standards and invested resources in terms of equipment, IT and staff training in order to do so.

Further independent sector capacity for audiology has been procured as part of the Phase 2 Diagnostics Procurement. Providers are subject to ongoing audit and must meet stringent key performance indicators through the delivery of the contract. Independent sector capacity is utilised at a local level alongside NHS capacity and is subject to the same standards and referral procedures.

The Hearing Aid Council, which is responsible for standards of professional practice, remains in operation and is working towards transferring its regulatory functions to other bodies in advance of its abolition.

Henderson Hospital: Finance

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget for Henderson hospital is in 2007-08; and what the proposed budget for the hospital is for 2008-09. [150999]

Mr. Bradshaw: Revenue allocations are made directly to primary care trusts (PCTs), not national health service trusts or individual hospitals. NHS trusts receive most of their income through the commissioning arrangements they have with PCTs.

We understand that the Henderson hospital is managed by South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust. We would advise the hon. Member to contact the chairman of the trust for information about the hospital budget. The contact details are:

John Rafferty
Chairman
South West London and St. George's Mental Health NHS Trust
Springfield University Hospital
61 Glenburnie Road
London
SW17 7DJ
Telephone: 020 8672 9911

Hip Replacements and Knee Replacements

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for *(a)* hip replacements and *(b)* knee replacements on the NHS was in each of the last five years. [151485]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the median time waited for hip and knee replacement is set out in the following table.

Median days waited for hip and knee replacements 2001-02 to 2005-06

	Hip replacements	*Knee replacements*
2001-02	220	276
2002-03	229	280
2003-04	217	252
2004-05	182	202
2005-06	158	168

Source: Hospital Episode Statistics, The Information Centre for health and social care.

HIV Infection: Pregnancy

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of levels of transmission from mother to baby of HIV/AIDS in each of the last five years; in what proportion of cases transmission took place *(a)* at birth and *(b)* subsequent to birth; what treatments are available in each case; what assessment he has made of the merits of testing all pregnant women for HIV/AIDS at an early stage of their pregnancy; and if he will make a statement. [152601]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of babies born in the United Kingdom and confirmed infected with HIV from 2002 to 2006 is shown in the following table.

Number of babies born in the UK and confirmed infected with HIV, 2002-2006

Year of birth	*Maternal diagnosis before or at around time of delivery*	*Infected children born to undiagnosed women*	*Total infected*
2002	12	24	36
2003	6	19	25
2004	10	20	30
2005	13	14	27
2006	8	9	17
Total	49	86	135

Note:
Data include reports received by end of June 2007 and are subject to reporting delay.
Source:
National Study of HIV in Pregnancy and Childhood, Institute of Child Health, University College London

It is not possible to assess accurately what proportion of transmissions occurred prior to birth, at birth and after birth during this period. In utero transmission is uncommon, and most transmissions occur during labour and delivery, or through breastfeeding. Infant samples need to be taken within 48 hours of birth to make inferences about timing of transmission, and since the majority of infected infants were born to undiagnosed women, sufficient samples were not available.

If the woman is diagnosed before or during pregnancy, she can be offered:

antiretroviral therapy in pregnancy, at delivery, and for the infant after birth;

appropriate management of delivery, e.g. planned caesarean section; and

advice not to breastfeed.

If the woman is diagnosed at or shortly after delivery, the infant can still be offered antiretroviral therapy starting as soon as possible after birth, and the woman can still be advised not to breastfeed, both of which will reduce the risk of transmission if the baby was not already infected in utero.

Since the introduction of the routine recommendation of antenatal HIV testing in 2000, the majority of infected pregnant women have been diagnosed prior to delivery. In 2005, the latest year for which data are available, about 95 per cent. of infected pregnant women were diagnosed before delivery. During the 1990s, before antenatal testing was routine, the majority of infected women remained undiagnosed at delivery and therefore appropriate treatment and advice could not be offered.

Home Care Services: Oxygen

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints Ministers received about domiciliary oxygen services in each of the last 18 months. [151016]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of items of correspondence received by the Department from hon. Members and the public concerning the home oxygen service in the last 18 months is shown in the following table. Not all were letters of complaint but to identify these separately would incur disproportionate cost.

Month and year	*Items of correspondence*
2006	
January	3
February	61
March	77
April	32
May	30
June	20
July	50
August	36
September	15
October	11
November	4
December	1
2007	
January	9
February	3
March	13
April	3
May	1
June	3
Total	372

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on the domiciliary oxygen service in *(a)* England, *(b)* each strategic health authority and *(c)* each health trust in the year preceding the introduction of the new domiciliary oxygen service. [152973]

Mr. Bradshaw: Expenditure on the home oxygen service prior to the introduction of the new service was not collected centrally.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the implications of the changed arrangements for home oxygen therapy for *(a)* waiting times, *(b)* patient safety and *(c)* emergency supply; and if he will make a statement. [153628]

Mr. Bradshaw: Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for managing the home oxygen service locally, including assessing how the new arrangements relate to waiting times, patient safety and emergency supply.

PCTs have access, on the home oxygen website, to a clinical assessment services commissioning framework, which outlines how these services, together with the new home oxygen service, can help reduce waiting times while supporting patients in managing their symptoms at home.

Under the terms of the contract, all suppliers are required to provide information and training on the safe and effective use of oxygen equipment provided to patients and their families. Suppliers also make clear to patients the dangers of using oxygen if they continue to smoke or use equipment close to fires or other naked flames. Suppliers are required to report any incident involving patient safety to PCTs. It is for PCTs to report all serious incidents and to take any appropriate follow-up action, whether reported by a supplier, health care professional or a patient, to strategic health authorities and the National Patient Safety Agency.

From national service data provided by suppliers, I am able to confirm that all new suppliers are meeting the response time target 99 per cent. of the time for emergency supply. This is a priority service and, under the terms of the contract, all suppliers are required to supply oxygen at home within four hours of receiving an order for emergency supply.

Homeopathy

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what consultations were carried out with *(a)* the Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital, *(b)* patient representatives and *(c)* representatives of practising homoeopaths prior to the decision to change funding for the Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital; [152796]

(2) what homoeopathic services will be available to the residents of Brent following changes in funding for treatment at the Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital. [152797]

Mr. Bradshaw: This is a local matter. The homoeopathic hospitals in the United Kingdom fall under the jurisdiction of the national health service in

the area in which they are based. Any decisions on the services that any of these hospitals provide are the responsibility of those NHS healthcare organisations.

Hospital Beds

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many beds there were per capita for *(a)* acute medicine, *(b)* general surgery, *(c)* orthopaedics, *(d)* maternity and *(e)* paediatrics in each (i) strategic health authority and (ii) primary care trust in England in each of the last 10 years; and what projections he has made of bed numbers in future years. [151464]

Ann Keen: Provider data by strategic health authority are shown in the following tables. Commissioner data are not collected centrally.

Total: Beds per capita

	SHA	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA	0.00432	0.00419	0.00415	0.00416	0.00411	0.00404	0.00404	0.00391	0.00364
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA	0.00255	0.00244	0.00240	0.00271	0.00268	0.00280	0.00276	0.00281	0.00270
Q03	Essex Strategic HA	0.00341	0.00343	0.00337	0.00329	0.00333	0.00326	0.00308	0.00311	0.00313
Q04	North West London Strategic HA	0.00481	0.00483	0.00425	0.00411	0.00400	0.00395	0.00378	0.00383	0.00367
Q05	North Central London Strategic HA	0.00575	0.00547	0.00508	0.00519	0.00493	0.00514	0.00503	0.00516	0.00504
Q06	North East London Strategic HA	0.00504	0.00484	0.00441	0.00426	0.00417	0.00417	0.00409	0.00403	0.00386
Q07	South East London Strategic HA	0.00433	0.00415	0.00404	0.00404	0.00401	0.00400	0.00407	0.00408	0.00394
Q08	South West London Strategic HA	0.00373	0.00378	0.00400	0.00401	0.00394	0.00358	0.00382	0.00371	0.00357
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Strategic HA	0.00556	0.00542	0.00535	0.00532	0.00531	0.00530	0.00526	0.00517	0.00508
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley SHA	0.00466	0.00471	0.00466	0.00473	0.00463	0.00452	0.00454	0.00440	0.00431
Q11	North & East Yorkshire & N Lincs SHA	0.00365	0.00348	0.00338	0.00335	0.00333	0.00338	0.00333	0.00328	0.00323
Q12	West Yorkshire Strategic HA	0.00462	0.00449	0.00442	0.00442	0.00439	0.00425	0.00430	0.00388	0.00369
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic HA	0.00470	0.00450	0.00436	0.00431	0.00416	0.00410	0.00405	0.00390	0.00376
Q14	Greater Manchester Strategic HA	0.00480	0.00466	0.00467	0.00451	0.00468	0.00442	0.00443	0.00428	0.00419
Q15	Cheshire & Merseyside Strategic HA	0.00402	0.00405	0.00417	0.00427	0.00436	0.00430	0.00433	0.00430	0.00417
Q16	Thames Valley Strategic HA	0.00313	0.00308	0.00301	0.00295	0.00275	0.00294	0.00298	0.00296	0.00289
Q17	Hampshire And Isle of Wight Strategic HA	0.00349	0.00342	0.00336	0.00344	0.00332	0.00334	0.00332	0.00338	0.00311
Q18	Kent and Medway Strategic HA	0.00347	0.00327	0.00329	0.00317	0.00310	0.00304	0.00308	0.00307	0.00289
Q19	Surrey and Sussex Strategic HA	0.00385	0.00377	0.00354	0.00350	0.00358	0.00362	0.00360	0.00335	0.00321
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA	0.00433	0.00424	0.00414	0.00402	0.00402	0.00409	0.00393	0.00388	0.00388
Q21	South West Peninsula Strategic HA	0.00429	0.00415	0.00411	0.00402	0.00378	0.00373	0.00390	0.00382	0.00370
Q22	Dorset and Somerset Strategic HA	0.00432	0.00420	0.00416	0.00419	0.00422	0.00425	0.00417	0.00407	0.00395
Q23	South Yorkshire Strategic HA	0.00465	0.00480	0.00473	0.00480	0.00488	0.00499	0.00493	0.00500	0.00492
Q24	Trent Strategic HA	0.00382	0.00379	0.00382	0.00373	0.00359	0.00350	0.00366	0.00356	0.00342
Q25	Leics, Northants and Rutland SHA	0.00345	0.00341	0.00339	0.00354	0.00343	0.00359	0.00358	0.00346	0.00335

Total: Beds per capita

	SHA	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA	0.00364	0.00373	0.00369	0.00357	0.00352	0.00341	0.00344	0.00340	0.00325
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country SHA	0.00425	0.00428	0.00416	0.00423	0.00424	0.00426	0.00427	0.00420	0.00418
Q28	West Midlands South Strategic HA	0.00351	0.00337	0.00338	0.00338	0.00335	0.00325	0.00314	0.00318	0.00314
	England	0.00413	0.00405	0.00396	0.00395	0.00390	0.00387	0.00387	0.00380	0.00368

Acute: Beds per capita

	SHA	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA	0.00215	0.00213	0.00212	0.00215	0.00213	0.00214	0.00219	0.00212	0.00198
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA	0.00099	0.00100	0.00100	0.00122	0.00128	0.00126	0.00129	0.00139	0.00127
Q03	Essex Strategic HA	0.00148	0.00146	0.00147	0.00149	0.00147	0.00149	0.00153	0.00151	0.00152
Q04	North West London Strategic HA	0.00259	0.00266	0.00240	0.00222	0.00219	0.00215	0.00215	0.00219	0.00207
Q05	North Central London Strategic HA	0.00312	0.00299	0.00287	0.00281	0.00271	0.00268	0.00277	0.00269	0.00263
Q06	North East London Strategic HA	0.00238	0.00233	0.00216	0.00222	0.00224	0.00225	0.00227	0.00221	0.00221
Q07	South East London Strategic HA	0.00232	0.00226	0.00225	0.00227	0.00221	0.00210	0.00209	0.00205	0.00193
Q08	South West London Strategic HA	0.00195	0.00193	0.00215	0.00214	0.00215	0.00203	0.00211	0.00217	0.00213
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Strategic HA	0.00276	0.00276	0.00276	0.00274	0.00276	0.00274	0.00275	0.00273	0.00275
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley SHA	0.00265	0.00262	0.00259	0.00259	0.00249	0.00241	0.00246	0.00239	0.00233
Q11	North & East Yorkshire & N Lincs SHA	0.00202	0.00190	0.00189	0.00192	0.00191	0.00197	0.00196	0.00195	0.00194
Q12	West Yorkshire Strategic HA	0.00249	0.00244	0.00242	0.00243	0.00238	0.00231	0.00229	0.00221	0.00216
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic HA	0.00242	0.00247	0.00239	0.00243	0.00232	0.00232	0.00230	0.00221	0.00220
Q14	Greater Manchester Strategic HA	0.00283	0.00282	0.00282	0.00280	0.00283	0.00278	0.00282	0.00279	0.00271
Q15	Cheshire & Merseyside Strategic HA	0.00251	0.00251	0.00260	0.00267	0.00269	0.00270	0.00271	0.00276	0.00267
Q16	Thames Valley Strategic HA	0.00190	0.00186	0.00181	0.00165	0.00182	0.00185	0.00185	0.00185	0.00181
Q17	Hampshire And Isle Of Wight Strategic HA	0.00187	0.00181	0.00178	0.00191	0.00192	0.00195	0.00200	0.00201	0.00184
Q18	Kent and Medway Strategic HA	0.00167	0.00167	0.00169	0.00170	0.00162	0.00153	0.00155	0.00157	0.00154
Q19	Surrey and Sussex Strategic HA	0.00188	0.00183	0.00170	0.00177	0.00184	0.00182	0.00192	0.00184	0.00181
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA	0.00232	0.00240	0.00240	0.00233	0.00234	0.00243	0.00244	0.00244	0.00258
Q21	South West Peninsula Strategic HA	0.00243	0.00245	0.00248	0.00250	0.00261	0.00258	0.00261	0.00257	0.00251
Q22	Dorset and Somerset Strategic HA	0.00221	0.00216	0.00216	0.00215	0.00214	0.00215	0.00223	0.00218	0.00215
Q23	South Yorkshire Strategic HA	0.00278	0.00288	0.00281	0.00283	0.00293	0.00308	0.00297	0.00302	0.00305
Q24	Trent Strategic HA	0.00212	0.00212	0.00217	0.00211	0.00202	0.00196	0.00194	0.00191	0.00186

Acute: Beds per capita

	SHA	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Q25	Leics, Northants and Rutland SHA	0.00191	0.00192	0.00196	0.00194	0.00191	0.00199	0.00195	0.00190	0.00194
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA	0.00177	0.00184	0.00183	0.00189	0.00190	0.00185	0.00185	0.00184	0.00179
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country SHA	0.00252	0.00255	0.00255	0.00259	0.00260	0.00266	0.00262	0.00269	0.00269
Q28	West Midlands South Strategic HA	0.00199	0.00198	0.00200	0.00197	0.00206	0.00214	0.00205	0.00205	0.00204
	England	0.00222	0.00221	0.00219	0.00219	0.00219	0.00219	0.00220	0.00219	0.00214

Maternity: Beds per capita

	SHA	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA	0.00020	0.00019	0.00019	0.00019	0.00018	0.00017	0.00015	0.00015	0.00014
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA	0.00016	0.00015	0.00015	0.00019	0.00018	0.00017	0.00017	0.00017	0.00018
Q03	Essex Strategic HA	0.00022	0.00020	0.00020	0.00018	0.00018	0.00016	0.00016	0.00014	0.00015
Q04	North West London Strategic HA	0.00030	0.00028	0.00028	0.00021	0.00021	0.00019	0.00018	0.00019	0.00018
Q05	North Central London Strategic HA	0.00028	0.00028	0.00027	0.00025	0.00025	0.00021	0.00022	0.00022	0.00022
Q06	North East London Strategic HA	0.00032	0.00031	0.00028	0.00024	0.00026	0.00023	0.00023	0.00023	0.00023
Q07	South East London Strategic HA	0.00024	0.00023	0.00023	0.00023	0.00022	0.00022	0.00023	0.00021	0.00022
Q08	South West London Strategic HA	0.00020	0.00020	0.00020	0.00021	0.00022	0.00020	0.00020	0.00019	0.00019
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Strategic HA	0.00025	0.00024	0.00021	0.00020	0.00018	0.00019	0.00018	0.00018	0.00018
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley SHA	0.00028	0.00026	0.00024	0.00023	0.00021	0.00020	0.00019	0.00019	0.00019
Q11	North & East Yorkshire & N Lincs SHA	0.00020	0.00019	0.00019	0.00019	0.00021	0.00018	0.00018	0.00018	0.00017
Q12	West Yorkshire Strategic HA	0.00024	0.00024	0.00023	0.00021	0.00023	0.00022	0.00022	0.00020	0.00018
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic HA	0.00022	0.00021	0.00020	0.00020	0.00020	0.00019	0.00020	0.00020	0.00018
Q14	Greater Manchester Strategic HA	0.00029	0.00026	0.00026	0.00025	0.00025	0.00024	0.00024	0.00022	0.00021
Q15	Cheshire & Merseyside Strategic HA	0.00022	0.00020	0.00021	0.00019	0.00021	0.00020	0.00019	0.00019	0.00019
Q16	Thames Valley Strategic HA	0.00020	0.00020	0.00020	0.00018	0.00017	0.00017	0.00017	0.00016	0.00017
Q17	Hampshire And Isle Of Wight Strategic HA	0.00019	0.00020	0.00020	0.00020	0.00019	0.00018	0.00017	0.00018	0.00015
Q18	Kent and Medway Strategic HA	0.00021	0.00019	0.00019	0.00019	0.00018	0.00016	0.00016	0.00014	0.00015
Q19	Surrey and Sussex Strategic HA	0.00019	0.00019	0.00018	0.00017	0.00016	0.00016	0.00015	0.00015	0.00014
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA	0.00023	0.00021	0.00022	0.00022	0.00021	0.00021	0.00020	0.00020	0.00020
Q21	South West Peninsula Strategic HA	0.00023	0.00023	0.00023	0.00021	0.00018	0.00018	0.00018	0.00017	0.00015
Q22	Dorset and Somerset Strategic HA	0.00018	0.00016	0.00015	0.00015	0.00014	0.00014	0.00014	0.00014	0.00014
Q23	South Yorkshire Strategic HA	0.00015	0.00017	0.00017	0.00015	0.00020	0.00019	0.00021	0.00021	0.00021
Q24	Trent Strategic HA	0.00020	0.00018	0.00018	0.00018	0.00017	0.00017	0.00017	0.00017	0.00017
Q25	Leics, Northants and Rutland SHA	0.00020	0.00019	0.00019	0.00018	0.00018	0.00017	0.00017	0.00017	0.00013

Maternity: Beds per capita

	SHA	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA	0.00018	0.00018	0.00018	0.00017	0.00017	0.00017	0.00019	0.00018	0.00016
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country SHA	0.00022	0.00021	0.00022	0.00020	0.00021	0.00020	0.00021	0.00019	0.00019
Q28	West Midlands South Strategic HA	0.00021	0.00020	0.00019	0.00020	0.00021	0.00019	0.00019	0.00018	0.00017
	England	0.00022	0.00021	0.00021	0.00020	0.00020	0.00019	0.00019	0.00018	0.00018

Notes:
1. KH03 is a provider based collection so the data are not available at PCT level.
2. The data have been mapped to the 28 SHAs created 1 April 2002 to provide a timeseries comparison.
3. Population data are mid-year population estimates based on the 2001-1991 census
4. Beds totals include beds in wards open overnight, day only beds and residential care beds.

Source:
Department of Health form KH03 and ONS for population statistics.

Hospital Beds: Heart Diseases

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average number of occupied bed days was for patients admitted to hospitals with congestive heart failure in each of the last five years. [152918]

Ann Keen: The information is in the following table and footnotes.

Mean and median bed days during the year for finished admissions episodes with a primary diagnosis of 150.0 Congestive Heart Failure for 2001-02 to 2005-06—NHS hospitals, England

	Mean	Median
2005-06	7	3
2004-05	7	3
2003-04	8	3
2002-03	9	4
2001-02	10	5

Notes:
1. ICD-10 Code: I50.0 Congestive Heart Failure
2. Bed Days During the Year
Bed days within the year include only those days falling between 1 April and 31 March of the data year including unfinished episodes, unless otherwise stated.
3. Diagnosis (Primary Diagnosis)
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
4. Data Quality
HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 national health service trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
5. Assessing growth through time
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.
Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
6.Ungrossed Data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (ie the data are ungrossed).

Source:
HES, The Information Centre for health and social care

Hospitals: Doctors

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital trusts are not in compliance with the Royal College of Physicians' guidelines on consultants working at more than one hospital. [150576]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 18 July 2007]:* The information requested is not collected centrally.

Hospitals: Food

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of hospital main meals were left untouched in *(a)* England and *(b)* each NHS provider organisation in each year from 2001-02 to 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [153406]

Ann Keen: Information on the number, and percentage, of hospital main meals left untouched in England is in the following table. Information relating to individual national health service providers has been placed in the Library. Data were not collected before 2001-02.

England	Total number untouched/unserved patient meals	Average percentage untouched/unserved patient meals
2001-02	11,473,923	8.86
2002-03	14,582,371	10.44
2003-04	16,708,212	10.71
2004-05	10,707,712	10.26
2005-06	13,053,065	9.42

Food is left untouched or unserved for a variety of reasons, but generally a combination of sufficient food being provided in order to ensure patients have a choice and changing requirements, i.e. patients being discharged or moved, being absent for treatment or changing clinical status after the food orders have been made.

Since 2004-05, the data provided have not been collected on a mandatory basis and therefore will not be complete.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many babies have contracted hospital-acquired infections in the last 12 months, broken down by health trust. [152763]

Ann Keen: The best available data are given as follows but will include both community and healthcare-acquired infections.

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)

Information on age has only been collected under the mandatory surveillance scheme by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) since October 2005 and the latest data were published on 25 July 2007. The total number of cases of MRSA bloodstream infections in the 12 months from April 2006 to March 2007 in children aged under one year in England was 35.

The small numbers involved mean that the information is not available by named trust as this could result in deductive disclosure.

Clostridium difficile

Children under two years are not included in the mandatory surveillance scheme.

The HPA's voluntary reporting scheme collects data on age and sex of cases. The scheme does not collect data on where infection was acquired (e.g. neonatal unit, or maternity unit). The following table shows the number of cases of *Clostridium difficile* for children from birth to one in England, Wales and Northern Ireland for 2005. Data for 2006 are not available yet.

Age	*2005*
Under 1 month	37
1 to 5 months	42
6 to 11 months	40

The aforementioned information is likely to be an underestimate as not all laboratories report. Furthermore, testing of children under two years of age may be limited owing to a general belief that the presence of *C. difficile* is not usually clinically significant in this age group as asymptomatic carriage, including production of toxins A and B, is common in this age group.

No other data on healthcare associated infections are available by age group.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 456W, on hospitals: infectious diseases, in how many hospitals the six deaths in 2005 took place. [153633]

Ann Keen: The six deaths from methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* in persons aged under one, in 2005, occurred in five different hospitals.

Hospitals: Private Finance

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many hospitals were opened with private finance initiative funding since 1997, broken down by strategic health authority region; [151458]

(2) what the value of private finance initiative projects for which his Department is responsible was in each of the last five years, broken down by strategic health authority region; [151538]

(3) how many of the hospitals which have been opened through private finance initiative funding since 1997 have subsequently been closed, broken down by strategic health authority region. [151541]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information for PFI schemes with capital value over £10 million is shown in the following table.

£ million

		Capital value of PFI schemes opened or commenced construction in each of last five years					
Strategic health authority	*PFI schemes operational since 1997*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007 (to date)*	*Total*
East Midlands	1	312	19	354	0	29	714
East of England	4	15	0	0	66	412	493
London	19	224	0	443	1,541	33	2,241
North East	9	205	16	299	32	24	576
North West	4	0	512	0	478	0	990
South Central	7	30	19	365	47	207	668
South East Coast	4	29	0	0	0	36	65
South West	6	0	42	0	107	21	170
West Midlands	8	13	0	163	1,006	306	1,488
Yorkshire and the Humber	7	22	279	42	62	378	783
Totals	69	850	887	1,666	3,339	1,446	8,188

There are no instances of a PFI facility built since 1997 for the national health service that has subsequently closed.

Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccination

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that clear guidance is given to primary care trusts on how girls can access human papilloma virus vaccines outside *(a)* vaccination and *(b)* catch-up programmes. [153447]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock) on 19 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 633-34W.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation expects to provide a recommendation to Ministers on a potential human papilloma virus vaccination catch-up programme for girls beyond the age of 13, following its meeting in October 2007. [153448]

Dawn Primarolo: A detailed analysis is being carried out by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) regarding the benefits and costs of introducing a human papilloma virus vaccine programme. This work is being externally peer reviewed to ensure its robustness. This review has not yet been completed and therefore JCVI will not be able to make its more detailed recommendation, including whether there will be a catch-up for older girls, until after its next meeting, on October 17.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which body will be completing the independent peer review of the cost benefit analysis for human papilloma virus vaccination; and when this review is due to be completed. [153476]

Dawn Primarolo: A detailed analysis is being carried out by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) regarding the benefits and costs of introducing a human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine programme. This work is being externally peer reviewed by biologists working in the HPV field, mathematical modellers and economists in order to ensure its robustness.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how he will involve primary care trusts and strategic health authorities in planning for implementation of a human papilloma virus vaccination programme in autumn 2008. [153477]

Dawn Primarolo: The introduction of a comprehensive nationwide human papilloma virus vaccine programme will be a considerable undertaking for the national health service and many practical issues need to be discussed with stakeholders, particularly from the NHS. The Department will work with stakeholders, including primary care trusts and strategic health authorities, to plan for the introduction of the vaccine.

Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 130W, on influenza, whether he has considered the practicalities of giving short courses of antivirals as prophylaxis to members of the household of a person infected with pandemic influenza; what estimate he has made of the size of the antiviral stockpile necessary to do so; whether he plans to consider the possibility of using antivirals as prophylaxis in *(a)* schools, *(b)* healthcare settings and *(c)* other institutions; when he expects to take a final decision regarding stockpiling additional antivirals for prophylactic purposes; and if he will make a statement. [152310]

Dawn Primarolo: Prophylaxis is being considered as part of the overall countermeasures strategy for pandemic influenza. No decisions have been made on the use of prophylaxis but the policy is being kept under review including the possible size of any stockpiles and the potential options for their use.

Influenza: Disease Control

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued to *(a)* businesses and *(b)* other organisations outside the health and social care sectors on the safe use of (i) pharmacological and (ii) other clinical interventions to mitigate the impact of a potential influenza pandemic. [152169]

Dawn Primarolo: Advice to businesses and organisations that are planning to make interventions available to their employees is that distribution should be carried out under the guidance of a medical practitioner, in line with their usual occupational health arrangements. Advice on planning for a pandemic is included in the draft national framework for responding to an influenza pandemic that was issued for public discussion in March. Workplace guidance for pandemic flu is also available from the Health and Safety Executive website.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the main headings of the information presented to the 14 February 2007 meeting of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation on risk groups relating to the prioritisation of vaccinations in the event of an influenza pandemic; what progress is being made in combining this information with mathematical modelling in order to present a comprehensive package of information; by which *(a)* parties and *(b)* Government Departments this comprehensive package of information will be used; and if he will make a statement. [152172]

Dawn Primarolo: The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) considered prioritisation issues connected with pandemic-specific vaccines and pre-pandemic vaccines which might be deployed to counter a flu pandemic. The group was presented with clinical, practical and public health considerations for the possible prioritisation of some or all of the following groups; healthcare workers, those at high risk of complications, those aged 18 years or younger to reduce disease transmission, those over 65, essential workers and enclosed communities. Another consideration was vaccination of the entire population.

The modelling subgroup of the Pandemic Influenza Scientific Advisory Group has considered the conclusions of a number of pieces of analysis (some commissioned specially for the group) on the role of both pre- and specific vaccines. This is discussed in the modelling summary published on the Department's website. The results of the analysis and the conclusions of the subgroup were presented at the June JCVI meeting and there will be further presentations and discussion at the next meeting.

The conclusions of the discussion will feed into the considerations of the Department and the Cabinet Office, including discussions with other Government Departments, on future options for pandemic preparedness.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on the effectiveness of stockpiling *(a)* oseltamivir, *(b)* zanamivir, *(c)* other antivirals and *(d)* pre-pandemic vaccines to prepare the NHS for tackling an influenza pandemic. [152173]

Dawn Primarolo: We continue to receive representations from a range of sources on the effectiveness of stockpiling both antivirals and pre-pandemic vaccine.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when his Department will publish its response to the consultation on the national framework for responding to an influenza pandemic; [152175]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2298W, on influenza, when he plans to publish a final framework. [152311]

Dawn Primarolo: The national framework is due to be published later in the year.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* manufacturing capacity, *(b)* distribution capacity and *(c)* storage capacity of the pre-pandemic vaccine producers. [152176]

Dawn Primarolo: The United Kingdom policy on pre-pandemic vaccination has not yet been finalised and the appropriateness and cost-effectiveness of this countermeasure is still being assessed, along with manufacturing, distribution and storage capacity of producers.

Injuries: Children

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children *(a)* were admitted to hospital and *(b)* died as a result of unintentional injury in each of the last five years. [152762]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The number of admissions of children (aged 0 to 14) to hospital as a result of unintentional injury in each of the last five years for which data are available is shown in the following table.

Count of finished admission episodes for children (ages 0-14) with unintentional injury, national health service hospitals, England

Financial year	*Number of admissions*
2001-02	102,833
2002-03	97,493
2003-04	99,915
2004-05	99,517
2005-06	100,194

Notes:
1. A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. Data are for International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes V01 to X59, which cover external causes of accidental injury. Data represent a count of all episodes where this diagnosis was mentioned in any of the 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in a HES record.
3. HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
4. When analysing time series of HES data, the impact of improvements over time in data quality and coverage, and of changes in NHS practice need to be borne in mind. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
5. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (ie the data are ungrossed).

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

The number of children (aged 0 to 14) who died as a result of unintentional injury in each of the last five years for which data are available is shown in the following table.

Deaths from unintentional injury, ages 0 to 14, England

	Number of deaths
2002	284
2003	274
2004	240
2005	231
2006	233

Notes:
1. Data are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
2. Cause of death is based on the final underlying cause, defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes V01 to X59.
3. Data are for usual residents of England.

Source:
Office for National Statistics death registrations

Junior Doctors: Vacancies

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of vacancies for junior doctors are expected to be filled by 1 August, broken down by *(a)* deanery and *(b)* specialty; and if he will make a statement. [153419]

Ann Keen: At the end of round one, 85 per cent. of junior doctor training posts had been filled.

The round 2 recruitment is in progress and the estimated total fill rate for 1 August is around 90 per cent. This means that national health service hospitals should have the junior doctors they need in post to ensure that services run smoothly around the annual changeover of junior doctors in early August.

A new wave of junior doctors start working in NHS hospitals across the country in August, each year. We appreciate that there are more involved this year, but hospitals are used to dealing with a new influx of junior doctors. Hospital consultants every year quietly, and very competently, plan for that process.

All applicants who are in substantive NHS employment will continue to have employment while they progress through the next round. This will help cover any remaining gaps in August.

Link Up Service

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with colleagues in the Department for Work and Pensions on the health benefits of the Link Up service. [152049]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The cross-Government strategy, "'Opportunity Age'—meeting the challenge of a changing society", was published by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) as a consultation document on 23 March 2005. The strategy outlines what can be done to meet the challenge of the changing demographics in the 21st century and looks specifically at the issues facing society as people live longer, healthier lives. It includes supporting active ageing and giving people more choice and independence in how they use the services at their disposal.

The Department was a major partner with the DWP in Opportunity Age. A specific theme of Opportunity Age was the development of LinkAge Plus pilots, which aim to build more effective links between central Government, local authorities and other organisations and deliver a fully integrated service to meet the needs of older people.

Eight LinkAge Plus pilots were established. LinkAge Plus is a two-year pilot programme, with funding available until March 2008. It was launched in September 2006 and aims to test models of partnership working and build up evidence of good practice to ensure joined up working. The Link Up service in Gateshead is one of these pilots.

Link Up offers advice and help to people in Gateshead aged 50 or over on a variety of topics, including health, benefits and how to stay healthy and active, and help with domestic tasks such as gardening and shopping.

Macular Degeneration

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will instruct primary care trusts to make all treatments for wet age-related macular degeneration available to patients on the national health service. [151949]

Ann Keen: All primary care trusts (PCTs) are funding photodynamic therapy treatment for patients with both the wholly classic and the predominantly classic forms of wet age-related macular degeneration, in line with guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).

NICE is currently carrying out an appraisal of Lucentis and Macugen, which are now both licensed for the treatment of wet age-related macular degeneration, and final guidance is due later in the year.

Where guidance from NICE is not yet available, PCTs are expected to apply local arrangements for the managed introduction of new technologies. These arrangements should include an assessment of the available evidence.

Medical Treatments Abroad

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS patients were treated overseas in 2006, broken down by *(a)* country in which treatment was obtained and *(b)* type of treatment; and what the cost was to the NHS of these treatments, broken down by country in which treatment was obtained. [151702]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* It has been assumed that the question relates to patients being referred abroad specifically for treatment. There are a number of different routes by which patients can be sent abroad for treatment. We only hold information where the relevant authorisation has to be given by the Department. Cost information is not available as claims do not separate the different categories of treatment and this could only be done at disproportionate cost. The following table shows the number of patients treated by country and treatment type where Departmental authorisation has been given.

Country	*Type of Treatment*	*Number of cases*
Austria	Lung transplant	1
	Maternity care	5
	Removal of screws	1
	Total for country	7
Belgium	Annual check for heart transplant	1
	Atrial fibrillation	1
	CTscan	2
	Maternity care	21
	Phalloplasty	2
	Scan for epilepsy (ictal spect scan)	3
	Total for country	30
Czech Republic	Maternity care	11
	Total for country	11
Finland	Blood test	1
	Cancer care	2
	Cholecystectomy	1
	Maternity care	4
	Removal of implant	1
	Total for country	9
France	Bladder echocardiogram	1
	Brain aneurysm treatment	1
	Colonoscopy	2
	Consultation	3
	Ear reconstruction	2
	EEG scan	1
	Embolisation	1
	Endoscopy	1
	Gamma knife assessment	1
	Maternity care	104
	Photons	1
	Pilondial sinus and abscess	1
	Primary torsion dystonia	1
	Proton beam therapy	3
	Pudendal nerve compression	2
	Renal transplant	1
	Stereo-Electroencephalography	2
	Steroid injection	1
	Thyroidectomy	1
	Trapped pudendal nerve	1
	Urine test/injection	1
	Unknown	4
	Total for country	136
Germany	Advanced radiosurgery/MRI scan	1
	Cancer treatment	1
	Chemotherapy	1
	Cyberknife therapy	1
	F-Dopa-Pet scan	1

Country	Type of Treatment	Number of cases
	Speech therapy	1
	Heart stemcell therapy	1
	Hernia	1
	Intraluminal bare laser	2
	Laser treatment of the tongue	2
	Maternity care	44
	Meg scan	1
	Pet scan	1
	Phalloplasty	1
	Provision of hearing aid	1
	Skin cancer	1
	Stem cell therapy	1
	Unknown	1
	Total for country	63
Greece	Maternity care	2
	Total for country	2
Italy	Maternity care	10
	Total for country	10
Netherlands	Chemotherapy	2
	Genetic mutation analysis	1
	Maternity care	8
	Total for country	11
Norway	Maternity care	1
	Total for country	1
Poland	Accident	1
	Maternity care	21
	Total for country	22
Slovak Republic	Maternity care	3
	Total for country	3
Spain	Maternity care	27
	Medication	1
	Total for country	28
Sweden	Carcinoid cancer	3
	Ergonomics and physiotherapy	3
	Lymph oedema	1
	Maternity care	3
	Neurendocrine pancreatic tumour	2
	Octreotide treatment	2
	Unknown	3
	Total for country	17
Switzerland	Maternity care	5
	Total for country	5
Unknown	Unknown	2
	Total treatments abroad	357

Medical Treatments: Heart Diseases

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of patients suffering from congestive heart failure were treated through *(a)* pharmacological management, *(b)* cardiac transplant surgery and *(c)* the use of medical devices in each of the last five years, broken down by strategic health authority. [152914]

Ann Keen: These data are not collected centrally.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS spent on *(a)* pharmacological management, *(b)* cardiac transplant surgery and *(c)* the use of medical devices in the treatment of congestive heart failure in each of the last five years, broken down by strategic health authority. [152915]

Ann Keen: Information is not collected in the form requested. It is possible to separate spending on medical devices and pharmacological management devices specifically for treatment for congestive heart failure from figures for such spending related to cardiac conditions generally.

On heart and lung transplants only national figures are available for procedures commissioned under the auspices of the National Specialist Commissioning Advisory Group. The following figures are for national commissioning across England, Scotland and Northern Ireland and include assessment, organ retrieval and follow-up services for both heart and lung transplant.

	£ million
2002-03	30.1
2003-04	31.4
2004-05	33.8
2005-06	35.7
2006-07	37.8

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the cost was of treating congestive heart failure in each of the last five years to the NHS, broken down by strategic health authority; [152916]

(2) what the average cost of an occupied bed day was for patients with congestive heart failure in each of the last five years, broken down by strategic health authority. [152917]

Ann Keen: These data requested are not held centrally.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 21 June 2007 on Type 1 diabetes. [153492]

Ann Keen: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 24 July 2007.

Mental Health Services: Children

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialists in child mental health were employed in the NHS in each of the last 10 years, broken down by NHS trust. [151017]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information about medical child mental health specialists has been placed in the Library. It is not possible to separately identify child mental health nurses.

Mental Health Services: Manpower

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* consultant psychiatrists, *(b)* mental health nurses and *(c)* primary care mental health workers were employed by the NHS in each of the last 10 years, broken down by (i) head count and (ii) full-time equivalents. [151009]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

	1997		*1998*		*1999*		*2000*	
	Headcount	*Full-time equivalent*	*Headcount*	*Full-time equivalent*	*Headcount*	*Full-time equivalent*	*Headcount*	*Full-time equivalent*
All staff	52,667	47,385	51,504	46,316	51,730	46,273	51,930	46,823
Consultant Psychiatrists	2,447	2,206	2,627	2,359	2,808	2,525	2,904	2,621
Mental Health Nurses	50,220	45,179	48,877	43,957	48,922	43,748	49,026	44,203
Nurse Consultant	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Modern Matron	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Manager	1,137	1,106	1,119	1,085	1,070	1,036	1,154	1,113
Other 1st level	43,509	39,297	42,963	38,685	43,494	38,965	44,363	40,061
Other 2nd level	5,574	4,776	4,795	4,186	4,358	3,747	3,509	3,029

	2001		*2002*		*2003*		*2004*	
	Headcount	*Full-time equivalent*	*Headcount*	*Full-time equivalent*	*Headcount*	*Full-time equivalent*	*Headcount*	*Full-time equivalent*
All staff	54,274	48,046	55,183	49,172	56,907	50,127	59,601	52,342
Consultant Psychiatrists	2,959	2,633	2,979	2,673	3,229	2,920	3,555	3,231
Mental Health Nurses	51,315	45,413	52,204	46,499	53,678	47,207	56,046	49,111
Nurse Consultant	36	36	75	70	95	94	130	126
Modern Matron	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Manager	1,464	1,416	1,423	1,377	1,731	1,677	2,021	1,974
Other 1st level	46,112	40,927	47,673	42,590	48,775	43,120	50,924	44,785
Other 2nd level	3,703	3,033	3,033	2,461	3,077	2,317	2,971	2,226

	2005		*2006*	
	Headcount	*Full-time equivalent*	*Headcount*	*Full-time equivalent*
All staff	61,136	53,328	59,866	52,957
Consultant Psychiatrists	3,759	3,432	3,805	3,474
Mental Health Nurses	57,377	49,896	56,061	49,483
Nurse Consultant	142	138	144	141
Modern Matron	168	165	225	222
Manager	1,764	1,718	1,823	1,763
Other 1st level	52,668	45,965	52,299	46,009
Other 2nd level	2,635	1,909	1,570	1,348

n/a = Not applicable.

Notes:

1. Mental health nurses are those qualified nurses who work within the community psychiatry, other psychiatry, community learning disabilities and other learning disabilities areas.
2. More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total work force figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full-time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time.

Sources:

1. Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census
2. The Information Centre for health and social care medical and dental workforce census

Mental Health Services: Young People

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many new cases were dealt with by child and adolescent mental health services in each of the last five years. [150656]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The number of new cases dealt with by specialist child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) in England was as follows.

	Cases
2002	9,822
2003	16,632
2004	27,892
2005	31,330
2006	29,170

Source:
CAMHS mapping data 2002-06

Midwives: Manpower

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the number of midwives working in the NHS in England. [151616]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is important that these assessments are made locally as they know their local needs best and can ensure that services are developed to meet these needs.

The 2007-08 national health service operating framework requires local NHS organisations to undertake a review of their maternity services, identify the gaps and barriers to service development and set out their local strategy for delivery of maternity matters. The review needs to include an assessment of their workforce capacity.

Between September 1997 and September 2006, the (headcount) number of midwives employed in the NHS has increased by 2,084 (9 per cent).

Midwives: Training

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many training places for student midwives are planned to be provided in *(a)* the 2007-08 academic year and *(b)* subsequent years; what factors are taken into account in deciding the number commissioned; which (i) individuals and (ii) organisations were consulted in that decision; and who decides how many places will be commissioned. [151613]

Mr. Bradshaw: A total of 2,116 planned student midwifery training places were commissioned for the 2007-08 academic year. Information on the number of planned training places for subsequent years is not available centrally.

When determining the number of training places needed, the existing number of midwifes, the expected number of graduates and policy priorities such as Maternity Matters are expected to be taken into account.

Strategic health authorities will have the final decision on how many places to commission. The Department has a service level agreement with local strategic health authorities (SHAs) which expects them to make decisions and plans based on long-term workforce planning using national and local data sources with support from the national workforce review team. It is for individual SHAs to decide on the appropriate organisations to consult.

Multiple Sclerosis: Drugs

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the review on the use of the drug Sativex by multiple sclerosis patients will conclude; and if he will make a statement. [153485]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The review period for Sativex concluded on 19 July 2007 when the applicant for the marketing authorisation, GW Pharmaceuticals Ltd, withdrew the application in all concerned member states (Netherland, Denmark, Spain and the United Kingdom). No further review on Sativex is possible until another application is submitted by the company.

Musculoskeletal Disorders: Health Services

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how he will assess implementation of the Musculoskeletal Services Framework beyond the 18-week target. [152980]

Ann Keen: The Musculoskeletal Services Framework (MSF) was published as good practice guidance and it is for local organisations to decide how best to implement it. The Department will not be monitoring local implementation formally, but will continue to monitor indicators such as waiting times and to liaise with stakeholders such as those represented on the National Orthopaedics Co-ordinating Group.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many submissions his Department has received on addressing musculoskeletal problems in the Quality and Outcomes Framework. [152981]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department of Health does not receive any submissions on changes to the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF).

The independent expert panel which advises the negotiating parties to the general medical services contract on the evidence for changes to the QOF invited submissions for a review of QOF in 2005. The panel received two submissions in relation to falls, one in relation to osteoarthritis and seven in relation to osteoporosis. All submissions were considered and the expert panel produced reports which have been published on the University of Birmingham website.

As part of the ongoing development of the framework, indicators will be subject to continuing review in the light of emerging evidence, in the context of a value for money agreement. The expert panel again invited patient groups and professional bodies to submit evidence on current or potential future areas in QOF by 28 February this year. The panel has now concluded oral sessions with submitting groups. NHS Employers, which holds the contract with the expert panel and negotiates changes to the contract with the British Medical Association, intends to make further information available on this process soon.

NHS Direct

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many calls were made to NHS Direct in each of the last five years; and what progress is being made on the development and implementation of the telephone internet and digital service as recommended in the White Paper, "Choosing Health". [152239]

Mr. Bradshaw: The NHS Direct Trust has provided the following information.

Number of calls offered[1] to NHS Direct in the last five calendar years

	Calls offered
2002	7,375,970
2003	8,168,357

Number of calls offered[1] to NHS Direct in the last five calendar years

	Calls offered
2004	8,611,418
2005	8,104,166
2006	7,336,604

[1] Defined as the number of calls offered received by NHS Direct. This is the combined total of calls to NHS Direct's out-of-hours services and calls to the 08454647 telephone line.

Sources:
1. NHS Direct. The figures have not been validated by the Department
2. NHS Direct NHS Trust National Operations Centre

The "Choosing Health" White Paper commitment to develop and implement telephone, internet and digital services is being delivered through the new NHS Choices website, available at www.nhs.uk/Pages/homepage.aspx. This currently incorporates a Live Well area; a local services search facility; and personalised, national health service accredited content that reflects the interests and needs of different age groups across a spectrum of issues and factors which can impact upon length and quality of life. Further services, including testing of SMS text messaging and digital television, will be added later this year.

NHS Treatment Centres

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of operating walk-in centres was in each primary care trust in the latest year for which figures are available. [152269]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect this information centrally. Primary Care Trusts are responsible for commissioning NHS walk-in centres.

NHS Treatment Centres: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were treated at York NHS walk-in centre in each year since it opened. [151639]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is contained in the following table.

Attendances at NHS Walk in Centre (WiC), North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust (PCT), 2003-04 to 2006-07

	Organisation	Attendances
2003-04	Selby and York PCT	39,221
2004-05	Selby and York PCT	36,194
2005-06	Selby and York PCT	28,058
2006-07	North Yorkshire and York PCT	24,338

Notes:
1. Attendances at WiCs were not collected as part of the QMAE return prior to 2003-04. Throughout this period the organisations above only reported one WiC each quarter.
2. On 1 October 2006, Selby and York PCT merged with three other PCTs to form North Yorkshire and York PCT.

Source:
Department of Health dataset QMAE.

NHS: Accountancy

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on which dates the annual accounts of the NHS were published in each of the last five years. [151515]

Mr. Bradshaw: All national health service bodies are required to publish their accounts locally. The accounts must be presented at a public meeting held no later than 30 September following the end of the financial year (31 March).

The National Audit Office publishes the NHS summarised accounts for strategic health authorities, primary care trusts and NHS trusts. The publication dates for the last five financial years were:

2001-02: 21 March 2003
2002-03: 28 April 2004
2003-04: 24 June 2005
2004-05: 7 June 2006
2005-06: not yet published

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department put in place formal arrangements with the Department of Trade and Industry to ensure co-operation when representing the interests of the pharmaceutical industry, as stated on page 24 of the Government's response to the Health Committee's report "The Influence of the Pharmaceutical Industry", Cm 6655; whether this formal co-operation now takes place between his Department and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform; whether this formal co-operation extends to representing the interests of the *(a)* nutraceutical, *(b)* food supplements and *(c)* specialist nutritional products industries; and if he will make a statement. [153398]

Dawn Primarolo: In line with the Government response to the Health Committee's report "The Influence of the Pharmaceutical Industry", the Department and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) have put in place formal arrangements to ensure close working between both Departments on issues relating to the pharmaceutical industry.

The directors of the Medicines, Pharmacy and Industry Group (MPIG) in the Department and the Business Relations Group at BERR meet regularly and work closely in taking forward this agenda. In addition, officials in the Industry Branch within MPIG and in the BioScience Unit of the Business Relations Unit meet on a quarterly basis. They also work closely on a day-to-day basis taking forward policy relating to the United Kingdom-based pharmaceutical industry. These formal relations were put in place in 2005 and continue today.

The Department sponsors the pharmaceutical and medical devices industries. It does not sponsor the nutraceutical, food supplements and specialist nutritional products industries, and similar relations with BERR are not required.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the per capita funding allocated to each primary care trust in England was in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and what the national average NHS per capita funding was in each such year. [142734]

Mr. Bradshaw: A table showing the funds per capita for each primary care trust in England and the England average for the years 2003-04 to 2007-08 has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department's 2002 Spending Review settlement set financial limits on the negotiation of a new contract for the delivery of general medical services. [151425]

Mr. Bradshaw: The cost of the new contract for the delivery of general medical services was just one of the many components that made up the Department's 2002 Spending Review settlement.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1487W, on NHS: finance, if he will place in the Library copies of the guidance on the introduction of Resource Accounting and Budgeting issued to the NHS by his Department in 2000 and the consolidated guidance issued in February 2001. [153486]

Mr. Bradshaw: Copies of "A guide to resource accounting and budgeting for the NHS", issued by the Department's Finance Directorate, have been placed in the Library. It can also be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Organisationpolicy/Financeandplanning/Allocations/DH_4000346

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1670W, on NHS: finance, what the dates were of each meeting for which his Department holds minutes on this subject. [153487]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's Ministers and officials regularly discuss a wide range of issues with their counterparts in HM Treasury. As was the case in previous Administrations, it is not the practice of the Government to provide details of all such meetings.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1670W, on NHS: finance, what form these records take other than minutes of meetings. [153488]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department holds records of correspondence between the Department and HM Treasury.

NHS: Greater London

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many London hospitals that have completed or committed to private finance initiative (PFI) contracts may be affected by the Darzi proposals to reorganise NHS services in London; and what estimate he has made of the potential level of PFI debt that may fall back on to the *(a)* Exchequer and *(b)* NHS in the event of closure. [152400]

Mr. Bradshaw: Changes in services are a matter for the local national health service. Specific proposals as a result of the Darzi review have not yet emerged.

Under a private finance initiative contract, trusts may terminate the contract with notice at any time, without having to prove right and regardless of any prejudice to the private sector. In these circumstances, compensation would be payable to the contractor on a trust default basis aiming to put the contractor in a position that is 'no better, no worse' than it would have been had the contract run for its full length. A value for money case for exercising this option must be made. To date no estimates have been made by the Department on the termination liabilities of any PFI scheme, costs which would be met by the individual trust involved.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* pension benefits the outgoing chief executive of Connecting for Health will accrue before leaving Connecting for Health; what severance pay he will be eligible for; and when he will have completed his notice period at the agency. [151939]

Mr. Bradshaw: The outgoing director general of Connecting for Health will be stepping down from his role in the Department and he will not be eligible for severance pay. A final day of service has not been agreed between the Department and the director general and dependent upon his last day of service this will determine eligibility for bonus payments. The director general for Connecting for Health will continue to accrue pension benefits under the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme in the usual way until his final day of service.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether the new Chief Executive of Connecting for Health will be empowered to renegotiate contracts with local service providers; [151940]

(2) whether responsibility for delivering Connecting for Health will lie with *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* the new Chief Executive of Connecting for Health. [151947]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Chief Executive of NHS Connecting for Health is accountable, through the national health service Chief Executive, to Ministers for the strategic direction of the national programme for information technology and for management of the contracts between the Department and local service providers. The programme contracts provide appropriate mechanisms for negotiating contract changes where that is necessary.

Responsibility for local implementation, and realising the benefits of the technology, rests with the strategic health authority (SHA) chief executives as senior responsible owners for the programme within the NHS. In this way SHAs, together with NHS trusts and primary care trusts, are able to participate in the choice of systems and services, and in the planning and timing of deployments to better match the programme to local NHS priorities.

There are no current plans to alter these arrangements.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the tenure of the outgoing Chief Executive of Connecting for Health will overlap with that of his successor. [151941]

Mr. Bradshaw: A final day of service has not yet been agreed between the Department and the Director General and it is unknown whether there will be an overlap with any successor at this stage.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what team was put on standby to take over iSoft in the case of Connecting for Health exercising its step-in-rights; and at what cost the team was put on standby. [153296]

Mr. Bradshaw: Step-in rights are one of a number of provisions in the contracts between NHS Connecting for Health and its prime contractors under the national programme for information technology whose exercise is reserved, on an exceptional basis and in the event of certain critical circumstances, for the purpose of maintaining continuity of delivery and service for the NHS.

Action was taken to exercise this provision in relation to iSoft on a contingency basis, and a joint team of appropriately experienced NHS and private sector programme managers and software engineers identified for the purpose. There have been no standby costs, but some limited expenditure has been incurred in monitoring the circumstances surrounding the recent uncertainty over the future of iSoft. However, this has not been recorded separately and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

NHS: Information

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in which areas he expects trials of the information prescription to take place; how many people will be involved in the trials; what funding has been allocated for the trials; and if he will make a statement. [152224]

Ann Keen: Information prescription pilots are taking place in 20 areas around England in a range of health and social care settings, and they include many different health and social need conditions and needs. A full list has been placed in the Library.

Each pilot site is involving a range of service users, professionals, carers and support staff, but there are no counts of the numbers of people involved, and more people will continue to be involved as the pilots progress. The initiative in total has a funding of £1.35 million in 2006-07, and £2.5 million in 2007-08.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for which conditions he expects information prescriptions to be available. [152225]

Ann Keen: Information prescriptions are being developed for everyone with a long-term condition or social care need, as described in the 2006 White Paper 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Say'.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to make an assessment of the information prescription trial. [152226]

Ann Keen: The 20 information prescriptions pilot sites are being assessed by an independent evaluation consortium. They will be producing a final report on the work of the pilots in February 2008, which will be used to inform the national roll-out of information prescriptions.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he is making for the full roll-out of information prescriptions; and how much he expects the full roll-out of information prescription to cost. [152227]

Ann Keen: The information prescriptions initiative has a funding of £2.5 million in the financial year 2007-08. Plans for full roll-out will be developed based on the learning from the 20 sites which are piloting information prescriptions.

NHS: Pay

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent *(a)* in the NHS, *(b)* in each primary care trust area and *(c)* by each primary care trust on payoffs to staff in each of the last three years. [152268]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

NHS: Sick Leave

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1320W, on NHS: sick leave, what the average sickness absence rate for NHS staff was in each year since 2001, broken down by strategic health authority area. [147497]

Mr. Bradshaw: The national health service sickness absence rate has fallen from 4.8 per cent. in 2001 to 4.5 per cent. in 2005.

The following table shows sickness absence rates from 2001 to 2005. This is broken down by strategic health authority (SHAs) for 2003 to 2005[1]. The Information Centre for health and social care advises that the quality of data is not high enough prior to 2003 to break this information down by SHA. Sickness absence rates for 2006 are not included because a refresh exercise is being undertaken. Final 2006 figures will be available in August.

[1] For previous structure of 28 SHAs. It is not possible to reproduce this for the current structure of 10 SHAs.

Percentage

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
England	4.8	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.5
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	n/a	n/a	4.5	4.6	4.6
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	n/a	n/a	4.6	4.4	4.2
Essex	n/a	n/a	4.7	4.6	4.4
North West London	n/a	n/a	4.0	4.1	4.0
North Central London	n/a	n/a	4.1	4.0	3.8
North East London	n/a	n/a	4.1	4.4	4.1

				Percentage	
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
South East London	n/a	n/a	4.7	4.2	3.9
South West London	n/a	n/a	4.2	4.1	4.3
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	n/a	n/a	5.4	5.2	5.7
County Durham and Tees Valley	n/a	n/a	4.8	4.8	4.6
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	n/a	n/a	4.4	4.3	4.4
West Yorkshire	n/a	n/a	4.8	4.4	4.5
Cumbria and Lancashire	n/a	n/a	4.8	4.8	5.0
Greater Manchester	n/a	n/a	5.2	4.8	5.0
Cheshire and Merseyside	n/a	n/a	5.4	5.3	5.4
Thames Valley	n/a	n/a	3.9	4.0	3.9
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	n/a	n/a	4.4	4.3	4.2
Kent and Medway	n/a	n/a	4.8	4.9	4.5
Surrey and Sussex	n/a	n/a	4.0	3.9	4.0
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	n/a	n/a	4.7	4.7	4.5
South West Peninsula	n/a	n/a	4.8	4.4	4.6
Dorset and Somerset	n/a	n/a	4.6	4.3	4.4
South Yorkshire	n/a	n/a	4.3	4.3	4.0
Trent	n/a	n/a	5.1	4.9	4.8
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	n/a	n/a	4.9	4.7	4.7
Shropshire and Staffordshire	n/a	n/a	5.4	5.0	5.0
Birmingham and The Black Country	n/a	n/a	4.8	4.7	4.4
West Midlands South	n/a	n/a	5.2	4.8	4.7

n/a = Not applicable, sickness/absence data are not available by SHA area prior to 2002.

Notes:

1. Data for 2002 are of insufficient quality to produce data at a SHA level.
2. Sickness absence rate is defined as the amount of time lost through absences as a percentage of staff time available.
3. This does not cover maternity leave, carers leave or any periods of absence agreed under family friendly/flexible working policies.
4. General Practitioners and their staff are not included in the aforementioned figures.
5. Figures for strategic health authority areas are an average of all primary care trusts, other trusts and the strategic health authority organisations in that area.
6. Figures are for the calendar year.

Sources:

The Department's Sickness/Absence survey 2000-04
The Information Centre for health and social care sickness/absence survey 2005

NHS: Working Hours

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the impact of the European working time directive on acute hospital services. [151543]

Mr. Bradshaw: The new deal contract monitoring returns give an indication of national health service readiness for fully implementing the working time directive 48-hour week for doctors in training. Monitoring information for September 2006 is published on the NHS Employers website at

www.nhsemployers.org/pay-conditions/pay-conditions-467.cfm.

Collection of the 2007 new deal monitoring information will commence this autumn.

Nurses: Children

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 18 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 470-1W, on nurses: children, how many of the duplicate records identified paediatric nurses. [152974]

Mr. Bradshaw: In 2006 the census data reported a total of 18,634 qualified nursing staff working within the paediatric area of work. The validation process prior to publication identified and removed 135 duplicate records from the paediatric area of work.

Nurses: Manpower

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* district nurses, *(b)* nursing auxiliaries, *(c)* school nurses, *(d)* mental handicap nurses, *(e)* community psychiatric nurses, *(f)* treatment nurses, *(g)* community midwives and *(h)* health visitors were employed in the NHS in each year since 2000; and what the projected figures are for each year to 2010, broken down by health trust. [151054]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information has been placed in the Library.

The annual workforce census does not identify mental handicap nurses, treatment nurses or community midwives seperately from the rest of the nursing workforce. Comprehensive data on school nurses have only been collected centrally since 2004.

Projected figures for each year to 2010, broken down by health trust are not collected centrally.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialist nurses were employed in the NHS in each of the last five years. [151055]

Mr. Bradshaw: The annual workforce census does not identify the number of specialist nurses.

The workforce census records the number of qualified nurses, midwives and health visitors under the several different branches of nursing which are acute, elderly and general, paediatric, maternity, psychiatry, learning disabilities, community services and education staff.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to increase the number of specialist nurses employed in the NHS. [151056]

Mr. Bradshaw: Workforce planning is a matter for local determination. It is for local workforce planners to determine the specialist nursing needs of their local population with appropriate support from the workforce review team, national workforce projects and NHS Employers.

Nurses: Recruitment

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will estimate the effect on the cost to the public purse of changing from current recruitment practices for nurses to an all-graduate intake for new nurses. [146289]

Ann Keen: As part of modernising nursing careers, the Nursing and Midwifery Council is reviewing the content and level of pre-registration education. If a graduate workforce is deemed appropriate, the costs and benefits of such a change will be taken into account.

Nutrition: Costs

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the costs to *(a)* the NHS and *(b)* society as a whole of (i) obesity and (ii) undernutrition. [153407]

Dawn Primarolo: 'Tackling Child Obesity—First Steps', a joint report from the National Audit Office, Healthcare Commission and Audit Commission published in February 2006, put the cost of obesity to the national health service at around £1 billion a year, with an additional £2.3 billion to £2.6 billion a year cost to the economy as a whole. Information on the cost of undernutrition to the NHS is not collected centrally.

Nutrition: Health Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to incorporate indicators of nutrition and diet in the Quality and Outcomes Framework of the new General Medical Services contract. [153408]

Mr. Bradshaw: Currently there are eight points available in the quality and outcomes framework (QOF) rewarding practices for maintaining a register of patients aged 16 and over with a body mass index (BMI) greater than or equal to 30. The register includes people whose BMI has been recorded in practice as part of routine care.

There are currently no plans to incorporate indicators of nutrition and diet in the QOF. However, as part of the ongoing development of the framework, indicators will be subject to continuing review in the light of emerging evidence, in the context of a value for money agreement.

Obesity: Young People

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of whether the public service agreement target to halt the year on year rise in obesity among children under 11 by 2010 will be met. [152251]

Dawn Primarolo: The obesity public service agreement (PSA) will be assessed by comparing Health Survey for England figures for aggregate three-year periods, which are used to account for the limited sample size.

This is a very challenging PSA target. Progress has been made:

Ofcom and the Committee of Advertising Practice have announced restrictions to limit advertising of products high in fat, sugar and salt to children;

80 per cent. of pupils participate in at least two hours of high quality physical education and school sport a week;

new, tougher nutritional standards for school food have been announced; and

the Top Tips for Top Mums campaign helps parents tackle the four key barriers to children eating fruit and vegetables (cost, fussy eaters, limited time/cooking skills and a lack of structured meal occasions).

Internationally, our approach is regarded as good practice, informing, for example, the WHO Europe Charter on Counteracting Obesity published in November 2006.

Organs: Donors

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what strategy is in place to increase the number of organ donors. [151768]

Ann Keen: The Department launched "Saving Lives, Valuing Donors: A transplant framework for England" in 2003 and the National Service Framework for Renal Services in 2004. These set out the Department's key aims for organ and tissue transplantation over the following 10 years. Government investment in hospital-based funding has helped increase donor rates and an organ donor taskforce will report to Ministers in autumn 2007 on how organ donor rates can be further improved.

Patients

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what models are used by his Department to determine patient flows between major general hospitals; and what assessment he has made of their accuracy. [151467]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has not used models to determine patient flows between major general hospitals. This work is considered at a local level.

Patients: Nutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average expenditure was on each patient main meal delivered in hospital in *(a)* cash terms and *(b)* current prices in each year since 1997. [153395]

Ann Keen: Information on the average expenditure on each patient main meal is in the following table. The actual amounts shown are as collected from the national health service in the financial year in question. Information on the basis of constant prices is neither collected nor calculated centrally. The data were not collected before 2001-02.

In respect of hospital food services, there is no relationship between cost and quality.

	Average amount spent per patient main meal (£)
2001-02	2.19
2002-03	2.41
2003-04	2.37
2004-05	2.60
2005-06	2.65

In-patients are expected to receive three main meals per day. The expenditure shown includes the cost of provisions and staff costs.

Since 2004-05, the data provided have not been collected on a mandatory basis and therefore may not be complete.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average additional cost of treating a patient in hospital per episode of care if the patient is undernourished. [153396]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he intends to publish the joint departmental and stakeholder nutrition action plan; which stakeholders are involved in developing the plan; and if he will make a statement. [153399]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department intends to publish the action plan, which was discussed at the second Nutrition Summit on 17 July, in the autumn. A wide range of stakeholders are involved in its development. These stakeholders are shown in the following list.

Age Concern
Association of Directors of Adult Social Services
British Medical Association
British Association for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition
British Dietetic Association
Caroline Walker Trust
Commission for Social Care Inspection
Council of Europe Alliance
English Community Care Association
Food Standards Agency
Healthcare Commission
Help the Aged
Hospital Caterers Association
Local Government Association
National Association of Care Caterers
National Health Service Core Learning Unit
National Institute of Health & Clinical Excellence
National Nurses Nutrition Group
National Patient Safety Agency
Patients Association
People First
Purchasing and Supply Agency
Royal Institute of Public Health
Royal College of Nurses
Skills for Care
Skills for Health
Sustain
United Kingdom Home Care Association
Water UK

Physiotherapy: Manpower

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the change in numbers of *(a)* junior physiotherapists and *(b)* senior physiotherapists employed in the NHS was between April 2001 and April 2007. [150895]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally. The annual work force census, published by the Information Centre for health and social care, does not identify physiotherapists by grade.

The total number of physiotherapists employed in the NHS increased by 5,577 between 1997 and 2006 (the latest data we have) to 19,820.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many physiotherapy graduates are registered with NHS Jobs. [150896]

Mr. Bradshaw: There were 537 physiotherapy graduates registered on the national health service jobs talent pool as at 17 July 2007.

Pregnant Women: Alcoholic Drinks

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to implement training programmes for health care professionals on the prevention, diagnosis and management of the full range of foetal alcohol spectrum disorders; and if he will make a statement; [148556]

(2) what assessment he has made of the training, guidance and resources available in the NHS for routine screening of alcohol consumption by pregnant women; [148557]

(3) what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the clinical management of individuals affected by foetal alcohol spectrum disorders; and what support systems are available to them and their carers and families. [148558]

Ann Keen: The Department is not responsible for setting curriculums for health professional training. However, the Department does share a commitment with statutory and professional bodies to ensure that all health professionals are appropriately trained, so that they have the skills and knowledge to deliver a high-quality health service to all groups of the population, whatever their condition.

The Department has funded the production of guidance to support the effective delivery of high quality training on substance misuse, including alcohol, within undergraduate medical education in the United Kingdom. Compilation of Substance Misuse in the Undergraduate Medical Curriculum was overseen by an expert steering group and published by the International Centre for Drugs Policy in April 2007.

Although the Department has not made an assessment of the training, guidance and resources available in the national health service for routine screening of alcohol consumption by pregnant women, midwives routinely ask about alcohol consumption during booked antenatal appointments. The Department has also recently reworded its advice on alcohol and pregnancy. The revised advice states that

pregnant women or women trying to conceive should avoid drinking alcohol. If they do choose to drink, to minimise the risk to the baby, they should not drink more than one to two units of alcohol once or twice a week, and should not get drunk.

The Department has not commissioned or evaluated research on the clinical management of individuals affected by foetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD). However, the Government welcome the British Medical Association's recently published guide for health care professionals on FASD which will serve to raise awareness of this and provide important advice for diagnosis and those caring for patients affected by this condition.

Prescriptions: Contraceptives

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* courses of contraception and *(b)* contraceptive devices were prescribed to persons (i) over 16 and (ii) in each age group under 16 in each year since 1997. [150971]

Dawn Primarolo: The information available on supply of contraception and contraceptive devices supplied by community contraceptive clinics has been placed in the Library. Data in each age group under 16 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The information shown as follows is for prescriptions dispensed in the community (almost all of these prescriptions are written by general practice). Data by age are not available.

	Regular methods of contraception[1]	*Thousand Contraceptive devices*[2]
1997	8,246.0	102.8
1998	8,246.1	99.4
1999	8,245.4	96.1
2000	8,241.7	89.7
2001	8,239.7	85.5
2002	8,237.1	82.3
2003	8,234.1	81.7
2004	8,231.3	81.4
2005	8,223.4	87.7
2006	8,208.9	101.9

[1] Includes tablets, injections (including depo injections) and patches.
[2] Includes implants, IUDs and IUSs.
Source:
Prescription information is taken from the Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system, supplied by the Prescription Pricing Division (PPD) of the Business Services Authority (BSA), and is based on a full analysis of all prescriptions dispensed in the community ie by community pharmacists and appliance contractors, dispensing doctors, and prescriptions submitted by prescribing doctors for items personally administered in England. The data do not cover drugs dispensed in hospitals.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions the morning after pill was prescribed *(a)* in total and *(b)* to girls under 16 by (i) family planning clinics, (ii) general practitioners, (iii) hospital accident and emergency departments, (iv) school nurses and (v) pharmacists since 1997. [150979]

Dawn Primarolo: The information available on emergency hormonal contraception (EHC) supplied by community contraceptive clinics is shown in the following table.

Occasions on which emergency hormonal contraceptives were supplied at community contraceptive clinics by specified age and year—England

	All ages	*Thousand Of which: Under 16*
1997-98	205.1	22.5
1998-99	209.9	21.5
1999-2000	233.0	23.1
2000-01	228.8	25.2
2001-02	192.0	25.5
2002-03	188.0	26.9
2003-04	[1]183.2	27.0
2004-05	174.1	24.4
2005-06	164.5	22.0

[1] Data revised in 2004-05 publication.
Notes:
Data prior to 2004-05 reused with the permission of the Department of Health.
Source:
The Information Centre KT31 return.

The available data on the number of items of EHC prescribed by general practitioners are shown in the following table. Data by age are not available.

Year[1]	*General practitioners (Thousand)*
2003	368.2
2004	333.2
2005	302.9
2006	280.6

Source:
[1] ePACT system, this contains a maximum of 60 months data

Information is not available on the supply of EHC by hospital accident and emergency departments and school nurses and up until the end of 2006 no pharmacists had written prescriptions for EHC.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Christine Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to tackle the spread of genital warts, especially among people between 16 and 25; [152439]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the impact of the incidence of genital warts on genito-urinary medicine clinical resources. [152442]

Dawn Primarolo: Genital warts is the most frequently diagnosed viral sexually transmitted infection (STI) in genito-urinary clinics in England. In 2006, the highest rates of genital warts were in both the 16-19 and 20-24 year age groups in women and in the 20-24 year old age group in men. Most cases of genital warts are asymptomatic and resolve spontaneously in healthy individuals.

To tackle the spread of STIs we have set a target that 100 per cent. of patients attending a genito-urinary medicine service are offered an appointment to be seen within 48 hours. We are already seeing excellent progress on this. Data from the Genito-Urinary

Medicine Access Monthly Monitoring return showed that in May 2007, 85 per cent. of first attendances were offered an appointment to be seen within 48 hours of contacting a service. This compares with 58 per cent. in May 2006.

Last November we launched a new adult sexual health campaign, "Condom Essential Wear", which aims to normalise condom use among sexually active adults. The campaign focuses on STIs most prevalent in the target 18-24 year old age group.

Skills for Health

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts are running a skills for health programme; and how much this has cost. [152238]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Skilled for Health early adopter partnerships are planned between local health and education bodies to provide local models of delivery for wider dissemination and as models of best practice to support wider rollout. Learning from these partnerships will be used to inform primary care trust (PCT) programmes.

Phase 1 of Skilled for Health was completed in 2006 and the teaching resources developed were published in November 2006 as part of the embedded learning curriculum content for the Skills for Life programme. They are available at no cost to PCTs and their partners from Prolog (0845 60 222 600). Copies are available in the Library. Information on how these materials are being used locally to establish Skilled for Health programmes in PCTs in not collected centrally.

Smoking: Health Hazards

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the incidence of smoking-related diseases including *(a)* lung cancer, *(b)* heart disease and *(c)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease was in (i) Hampshire and (ii) England in each year since 1997. [151059]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. Figures are available from Hospital Episode Statistics on the number of Finished Consultant Episodes (FCEs) in national health service hospitals in England with a primary diagnosis of diseases that can be caused by smoking. It is acknowledged that not all these FCEs which can be caused by smoking will be attributable to smoking as there are other contributory factors in these diseases. Therefore for England, the relative risks of these diseases for current and ex-smokers compared to non-smokers can be used to estimate smoking-attributable FCEs. The following tables provide either the number of FCEs that can be caused by smoking or estimates of the number of smoking-attributable FCEs.

Table 1 shows the number of FCEs in England, for people of all ages, with a primary diagnosis of various diseases which can be caused by smoking for 1996-97 through to 2005-06.

Table 2 shows the number of FCEs in England, for those aged 35 and over, with a primary diagnosis of various diseases which can be caused by smoking, and estimates of the number of these which can be attributed to smoking. Figures have been provided for 2004-05, as this is first and most recent year for which data on estimates of diseases which can be attributed to smoking are available. Figures are shown for those aged 35 and over only, because relative risks used to estimate the attributable numbers are only available for this age group.

Table 3 shows the number of FCEs in Hampshire and Isle of Wight strategic health authority (SHA), for all ages, with a primary diagnosis of various diseases which can be caused by smoking for 1996-97 through to 2005-06.

Relative risks of diseases for current and ex-smokers are not available at SHA level, so analysis estimating the numbers of smoking-attributable FCEs at SHA level cannot be provided.

Table 1 National health service[1] finished consultant episodes (FCEs)[2] in England where there was a primary diagnosis[3] of diseases that can be caused by smoking, 1996-97 to 2005-06[4,5], in England

		Finished Consultant Episodes				
Selected diagnoses	*ICD-10 diagnoses codes*	*1996-97*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*
All diseases caused in part by smoking		1,214,661	1,317,024	1,381,450	1,408,136	1,418,914
Cancers caused in part by smoking		261,007	298,917	303,065	315,727	315,856
Lung	C33-C34	62,032	70,952	73,794	79,604	78,805
Upper respiratory sites	C00-C14,C32	14,092	18,343	19,227	20,812	17,999
Oesophagus	C15	22,175	25,159	26,511	30,049	32,463
Bladder	C67	76,415	81,525	84,351	83,341	80,504
Kidney	C64-C66,C68	9,553	10,280	10,192	10,897	11,134
Stomach	C16	23,428	25,072	25,609	26,468	28,552
Pancreas	C25	11,315	12,677	13,222	14,589	16,300
Unspecified site	C80	15,846	24,894	17,555	17,037	16,923
Myeloid leukaemia	C92	26,151	30,015	32,604	32,930	33,176

Table 1 National health service[1] finished consultant episodes (FCEs)[2] in England where there was a primary diagnosis[3] of diseases that can be caused by smoking, 1996-97 to 2005-06[4,3], in England

		Finished Consultant Episodes				
Selected diagnoses	*ICD-10 diagnoses codes*	*1996-97*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*
Respiratory diseases caused in part by smoking		203,582	214,277	243,872	249,038	238,193
Chronic obstructive lung disease	J40-J44	111,395	119,911	135,006	140,092	136,271
Pneumonia	J10-318	92,187	94,366	108,866	108,946	101,922
Circulatory diseases caused in part by smoking		507,096	551,899	563,886	564,624	575,174
Ischaemic heart disease	I20-I25	322,317	354,688	363,098	366,081	378,532
Peripheral Arterial Disease	I739	31,168	31,924	29,763	27,967	26,576
Cerebrovascular disease	I60-I69	130,116	140,189	144,800	145,479	144,661
Aortic aneurysm	I71	13,645	14,235	14,914	14,657	14,963
Myocardial degeneration/ infarction	I51	1,853	1,972	2,030	2,132	2,157
Atherosclerosis	I70	7,997	8,891	9,281	8,308	8,285
Diseases of the digestive system caused in part by smoking		74,969	78,991	80,066	82,575	79,634
Stomach/duodenal ulcer	K25-K27	54,974	57,031	56,575	57,024	52,934
Crohn's disease	K50	13,203	15,071	15,969	17,231	18,317
Periodontal disease	K05	6,792	6,889	7,522	8,320	8,383
Other diseases caused in part by smoking		168,007	172,940	190,561	196,172	210,057
Senile cataract	H25	54,189	58,875	74,410	79,898	95,127
Hip fracture	S72	70,544	72,265	74,798	76,668	75,365
Spontaneous abortion	O03	43,274	41,800	41,353	39,606	39,565

Selected diagnoses	*ICD-10 diagnoses codes*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
All diseases caused in part by smoking		1,463,872	1,551,970	1,632,929	1,671,282	1,730,478
Cancers caused in part by smoking		317,438	329,310	336,250	345,755	373,212
Lung	C33-C34	76,867	79,252	84,251	89,900	98,340
Upper respiratory sites	C00-C14,C32	16,882	16,910	17,976	19,281	21,308
Oesophagus	C15	34,844	37,104	38,106	38,756	42,121
Bladder	C67	78,597	79,778	78,977	78,561	83,362
Kidney	C64-C66,C68	11,581	12,883	13,314	14,289	15,968
Stomach	C16	28,900	29,418	29,197	28,952	30,806
Pancreas	C25	17,986	19,184	21,040	23,105	25,938
Unspecified site	C80	17,200	17,713	17,301	17,532	17,656
Myeloid leukaemia	C92	34,581	37,068	36,088	35,379	37,713
Respiratory diseases caused in part by smoking		263,422	281,221	323,295	338,920	357,154
Chronic obstructive lung disease	J40-J44	144,010	149,914	174,140	177,369	178,683
Pneumonia	J10-318	119,412	131,307	149,155	161,551	178,471
Circulatory diseases caused in part by smoking		588,209	621,943	634,149	641,253	653,511
Ischaemic heart disease	I20-I25	387,073	408,893	418,344	421,386	428,262
Peripheral Arterial Disease	I739	24,641	22,656	20,391	18,903	17,856
Cerebrovascular disease	I60-I69	151,340	164,255	167,142	172,180	178,321
Aortic aneurysm	I71	14,362	15,065	15,277	15,564	15,606

Selected diagnoses	ICD-10 diagnoses codes	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Myocardial degeneration/ infarction	I51	2,398	2,615	2,982	3,057	3,524
Atherosclerosis	I70	8,395	8,459	10,013	10,163	9,942
Diseases of the digestive system caused in part by smoking		77,901	77,995	80,453	80,631	87,023
Stomach/duodenal ulcer	K25-K27	49,653	48,173	46,857	44,544	44,545
Crohn's disease	K50	20,152	21,610	24,750	26,922	32,288
Periodontal disease	K05	8,096	8,212	8,846	9,165	10,186
Other diseases caused in part by smoking		216,902	241,501	258,782	264,723	259,578
Senile cataract	H25	97,103	108,817	124,618	128,044	115,903
Hip fracture	S72	78,445	89,075	90,739	92,626	97,475
Spontaneous abortion	O03	41,354	43,609	43,425	44,053	46,200

[1] The data include private patients in the NHS (but not private patients in private hospitals).
[2] The data refers to Finished Consultant Episodes (FCE). An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
[3] The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
[4] The figures include people whose gender was not known or not specified.
[5] Figures shown are based on all ages.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics. The Information Centre, 2006

Table 2: Finished Consultant Episodes (FCEs)[1] among adults aged 35 and over[2], with a primary diagnosis of diseases that can be caused by smoking, and the estimated number of these FCEs that can be attributed[3] to smoking as a percentage of all admissions from that disease, 2004-05[4], in England

Diagnosis (ICD 10)	Observed FCEs[5]	Attributable number[6]	Attributable percentage
			Number/percentage
All diseases caused in part by smoking	1,573,395	559,800	36
Cancers caused in part by smoking	335,707	172,400	51
Lung	89,547	75,800	85
Upper respiratory sites	18,614	12,900	69
Oesophagus	38,484	26,200	68
Bladder	78,177	30,500	39
Kidney	12,132	3,400	28
Stomach	28,639	7,300	25
Pancreas	22,967	6,000	26
Unspecified site	17,244	6,300	37
Myeloid leukaemia	29,903	4,200	14
Respiratory diseases caused in part by smoking	315,927	177,300	56
Chronic obstructive lung disease	176,294	147,300	84
Pneumonia	139,633	30,000	21
Circulatory diseases caused in part by smoking	636,226	158,100	25
Ischaemic heart disease	419,513	106,200	25
Peripheral Arterial Disease	18,797	15,800	84
Cerebrovascular disease	169,584	24,200	14
Aortic aneurysm	15,457	9,500	62
Myocardial infarction	2,802	600	21
Atherosclerosis	10,073	1,900	19

Table 2: Finished Consultant Episodes (FCEs)[1] among adults aged 35 and over[2], with a primary diagnosis of diseases that can be caused by smoking, and the estimated number of these FCEs that can be attributed[3] to smoking as a percentage of all admissions from that disease, 2004-05[4], in England

Diagnosis (ICD 10)	Observed FCEs[5]	Attributable number[6]	Attributable percentage
			Number/percentage
Diseases of the digestive system caused in part by smoking	59,765	26,400	44
Stomach/duodenal ulcer	41,879	22,200	53
Crohn's disease	15,205	3,000	20
Periodontal disease	2,681	1,200	45
Other diseases caused in part by smoking	225,770	25,500	11
Age related cataract among those aged 45 and over	127,111	15,500	12
Hip fracture among those aged 55 and over	85,641	9,200	11
Spontaneous abortion	13,018	700	6

[1] An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Figures do not represent the number of patients, as a patient may have more than one episode of care within the year.
[2] Figures have been presented for adults aged 35 and over unless otherwise specified
[3] More information on the methodology used to calculate these estimates are available in the Statistics on Smoking: England, 2006 publication produced by The Information Centre for health and social care, which is available in the House of Commons.
[4] The data include private patients in NHS hospitals (but not private patients in private hospitals).
[5] Observed admissions only includes those where gender was recorded
[6] Estimated attributable number, rounded to the nearest 100.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES). The Information Centre

Table 3. National health service[1] finished consultant episodes (FCEs)[2] in Hampshire and Isle of Wight strategic health authority where there was a primary diagnosis[3] of diseases that can be caused by smoking, 1996-97 to 2005-06[4,5]

		Finished Consultant Episodes									
	ICD-10 diagnoses codes	*1996-97*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
All diseases caused in part by smoking		39,083	42,227	45,139	46,511	49,257	51,104	54,516	58,350	60,982	60,338
Cancers caused in part by smoking		8,401	9,925	9,496	9,578	10,312	10,104	10,403	10,304	10,730	11,218
Lung	C33-C34	1,757	2,017	1,851	1,926	2,125	2,176	2,106	1,972	2,063	2,367
Upper respiratory sites	C00-C14,C32	475	532	572	477	542	516	511	491	572	527
Oesophagus	C15	654	801	797	1,019	1,091	1,152	1,138	1,119	1,043	1,144
Bladder	C67	2,486	2,906	2,941	2,758	2,905	2,669	2,771	2,703	2,690	2,711
Kidney	C64-C66,C68	355	485	410	429	482	602	575	570	665	631
Stomach	C16	633	760	675	757	686	654	741	695	666	563
Pancreas	C25	408	415	450	406	547	567	553	587	521	706
Unspecified site	C80	519	602	588	531	505	638	855	755	763	575
Myeloid leukaemia	C92	1,114	1,407	1,212	1,275	1,429	1,130	1,153	1,412	1,747	1,994
Respiratory diseases caused in part by smoking		5,760	5,834	6,865	7,701	7,489	9,327	10,659	13,354	14,031	13,696
Chronic obstructive lung disease	J40-J44	2,517	2,598	3,230	3,516	3,592	4,987	5,655	7,264	7,338	7,043
Pneumonia	J10-J18	3,243	3,236	3,635	4,185	3,897	4,340	5,004	6,090	6,693	6,653
Circulatory diseases caused in part by smoking		15,841	16,711	18,222	18,363	20,342	20,370	22,541	23,000	23,451	22,422
Ischaemic heart disease	I20-I25	9,737	10,702	11,491	11,446	13,329	13,356	14,650	15,236	15,214	14,385
Peripheral Arterial Disease	I739	1,179	997	835	698	839	753	751	684	601	592
Cerebrovascular disease	I60-I69	4,226	4,203	4,716	5,135	5,207	5,364	6,030	5,904	6,522	6,229
Aortic aneurysm	I71	517	513	614	554	517	507	528	513	565	528
Myocardial degeneration/ infarction	I51	67	114	101	110	153	107	135	93	123	236
Atherosclerosis	I70	115	182	465	420	297	283	447	570	426	452
Diseases of the digestive system caused in part by smoking		2,793	3,166	3,530	3,550	3,351	3,438	3,231	3,389	3,828	3,943
Stomach/duodenal ulcer	K25-K27	1,984	2,094	2,220	2,178	1,893	1,850	1,677	1,508	1,730	1,645
Crohn's disease	K50	484	607	599	589	763	989	927	1,124	1,349	1,433
Periodontal disease	K05	325	465	711	783	695	599	627	757	749	865
Other diseases caused in part by smoking		6,288	6,591	7,026	7,319	7,763	7,865	7,682	8,303	8,942	9,059
Senile cataract	H25	2,005	2,266	2,802	3,074	3,253	3,281	3,115	3,548	4,038	4,119
Hip fracture	S72	2,768	2,849	2,934	3,088	3,336	3,421	3,846	3,904	4,048	4,050
Spontaneous abortion	O03	1,515	1,476	1,290	1,157	1,174	1,163	721	851	856	890

[1] The data include private patients in the NHS (but not private patients in private hospitals).
[2] The data refers to Finished Consultant Episodes (FCE). An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
[3] The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in [4] The figures include people whose gender was not known or not specified.
[5] Figures shown are based on all ages.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics. The Information Centre, 2006

Smoking: Public Expenditure

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures his Department has put in place to monitor the spending by local authorities of money allocated by his Department to enforce the smoking ban. [153629]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 590W.

Surgery

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* in-patient and *(b)* day case procedures were carried out (i) in England and (ii) in each strategic health authority area (A) for both elective and non-elective procedures and (B) for elective procedures only in each year since 1997-98; and what percentage of day cases each category represented of the total case procedures delivered in each strategic health authority area in the latest year for which figures are available. [149486]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information has been placed in the Library.

Vaccination: Aluminium

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what levels of aluminium are contained in each vaccine provided to children; and if he will make a statement; [152765]

(2) what assessment he has made of the safe levels of aluminium in vaccines routinely provided to *(a)* babies and *(b)* children. [152766]

Dawn Primarolo: Aluminium salts are an essential ingredient of some vaccines in enhancing the protection offered by the vaccine. The safety record of aluminium in vaccines has been demonstrated over more than 50 years of use. There are no serious health risks associated with the small quantities of aluminium in some vaccines. As with many vaccine ingredients, aluminium can cause localised reactions such as redness, swelling and/or tenderness at the injection site.

The information on levels of aluminium in childhood vaccines is in the following table.

Childhood vaccines aluminium content

			Aluminium content	
PL number	*Vaccine (disease)*	*Formulation*	*SPC (2)**	*Label*
00011/0245	Meningitec Vial (Meningitis C)	Aluminium phosphate 0.5mg per 0.5ml	0.125mg Al^{3+}	Aluminium phosphate 0.125mg Al^{3+}
00116/0351	Neisvac-C (Meningitis C)	Aluminium hydroxide 0.5mg per 0.5ml	Aluminium hydroxide hydrated 0.5mg Al^{3+}	Aluminium hydroxide hydrated 0.5mg Al^{3+}
06745/0076	M-M-R II vaccine injection (Measles, Mumps and Rubella)	None present	n/a	n/a
06745/0120	Pediacel injection (Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio and haemophilius influenzae type b (Hib))	Aluminium phosphate 1.5mg per 0.5ml	0.33±0.05mg Al^{3+} calculated	Aluminium phosphate
06745/0121	Repevax injection (Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio)	Aluminium phosphate 0.33mg per 0.5ml	0.33mg	Aluminium phosphate 0.33mg
06745/0122	Repevax injection (Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio)	Aluminium phosphate 0.33mg per 0.5ml	0.33mg	Not legible
06745/0123	Revaxis injection (Tetanus, diphtheria, polio)	Aluminium hydroxide 0.35mg per 0.5ml	Aluminium hydroxide 0.35mg	Not legible
10592/0110	Priorix vaccine injection (Measles, Mumps and Rubella)	None present	n/a	n/a
10592/0209	Infanrix IPV vaccine injection (Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio)	Aluminium oxide hydrated 0.5mg	0.5mg	Aluminium hydroxide
10592/0216	Infanrix-IPV-Hib vaccine (Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, haemophilius influenzae type b (Hib))	Aluminium hydroxide 0.5mg per 0.5ml	Aluminium hydroxide hydrated 0.5mg Al^{3+}	Aluminium hydroxide
10592/0217	Menitorix (Haemophilius influenzae type b (Hib/(Meningitis C))	None present	n/a	n/a
13767/0013-14	Menjugate vaccine injection and aluminium hydroxide solvent (Meningitis C)	Aluminium hydroxide 1mg per 0.5ml	Not on sentinel aluminium hydroxide 0.3 to 0.4mg Al^{3+}	Not on sentinel
EU/1/../167/...	Prevenar (Pneumococcal)	Aluminium phosphate 0.5mg per 0.5ml	Aluminium phosphate 0.5mg	Aluminium phosphate 0.5mg

Source:
Taken from electronic Medicines Compendium (eMC)

Vaccination: Children

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the vaccines routinely given to *(a)* babies and *(b)* children. [152767]

Dawn Primarolo: The information required is in the following table.

Immunisation schedule

Age	*What is given*	*How it is given*
2 months old	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) (DTaP/IPV/Hib)	One injection
	Pneumococcal infection (Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, PCV)	One injection
3 months old	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) (DTaP/IPV/Hib)	One injection
	Meningitis C (meningococcal group C) (MenC)	One injection
4 months old	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio and *Haemophilus influenzas* type b (Hib) (DTaP/IPV/Hib)	One injection
	Meningitis C (meningococcal group C) (MenC)	One injection
	Pneumococcal infection (Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, PCV)	One injection
Around 12 months old	*Haemophilus influenza* type b (Hib) and meningitis C (Hib/MenC)	One injection
Around 13 months old	Measles, mumps and rubella (German measles) (MMR)	One injection
	Pneumococcal infection (PCV)	One injection
3 years and 4 months to 5-years-old	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough) and polio (dTaP/IPV or DTaP/IPV)	One injection
	Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR)	One injection
13 to 18-years-old	Diphtheria, tetanus, polio (Td/IPV)	One injection

York Hospitals NHS Trust

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1189W, on York Hospitals NHS Trust, how many finished consultant episodes there were in each specialty at York Hospitals NHS Trust in 2005-06; and if he will make a statement. [151618]

Mr. Bradshaw: The requested information is set out in the following table.

Count of Finished Consultant Episodes by Main Specialty for provider code RCB 'York Hospitals NHS Trust' for 2005-06

Main specialty	*Main specialty description*	*FCEs*
100	General Surgery	9,512
101	Urology	6,244
110	Trauma and Orthopaedics	5,371
120	Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT)	2,181
130	Ophthalmology	3,509
140	Oral Surgery	1,574
180	Accident and Emergency	1,693
190	Anaesthetics	2,018
300	General Medicine	20,389
303	Clinical Haematology	1,206
330	Dermatology	26
370	Medical Oncology	225
400	Neurology	468
410	Rheumatology	568
420	Paediatrics	4,835
430	Geriatric Medicine	9,193
502	Gynaecology	9,199
560	Midwife episode	2,998
810	Radiology	*
822	Chemical Pathology	376

Notes:
1. Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)
An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. The figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
2. Main Specialty
The main specialty refers to the specialty under which the consultant is contracted.
3. Specialty
Care is needed when analysing Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data by specialty, or by groups of specialties (such as acute). Trusts have different ways of managing specialties and attributing codes so it is better to analyse by specific diagnoses, operations or other recorded information.
4. Low Numbers
Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with '*'(an asterisk).
5. Data Quality
HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 national health service trusts and primary care trusts in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
6. Ungrossed Data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (ie the data are ungrossed).
Source: HES, The Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum waiting time for (i) in-patient and (ii) day case admissions was at York Hospitals NHS Trust for the quarters ending (1) December 2006, (2) March 2007 and (3) June 2007. [151619]

Mr. Bradshaw: The requested information is show in the following table.

	Day case/ inpatient	*Median wait*	*Maximum wait*
December 2006	Day case	8.5 weeks	25 to <26 weeks
December 2006	Inpatient	7.8 weeks	25 to <26 weeks
March 2007	Day case	6.7 weeks	19 to <20 weeks
March 2007	Inpatient	6.5 weeks	19 to <20 weeks

Source:
Department of Health, NHS Finance, Performance and Operations.

Westmoreland General Hospital

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will consider upgrading Westmorland General Hospital to full district general hospital status; [152872]

(2) if he will consider supporting the provision of full consultant-led acute admissions services at Westmorland General Hospital. [152873]

Ann Keen: It is the responsibility of primary care trusts (PCTs) locally to plan and commission services to meet the needs of its residents and in line with the resources available.

Proposals relating to the Westmorland General Hospital, which is managed by the University Hospitals of Morecambe Hospital Trust, were consulted on between June and September 2006. The preferred option has since been subject to further work and will now be taken forward as part of the Cumbria whole systems review. Consultation is due to begin in September.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 26 July 2007

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Parental Separation

6. **Mr. Harper**: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans his Department has for ensuring the provision of information and guidance for families where parents have separated. [152583]

Kevin Brennan: In March 2006, we published the 'Parenting Plan'. This easily accessible guide for separating parents helps them work out the best possible arrangements for their children, whether or not they then make court applications. CAFCASS distributes the plans, and it provides further information and support to those families involved in family court proceedings. From September 2007, the Legal Services Commission will be testing demand for giving advice over the telephone to people experiencing relationship breakdown.

Admissions

7. **Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the school admissions code, with particular reference to places offered for academic year 2007-08. [152585]

Jim Knight: Admission arrangements for 2007-08 were determined before the School Admissions Code came into force, but those for 2008-09 will have been determined in accordance with the new code.

However, the code does require all local authorities to have protocols in place from September 2007, to ensure that all unplaced children and late applicants, including some of our most vulnerable, are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible.

Youth Services

9. **John Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has for expenditure on youth services in Greenwich and Bexley. [152588]

Beverley Hughes: It is for each local authority to decide how much to spend on the provision of youth services. They have the freedom to decide the best way of delivering while taking account of Government policy, local priorities and the resources available. The Government do not set a limit on the amount of funding that can be spent from the resources available.

Sure Start

10. **Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent progress has been made on Sure Start programmes. [152589]

Kevin Brennan: 1,355 Sure Start Children's Centres are now providing integrated services to over one million children under five. We are on track to meet our target of delivering 2,500 centres by 2008. By 2010 there will be at least 3,500 centres serving every community in England, making a vital contribution to our objective of improving outcomes for young children and bringing an end to child poverty.

School Transport: Kettering

11. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will revise departmental guidelines to local education authorities so that the school bus service from Burton Latimer to Latimer Community Arts College in Barton Seagrave, Kettering can be maintained. [152590]

Jim Knight: There are no plans to revise the guidelines to local authorities in relation to school bus provision as the statutory requirements are set out in the Education and Inspections Act 2006. However, from September 2008 any children from low income families who wish to attend Latimer community arts college will have to have free transport provided if it is one of the three nearest qualifying schools to their home and the journey to school is between two and six miles in length.

Family Policy

13. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he plans to take to develop a cross-government strategy on families policy; and if he will make a statement. [152592]

Beverley Hughes: On 29 June 2007, this Government published "Machinery of Government: Departmental Organisation". It announced our intention to develop a cross-Government strategy on family policy covering both services that support families directly and those that deal with issues of family dysfunction and breakdown. This strategy will be led by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. Its aim will be to ensure consistent policy across Government that works together in the best interests of the child.

Children in Care

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to improve the educational achievement of children in local authority care. [152591]

Kevin Brennan: 'Care Matters: Time for Change' sets out an ambitious agenda for improving the lives of children in care, with an additional investment of over £305 million. It includes proposals to improve the education of children in care through a £500 educational allowance for each child in care falling

behind at school; putting the 'designated teacher' on a statutory footing to improve provision in schools; appointing 'virtual school heads' to oversee their education; an extra £100 paid into their child trust fund for every year a child is in care; and a £2,000 university bursary.

Fathers

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will bring forward proposals to promote the involvement of fathers in decisions on educating their children; and if he will make a statement. [152587]

Beverley Hughes: We recognise that a father's involvement in their child's life can lead to positive educational achievement and emotional well-being. We are committed to enabling fathers and mothers (whether or not they live with the child) to be involved with their children's education—and our guidance to schools is clear on this. More widely, my Department is currently leading a drive to look at how services across Government can engage with fathers more effectively.

Academies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, pursuant to the answer of 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 288-90W, on academies, what the contribution from private investors was to each academy's capital costs; and if he will make a statement. [151946]

Jim Knight: Sponsorship in the form of contributions from private investors was provided for the first Academies in the form of a financial contribution towards the capital cost of buildings. The amount of sponsorship pledged to each Academy, as recorded in its funding agreement where one has been signed, is set out in the table below together with the actual or estimated capital cost of buildings. The following table does not include academies where a sponsor will contribute to capital costs but the funding agreement has not been signed and consequently the sponsorship amount has not been formalised.

We have now changed the sponsorship model and sponsors will now, in most cases, establish an endowment fund.

Academy with signed funding agreement	*Cost*	*£000 Total sponsorship pledged*
Manchester	19,786	2,000
Lambeth	25,445	2,000
Northampton	27,358	2,000
Paddington	31,523	1,500
[illegible]rd	16,704	1,600
Barnsley	28,369	1,500
Walthamstowe	29,500	1,500
Sheffield Springs	26,300	1,500
Shefield Park	27,500	1,000
Stockport	27,375	1,500
Peckham	30,169	2,000
Harris Academy South Norwood	35,991	2,000
Harris Bermondsey	17,270	1,500
Harris Merton	5,297	500
Kings	22,301	2,000
Trinity, Doncaster	25,070	2,000
Haberdashers'—Hatcham	7,045	705
Haberdashers'—Knights	40,455	296
Marlowe	27,803	2,735
Folkestone	36,820	2,250
Walsall	17,321	2,500
Sandwell	27,149	2,790
Bexley	38,631	2,410
Greig	16,479	2,000
Unity	21,790	2,000
Capital City, Brent	27,494	2,000
City of London	33,685	2,000
City Academy, Bristol	27,666	2,499
West London, Ealing	32,221	2,000
London, Barnet	34,356	1,500
Mossbourne	28,624	2,150
Stockley	27,549	2,000
St Francis of Assisi	20,868	2,000
The Harefield	34,200	1,500
Dixons Academy	6,510	651
David Young, Leeds	23,577	1,500
Grace, Solihull	31,637	2,000
Westminster	30,440	2,000
Thomas Deacon	47,738	10,500
St. Paul's—Greenwich	[1]n/a	2,000
John Madejski, Reading	27,656	2,000
The Bridge, Hackney	47,722	2,000
Samworth Enterprise	19,502	2,443
Petchey	34,215	2,000
North Liverpool	33,849	1,000
Bradford Cathedral	20,471	1,000
Macmillan	13,035	1,250
Djanogly	23,660	0
St Matthew Lewisham	30,856	2,000
Enfield	29,296	2,000
Slough Langley	31,527	2,000
Leigh Technology	36,590	2,000
St. Mary Magdalene—Islington	40,022	2,000
Bristol—Withywood	29,200	2,000
Newcastle Excelsior	37,883	2,000
Corby City	27,109	2,000
Ashcroft Technology	12,928	960
Landau Forte College	4,600	460

[1] Costs not yet established

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 288-90W, on academies, what the *(a)* start date for building and *(b)* opening date or expected opening date is of each academy; and if he will make a statement. [151948]

Jim Knight: Academies are run by charitable trusts. Academy trusts are responsible for managing the building projects for academies approved before 23 March 2006, when it was announced that Partnerships for Schools (PfS) would take on responsibility for the academies

buildings programme. The Department does not keep central records of the start dates for buildings where the construction was managed by academy trusts.

The start date for each building project delivered by PfS will be agreed during the contractual negotiations with the selected contractor. None of the academy building projects that PfS are delivering have yet reached this stage.

As a planning assumption, the average length of the construction period for an academy building is taken to be 18 months.

The opening dates or expected opening dates for academies are given in the following table.

Where there is an urgent educational need, some academies begin life in the predecessor school buildings. The first 47 academies on this list are open, expected opening dates are given for the rest of the academies on the list.

	Academy name	*Opening date or expected opening date*
1	Bexley Business Academy	September 2002
2	Greig City Academy	September 2002
3	Unity City Academy	September 2002
4	Walsall City Academy	September 2003
5	Capital City Academy	September 2003
6	King's Academy	September 2003
7	The West London Academy	September 2003
8	Djanogly City Academy	September 2003
9	The Academy at Peckham	September 2003
10	Bristol City Academy	September 2003
11	Manchester Academy	September 2003
12	City of London Academy	September 2003
13	Lambeth Academy	September 2004
14	Stockley Academy	September 2004
15	Mossbourne Community Academy	September 2004
16	Northampton Academy	September 2004
17	London Academy	September 2004
18	The Academy of St. Francis of Assisi	September 2005
19	Trinity Academy	September 2005
20	Marlowe Academy	September 2005
21	Salford City Academy	September 2005
22	Dixons City Academy	September 2005
23	Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham Academy	September 2005
24	Haberdashers' Knights Academy	September 2005
25	Sandwell Academy	September 2006
26	Grace Academy Solihull	September 2006
27	David Young Community Academy	September 2006
28	St. Paul's Academy	September 2005
29	Harefield Academy	September 2005
30	Macmillan Academy	September 2005
31	Barnsley Academy	September 2006
32	The Petchey Academy	September 2006
33	North Liverpool Academy	September 2006
34	The John Madejski Academy	September 2006
35	Westminster Academy	September 2006
36	Paddington Academy	September 2006
37	Sheffield Springs	September 2006
38	Sheffield Park	September 2006
39	Walthamstow Academy	September 2006
40	Landau Forte College	September 2006
41	Gateway Academy	September 2006
42	The Harris Bermondsey Academy	September 2006
43	The Burlington Danes Academy	September 2006
44	Harris Girls Academy East Dulwich	September 2006
45	St. Mark's CofE	September 2006
46	Harris Academy Merton	September 2006
47	Madeley Academy	April 2007
48	The St. Matthew Academy	September 2007
49	Leigh Technology Academy	September 2007
50	Folkestone Academy	September 2007
51	Bradford Academy	September 2007
52	The Harris Academy South Norwood	September 2007
53	Oasis Academy Enfield	September 2007
54	St. Mary Magdalene Academy	September 2007
55	The Samworth Enterprise Academy	September 2007
56	The Thomas Deacon Academy	September 2007
57	Harris City Academy Crystal Palace	September 2007
58	Ashcroft Technology Academy	September 2007
59	John Cabot Academy	September 2007
60	The Bridge Academy	September 2007
61	Oasis Academy Immingham	September 2007
62	Oasis Academy Wintringham	September 2007
63	Stockport Academy	September 2007
64	Bacon's A Church of England Sponsored Academy	September 2007
65	William Hulme's Grammar School	September 2007
66	King Soloman Academy	September 2007
67	The Belvedere Academy	September 2007
68	North Oxfordshire Academy	September 2007
69	Swindon Academy	September 2007
70	Spires Academy	September 2007
71	The Marsh	September 2007
72	Brooke Weston Academy	September 2008
73	Darwen Aldridge Community Academy	September 2008
74	Langley Academy	September2008
75	The Corby Business Academy	September2008
76	Herefordshire 1 (Steiner)	September2008
77	The Globe Academy	September2008
78	Evelyn Grace Academy	September2008
79	Excelsior Academy	September 2008
80	Q3 Academy	September 2008
81	Merchants' Academy Withywood	September 2008
82	City of London Academy Islington	September 2008
83	Sandwell Willingsworth	September 2008

	Academy name	Opening date or expected opening date
84	Grace Academy Coventry	September 2008
85	Harris Boys Academy East Dulwich	September 2008
86	Wren Academy	September 2008
87	The Rhodesway Academy	September 2008
88	City of London KPMG Academy	September 2009
89	JCB Academy	September 2009
90	Bede Academy	September 2009
91	The Chelsea Science Academy	September 2009

Academies: Accounts

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether *(a)* members of local governing bodies and *(b)* parents are entitled to ask to inspect the financial accounts of academy schools. [151707]

Jim Knight: Academies are charitable companies, and therefore must prepare and file annual accounts with the Charity Commission. Academies are also required to prepare an annual report for the Charity Commissioners, and ensure that their accounts are independently audited. All accounts are available from the Charity Commission's website at:

http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/

Academies: Capital Investment

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of capital investment on schools was accounted for by capital investment in academies in each year from 2001-02 to 2006-07; what proportion is planned to be so accounted for in each year from 2007-08 to 2015-16 for which plans have been made; and if he will make a statement. [151881]

Jim Knight: The following table details the capital provision for academies as a proportion of the corresponding figure for all schools, where such provision is known.

Budgets for subsequent years will depend on the final allocation of the Department's current and future Comprehensive Spending Review settlements.

	All schools	Academies (£ million)	Academies as a proportion of all schools (%)
2001-02[1]	[1]2,409.0	4.2	0.2
2002-03[1]	[1]3,483.0	61.8	1.8
2003-04[1]	[1]4,144.0	130.3	3.1
2004-05[1]	[1]4,861.0	222.1	4.6
2005-06[1]	[1]5,262.0	251.7	4.8
2006-07[2]	[1]4,984.0	385.7	7.7
2007-08[3]	[3]6,320.0	517.0	8.2

[1] Actual outturn
[2] Estimated outturn
[3] Current baseline

Academies: Curriculum

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what changes there have been since 1 January 2007 in the freedoms enjoyed by academies in relation to the curriculum; and if he will make a statement. [151937]

Jim Knight: In his statement to the House of 10 July 2007, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families announced that all future funding agreements will require Academies to follow the National Curriculum Programmes of Study in English, Maths, Science and ICT.

The Department will not seek to change the curriculum requirements of Academies which have Funding Agreements already, but we would welcome any move by Academy Trusts to voluntarily adopt the new clause. Five Academies which are planned to open in September 2007 have already agreed that they will either sign or amend their existing Funding Agreements to incorporate these changes.

Academies: Governing Bodies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families from what date academies were required to have one elected parent governor and one governor appointed by the local authority; and if he will make a statement. [151990]

Jim Knight: All Academy governing bodies have been required to include a parent governor and a local authority governor since the first Academies were opened in September 2002. This is incorporated in their Memorandum and Articles of Association which forms part of their Funding Agreement.

Academies: Local Authorities

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many academies have been co-sponsored by local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [149929]

Jim Knight: The Department welcomes and values the input and influence of local authorities in academy projects as partners and/or co-sponsors. 20 academies have been co-sponsored by local authorities to date.

Academies: Sponsorship

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what total sponsorship each academy *(a)* has received to date and *(b)* has had pledged; and if he will make a statement. [150910]

Jim Knight: Sponsorship for the first academies was provided in the form of a financial contribution towards the capital cost of buildings. However, we have changed the sponsorship model and sponsors will now, in most cases, establish an endowment fund. To date, only one open academy, St. Mark's Academy in Merton, has this form of sponsorship. The amount of sponsorship pledged to each academy and recorded in their funding agreement is set out in the following table. The total sponsorship contribution is broken down and

made to academy trusts in instalments to pay invoices over the lifetime of the building project. Trusts submit the invoices to the Department to confirm that sponsorship has been paid and used in accordance with funding agreements. In many instances, the invoices sent to the Department to confirm the capital contribution by the sponsor, also shown in the following table, do not keep pace with the actual payments made by the sponsor to the trust. If confirmation of the sponsor's capital contribution falls significantly behind the expected payment profile, officials approach academy trusts direct seeking explanations for apparent shortfalls, with a view to regularising the position.

£000

Academy with signed funding agreement	*Total sponsorship pledged*	*Total confirmed capital contribution from sponsor to end of June 2007*
Manchester	2,000	[3]1,353
Lambeth	2,000	[3]1,686
Northampton	2,000	[3]799
Paddington	1,500	[3]429
Salford	1,600	[3]214
Barnsley	1,500	[3]27
Walthamstow	1,500	[3]27
Sheffield Springs	1,500	1,500
Sheffield Park	1,000	1,000
Stockport	1,500	[3]202
Peckham	2,000	2,986
Harris Academy South Norwood	2,000	[5]250
Harris Bermondsey	1,500	[2]0
Harris Merton	500	[2]0
Kings	2,000	2,006
Trinity, Doncaster	2,000	2,000
Haberdashers'—Hatcham	705	705
Haberdashers'—Knights	296	296
Marlowe	2,735	[3]2,455
Folkestone	2,250	[3]887
Walsall	2,500	2,565
Sandwell	2,790	[3]2,119
Bexley	2,410	2,462
Greig	2,000	[3]1,664
Unity	2,000	1,948
Capital City, Brent	2,000	1,993
City of London	2,000	2,000
City Academy, Bristol	2,499	[3]1,670
West London, Ealing	2,000	2,000
London, Barnet	1,500	1,490
Mossbourne	2,150	[3]1,631
Stockley	2,000	1,953
St. Francis of Assisi	2,000	[5]950
The Harefield	1,500	[4]42
Dixons CTC	651	612
David Young, Leeds	1,500	[3]1,000
Grace, Solihull	2,000	2,000
Westminster	2,000	[2]0
Thomas Deacon	10,500	[2]0
St Paul's—Greenwich	2,000	[3]200
John Madejski, Reading	2,000	[3]1,895
The Bridge, Hackney	2,000	[4]487
Samworth Enterprise	2,443	[3]131
Petchey	2,000	[3]1,545
North Liverpool	1,000	[4]0
Bradford Cathedral	1,000	[2]0
Macmillan	1,250	[3]400
Djanogly	0	0
St. Matthew Lewisham	2,000	[4]600
Enfield	2,000	[2]0
Slough Langley	2,000	[3]500
Leigh Technology	2,000	[2]0
St. Mary Magdalene—Islington	2,000	[3]500
Bristol 2 Withywood	2,000	[2]0
Newcastle Excelsior	2,000	1,961
Corby City	2,000	[2]0
Ashcroft Technology	960	[2]0
Landau Forte College	460	[3]2
St. Mark's Academy—Merton	2,000	[1]0

[1] £2 million sponsorship to be invested in endowment fund as opposed to towards capital costs.
[2] None due to be paid up to end June 2007.
[3] Amount paid up to end June 2007 in accordance with the agreed pattern of instalments.
[4] Instalment plan to be revised pending re-schedule of building works.
[5] In discussion with trust with a view to agreeing payment later this year.

Adoption: Finance

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to unify funding streams for the provision of post-adoptive care. [147796]

Kevin Brennan: A ring-fenced grant totalling nearly £70 million was made available to local authorities between 2003-04 and 2005-06 to help them meet their duties in relation to the provision of adoption support and special guardianship support services under the Adoption and Children Act 2002. This grant has now been mainstreamed into the Children's Services Grant.

Bishops Park College: Clacton

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what his Department's involvement was in the decision to build Bishops Park College in Clacton; and if he will make a statement; [152739]

(2) whether Bishops Park College in Clacton was built as part of the Government's Building Schools for the Future programme. [152740]

Jim Knight: Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is a core part of the Department's capital strategy, providing a new approach to capital investment in secondary schools. The programme was launched in 2004 and the first school opened in 2006.

Bishops Park College, Clacton, was not built as part of BSF. The school opened in 2002 in temporary accommodation and moved to new buildings, funded through the Private Finance Initiative (PFI), in 2005.

Local authorities are responsible for planning provision in their areas. The Secretary of State had no role in deciding the proposals to establish this school. However, as with other schools PFI projects, the Department did review and approve Essex County Council's bid for this project in 2000, the outline business case in 2001, and the final business case in 2003.

The original expression of interest was assessed by officials against the published criteria at the time. These criteria included the sufficiency, condition and suitability of existing facilities, wider Departmental priorities and initiatives, and wider Government priorities and objectives. The project was prioritised for funding on this basis, but it remained the local authority's responsibility to develop the project and demonstrate its viability.

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what average length of time was taken for preparation of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service welfare reports in each of the last five years; [150001]

(2) how many people were employed by the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in each of the last five years; [150002]

(3) how many cases were dealt with by the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in each of the last five years. [150003]

Kevin Brennan: These are matters for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS). Anthony Douglas, the Chief Executive, has written to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his letter has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Anthony Douglas, dated 25 July 2007:

I am writing to you in response to the three Parliamentary Questions that you tabled recently:

15001—To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, what average length of time was taken for preparation of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service welfare reports in each of the last five years.

In 2006/07 the average public law case duration was 43 weeks and the average private law report duration was 17 weeks. This was the first year CAFCASS could collect these figures, following the introduction of our national case management system. Prior to this, the pre-CAFCASS legacy systems prevented us being able to arrive at a robust national figure.

150002—To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how many people were employed by the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in each of the last five years.

The table below details the number of staff Cafcass has employed over the last 5 years.

	All staff		*Practitioners*	
Date	*Headcount*	*Full Time Equivalent*	*Headcount*	*Full Time Equivalent*
1 April 2002	1,720	1,488	1,136	1,022
1 April 2003	1,879	1,659	1,291	1,163
1 April 2004	1,932	1,758	1,303	1,186
1 April 2005	2,060	1,801	1,327	1,210
1 April 2006	2,051	1,724	1,243	1,137
1 April 2007	2,006	1,704	1,216	1,109

150003—To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how many cases were dealt with by the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in each of the last five years.

The table below details the Cafcass workload over in the last 5 years, for the major categories of referral. The table demonstrates the steady rise in public law care cases, and the steady decrease in private law reports, strongly linked to the expansion of our dispute resolution services.

	Year				
Category	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
Public Law Care cases	6,394	6,036	6,316	6,613	6,791
Public Law Other cases	6,708	6,485	6,124	6,162	5,313
Private Law reports	35,074	31,048	28,166	26,144	23,942
Family Assistance Orders	503	522	530	645	351
Rule 9.5 cases	[1]—	526	1,078	1,035	1,206
Dispute Resolutions Hours	[1]—	35,339	34,988	43,322	57,880

[1] Scheme not yet in place

The above figures cannot be totalled as some of the categories use different measurements. The figures for Public Law Care and Public Law Other are counted as cases, Private Law figures are counted as reports (of which there can be many per case), and Dispute Resolution figures are counted in practitioner hours. Also included are counts of Family Assistance Order and Rule 9.5 cases. The figures have been grouped together in a table to provide an overview of Cafcass work for the past 5 years.

A copy of this reply will be placed in the House Library.

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service: Manpower

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the ratio of staff to cases in *(a)* public and *(b)* private law is at the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service; [149752]

(2) by what means the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service monitors the effectiveness of its interventions. [149749]

Kevin Brennan: These are matters for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS). Anthony Douglas, the chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his letter will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Anthony Douglas, dated 20 July 2007:

I am writing to you in response to the two Parliamentary Questions that you tabled recently.

149742—To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, what the ratio of staff to cases in (a) public and (b) private law is at the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service.

Cafcass does not categorise practitioners in this way. All Cafcass practitioners are qualified to work on both public and private law cases and, because of variations in demand in any local area at any given point in time, this is essential to ensure capacity to cover all types of cases. Local demand can vary by up to 20% in any type of case in a year. We are developing new services such as duty schemes, and extending our dispute resolution (DR) schemes, evidenced by the increase in DR hours during 2006/07: a rise in 33.6%. Currently Cafcass has 1340 employed practitioners who may complete either around 55 private law cases a year, or around 12 public law cases or work on dispute resolution or extended dispute resolution which we measure in hours worked. In addition Cafcass has access to self-employed contractors and staff registered on a bank scheme. These are used as budget permits to cover peaks in referrals.

149749—To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, by what means the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service monitors the effectiveness of its interventions.

Cafcass has a quality assurance system in which we assure all aspects of our work on an ongoing basis. We have recently implemented a new electronic case management system, which will help to track cases if they return to court. We are monitoring the effectiveness of our dispute resolution work by tracking how many of our dispute resolution interventions result in partial or complete agreement being reached or are referred for section 7 reports. Based on a sample of Feb/March 2007 data, only 20.7 % of section 8 referred for dispute resolution were not resolved at least in part and referred for a section 7 report.

Feedback from Service users is part of our quality assurance system and helps us to know how effective our interventions have been. Cafcass relies on a mixture of service user (including children) feedback and external research. Over 250 children have used our online feedback system and reported very high satisfaction rates. All work is quality assured to ensure that it is of a good standard and meets Cafcass National Standards and Cafcass policies. Practitioners also receive one to one supervision from their line manager and an annual appraisal.

A copy of this reply will be placed in the House Library.

Children: Adoption

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to simplify the system for the provision of care for adopted children with learning, behavioural or mental problems. [147795]

Kevin Brennan: The Adoption Support Services Regulations 2005 require local authorities to make a range of adoption support services available in their area to meet the needs of people affected by adoption.

Adoption support services include: financial support; discussion groups; assistance in relation to contact (including mediation services); therapeutic services for adoptive children; assistance to maintain the relationship between an adoptive child and his adoptive parent (including training for adoptive parents to meet any special needs of the child and respite care); assistance where disruption has occurred, or is in danger of occurring; and counselling, advice and information.

In addition, local authorities are required to appoint an Adoption Support Services Adviser (ASSA). The role of the adviser is to give advice and information to those affected by adoption regarding the services that are available within their area and how those services can be accessed.

There are no current plans to change these arrangements.

Class Sizes: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average pupil-to-teacher ratio in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in York was in each year since 2004. [152192]

Jim Knight: The following table provides pupil:teacher ratios in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in York local authority, January 2004 to 2006.

Pupil: teacher ratios in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in York local authority, January 2004 to 2006

As of January:	*Primary*	*Secondary*
2004	22.7	16.0
2005	23.0	15.6
2006	21.7	15.9

Note:
PTRs are calculated by dividing the total FTE number of pupils on roll in schools by the total FTE number of qualified teachers regularly employed in schools.
Source:
DCSF School Census.

Departments: Flint Bishop Solicitors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* its agencies have made payments to Flint Bishop solicitors since 1997. [151378]

Kevin Brennan: I can confirm that the Department for Children, Schools and Families and its predecessor the Department for Education and Skills have no record of any payments to Flint Bishop solicitors during the last seven years. The Department does not hold data prior to financial year 1999-2000.

The Department does not have any Executive Agencies.

Departments: Personnel

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in 2006-07. [146916]

Kevin Brennan: The Department places the same key priority to managing the performance of our people as the former DfES, and have the same robust mechanisms to ensure that we do so.

In 2006-07, there were two performance categories for DfES staff whose performance was not deemed to be at an acceptable level and therefore an improvement plan or management action was required. In total, there were 111 staff who met this criteria in 2006-07, this equated to 3 per cent. of our work force.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of sick leave taken by staff in his Department was stress-related in each of the last three years. [145973]

Kevin Brennan: The information is set out in the following table.

	Percentage stress related sick leave
2006/07	14
2005	10
2004	11

The information for 2004 and 2005 is in calendar years whereas 2006/07 is by financial year.

The Department remains committed, like the former DfES, to providing a safe working environment and has put in place a range of measures to support managers and employees on health and wellbeing issues, including the provision of professional counselling, awareness sessions and support from the Department's Employee Assistance Provider, Right Corecare. This is complemented by internal procedures aimed at ensuring consistent standards of behaviour and enabling fair and prompt mediation in the event of any grievance.

The Department will be launching a new Stress Prevention Policy, based on the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) Management Standards in the near future. The policy has been designed to support individuals and their managers, signposting them to appropriate sources of help. In addition to this the Department has piloted the HSE Stress Questionnaire in one Division and conducted Individual Stress Risk Assessments for employees who require them.

Further Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest estimate is of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of (i) 17-year-olds, (ii) 18-year-olds and (iii) 16-year-olds who are not in education or training; and if he will make a statement. [151825]

Jim Knight: The figures provided in the table are for individuals at academic age 16, 17 and 18[1] who were estimated to be not in education or training (NET) in 2006.

[1] Academic age is the age of the individual measured at the beginning of the academic year, 31 August.

Age	*16*	*17*	*18*
Total NET	68,500	121,900	264,200
Proportion NET (%)	10.3	18.5	38.9
Population	662,300	659,500	679,800

These NET figures are calculated by subtracting the number of young people estimated to be in education and training from the population; here education and training covers those in full- or part-time education, work-based learning (including apprenticeships), and those on employer funded or other education and training not otherwise included in the figures.

These figures are available in the Statistical First Release published by the Department in SFR 22/2007, please see the following web link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000734/sfr22_2007.pdf.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what duties will be placed on *(a)* parents and *(b)* employers to ensure that all those under the age of 18 years are in education or training; and if he will make a statement. [151867]

Jim Knight: In the Green Paper Raising Expectations: staying in education and training post-16 we did not propose that any specific duties be placed on parents. Employers have an existing obligation to release employees requesting time off for training in certain circumstances. If the participation age is extended, we proposed that where employers do not want to or are unable to offer training themselves; they would be required to release their employees for a day a week to undertake training elsewhere. These proposals can be accessed at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/downloadableDocs/6965-DfES-Raising%20Expectations%20Green%20Paper.pdf.

We intend to publish proposals in the autumn and will of course place copies in the House Library.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what sanctions will be used against parents who fail to take reasonable steps to ensure that their children participate in education or training up to the age 18 years; and if he will make a statement. [151868]

Jim Knight: In the Green Paper we said that we would expect parents to encourage and facilitate their child's participation, and if there is evidence that a parent of a young person is helping them break the law (for example, by employing a 16 or 17-year-old full-time in a family business without accredited training), it should be possible to hold them accountable as well. These proposals can be accessed at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/downloadableDocs/6965-DfES-Raising%20Expectations%20Green%20Paper.pdf.

We intend to publish proposals in the autumn and will of course place copies in the House Library.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what inspection and enforcement powers will be granted in order to impose an obligation for all those aged up to 18 years to be in education or training; and if he will make a statement. [151869]

Jim Knight: In the Green Paper we proposed that, if a young person continued to refuse to participate, despite the efforts of providers and the local authority to help and support them onto a programme of

learning, they could be issued with a new type of civil order called an Attendance Order. The process of issuing an Attendance Order would be initiated by the local authority. The Attendance Order would specify exactly what was expected of a young person. We proposed two options for ensuring that if Attendance Orders are made they are followed: that criminal sanctions be pursued, or civil/administrative ones. These proposals can be accessed at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/downloadableDocs/6965-DfES-Raising%20Expectations%20Green%20Paper.pdf.

We intend to publish proposals in the autumn and will of course place copies in the House Library.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations he has received from business groups on raising to 18 years the minimum age at which young people can leave education or training. [151870]

Jim Knight: In response our consultation, we have received written responses from the following business groups:

Apprenticeship Ambassador Network, Association of Accounting Technicians, The British Chambers of Commerce, Confederation of British Industry, Confederation of West Midlands Chambers of Commerce and Industry, DCL Consulting Ltd, EEF, E-skills UK, Federation of Small Businesses, Four S Consultancy, Glass Training Ltd, IGEN, Ignite Futures Ltd, Institute of Directors, Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Lantra, Learning Etc, LLUK, MCCH Society Ltd, Macro, NETA Ltd, Nissan Motor Manufacturing (UK) Ltd, SEMTA, SkillsActive, Skillsmart Retail, Small Business Council, Sysco Business Skills Academy Ltd, Tesco.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the *(a)* costs and *(b)* benefits of raising to 18 years the minimum age at which young people can leave education or training; and if he will make a statement. [151871]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 303W.

Further Education: Great Yarmouth

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils in Great Yarmouth went on to further education in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. [151961]

Jim Knight: The data published by the Department on participation figures in education, training and employment by 16-18 year olds in England does not include details on Great Yarmouth, but does include data at a higher level of aggregation for the Norfolk local education authority. These figures are presented in the following table for individuals at academic age 16[1] who participated in education in 1997 and 2005.

[1] Academic age is the age of the individual measured at the beginning of the academic year, 31 August.

Local authority figures only contain estimates for the end of 2005 as the provisional Further Education Institution data is not robust enough at the local level to allow accurate reporting. The end of 2006 local authority data will be published in 2008.

	Full-time education							*Total*	
	Maintained schools[1]	*Independent schools*[2]	*Sixth form college*	*Other FE*[3]	*Total*	*WBL*	*Part-time education*	*Education and WBL*[4]	*Population*
Number, 1997	2,700	500	600	2,500	6,400	800	600	7,400	9,000
Percentage, 1997	30	5	7	27	69	8	6	80	—
Number, 2005 (provisional)	2,800	400	800	3,000	7,100	600	500	8,200	9,700
Percentage, 2005 (provisional)	29	5	9	31	73	6	5	85	—

[1] Includes all pupils in maintained schools and maintained special schools.
[2] Includes all pupils in independent schools, non-maintained special schools, city technology colleges, academies and pupil referral units.
[3] Includes all learners in General FE, tertiary and specialist colleges (e.g. agriculture colleges).
[4] Total of all full-time and part-time education and WBL, less WBL provision in education institutions.

These figures are available in the Statistical First Release published by the Department in SFR 22/2007, please see the following web link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000734/sfr22_2007.pdf.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of GCSE entries from *(a)* independent schools and *(b)* state schools scored an A* or A grade in each year since 1990-91. [150678]

Jim Knight: The information requested can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what average mark was necessary to secure an *(a)* A* grade, *(b)* A grade, *(c)* B grade and *(d)* C grade in GCSE (i) English, (ii) mathematics, (iii) physics, (iv) history, (v) geography, (vi) French, (vi) Latin and (vii) chemistry in each year since 1991-92. [150679]

Jim Knight: This information is not held centrally.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in what proportion of English secondary schools less than *(a)* 50 per cent., *(b)* 40 per cent., *(c)* 30 per cent., *(d)* 20 per cent., *(e)* 10 per cent.

and *(f)* 5 per cent. of pupils received five GCSEs at A*-C in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [150751]

Jim Knight: The number of maintained mainstream schools where less than *(a)* 50 per cent. *(b)* 40 per cent. *(c)* 30 per cent. and *(d)* 20 per cent. of pupils received five GCSEs at grades A*-C is available in Table 7 of the Statistical First Release:

GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England 2005/06.

Number of maintained mainstream schools[1] by percentage of 15-year-old pupils[2] achieving 5+ A-C at GCSE and equivalents*

School type	Total number of schools	Percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE and 0-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-39	40-49
All maintained mainstream schools[1] 2005/06	3,072	7	8	32	87	353	588

[1] Including only those maintained mainstream schools with results published in the 2006 Achievement and Attainment tables.
[2] Age at start of academic year i.e. 31 August.

In 2006, there was one maintained mainstream school in which 0 per cent. of pupils achieved five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C at GCSE. This is the only school that falls into categories *(e)* less than 10 per cent. and *(f)* less than 5 per cent. This pupil only had three pupils aged 15[1].

[1] Aged 15 on the 31 August 2005.

National Council for Educational Excellence

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the responsibilities are of the National Council for Educational Excellence; [149638]

(2) how members of the National Council for Educational Excellence were selected; [149640]

(3) what the budget is for the National Council for Educational Excellence; [149641]

(4) what steps the National Council for Educational Excellence will take to promote educational excellence. [149642]

Jim Knight: The National Council for Educational Excellence (NCEE) has a remit to provide advice to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families about strategy and measures to achieve world-class education performance for all children and young people from birth to age 19.

The council is focused on providing advice and mobilising all sectors to provide the support to increase standards. Council members will act as advocates and champions to transform expectations and aspirations for the education system, and to rally the teaching profession, businesses, the third sector, universities and colleges, schools, and parents to raise standards year on year.

The Government will work with the council to mobilise the nation's energies, and to consider how the council's advice could be implemented. The council currently has a team of three members of staff within the Department for Children, Schools and Families dedicated to providing secretariat support. The full monthly economic cost of those staff and other administrative costs associated with the council is approximately £26,300.

NCEE members were selected by the Prime Minister and Secretary of State on the basis of their professional experience, expertise, status and personal qualities. The council is a standing body with priorities, terms of reference and membership to be reviewed by the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State every year.

Primary Education: School Day

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what average number of hours *(a)* primary school age and *(b)* secondary school age pupils spent in school in each year since 1985-86; and what figure has been estimated for 2007-08. [150694]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Private Education: Special Educational Needs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of public spending on private education for children with special educational needs in each year since 1997-98; how much has been allocated for this purpose in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [150680]

Jim Knight: The requested information is provided in the following table:

	£
1999-2000	272,760,000
2000-01	287,821,000
2001-02	305,782,000
2002-03	309,646,000
2003-04	394,609,000
2004-05	441,977,000
2005-06	481,127,000
2006-07	506,920,000
2007-08[1]	552,694,000

[1] 2007-08 data is provisional and is therefore subject to change by the local authority.

Notes:

1. Includes all planned net expenditure on the payment of fees in respect of pupils with special educational needs at independent schools or non-maintained special schools. This includes any planned expenditure funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and, from 2006-07 onwards, SEN payments to Acadamies are also included within this line.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000.

Source:

The data are drawn from local authorities Section 52 Budget Statements (Tables 1) submitted to the DfES. Data are not available prior to the inception of Section 52 for the 1999-2000 financial year.

Schools and Pupils: Offensive Weapons

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps are being taken by the Government to reduce the number of students in possession of a weapon on school property; [151231]

(2) how many schools in each local education authority *(a)* have introduced and *(b)* plan to introduce metal detectors to search for weapons amongst pupils in each of the last 10 years, broken down by type of school. [151169]

Jim Knight: Knife incidents in schools in England are extremely rare. To help maintain that, we gave head teachers a power, from May 2007, to search a pupil without consent when, after screening with metal detectors or on other grounds, they suspect the presence of a weapon. This supports the efforts of the police to reduce crime by and against young people on the streets around schools and supplements initiatives by the Department for Children, Schools and Families on, for example, improving behaviour and learning about responsibility, conflict resolution and safety. We do not burden schools by asking them to report whether they do or will screen. We intend to continue taking the views of our Working Group on School Security on all aspects of screening and searching, in particular in order to review the statutory power to search after three years.

Pupils: Per Capita Funding

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the funding per pupil in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each English local education authority in the latest period for which figures are available. [150812]

Jim Knight: The revenue funding figures per pupil aged 3-10 and 11-15 for 2005-06 are provided in the following table. In 2006-07 the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) was introduced. As the DSG is a mechanism for distributing funding there is not a primary/secondary split available for 2006-07 onwards. These figures are in cash terms.

	Primary (3-10 year olds)	*Secondary (11-15 year olds)*
Barking and Dagenham	4,320	5,320
Barnet	4,230	5,190
Barnsley	3,760	4,700
Bath and North East Somerset	3,440	4,230
Bedfordshire	3,640	4,550
Bexley	3,750	4,680
Birmingham	4,200	5,280
Blackburn with Darwen	4,170	5,100
Blackpool	3,750	4,750
Bolton	3,800	4,600
Bournemouth	3,470	4,340
Bracknell Forest	3,700	4,790
Bradford	4,020	5,030
Brent	4,810	6,110
Brighton and Hove	3,840	4,800
Bristol, City of	3,880	5,090
Bromley	3,770	4,790
Buckinghamshire	3,680	4,550
Bury	3,610	4,460
Calderdale	3,730	4,600
Cambridgeshire	3,610	4,400
Camden	5,700	6,869
Cheshire	3,480	4,280
Cornwall	3,640	4,390
Coventry	3,900	4,800
Croydon	4,080	5,260
Cumbria	3,690	4,460
Darlington	3,710	4,610
Derby	3,780	4,680
Derbyshire	3,520	4,300
Devon	3,580	4,330
Doncaster	3,830	4,750
Dorset	3,440	4,260
Dudley	3,560	4,460
Durham	3,780	4,650
Ealing	4,660	5,900
East Riding of Yorkshire	3,510	4,240
East Sussex	3,750	4,650
Enfield	4,280	5,230
Essex	3,690	4,580
Gateshead	3,810	4,860
Gloucestershire	3,500	4,300
Greenwich	5,190	6,520
Hackney	5,910	7,870
Halton	4,040	5,070
Hammersmith and Fulham	5,520	6,870
Hampshire	3,520	4,370
Haringey	4,930	6,440
Harrow	4,220	5,170
Hartlepool	3,930	4,910
Havering	3,720	4,740
Herefordshire	3,780	4,530
Hertfordshire	3,610	4,480
Hillingdon	4,110	5,100
Hounslow	4,530	5,510
Isle of Wight	3,780	4,720
Islington	5,700	7,290
Kensington and Chelsea	5,700	7,240
Kent	3,670	4,610
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	3,980	4,960
Kingston upon Thames	3,870	4,850
Kirklees	3,830	4,710
Knowsley	4,220	5,350
Lambeth	5,700	7,650
Lancashire	3,650	4,480
Leeds	3,710	4,660
Leicester	4,150	4,980
Leicestershire	3,330	4,080
Lewisham	5,330	7,040
Lincolnshire	3,640	4,460
Liverpool	4,150	5,220
Luton	4,120	5,170
Manchester	4,410	5,590
Medway	3,580	4,480
Merton	4,210	5,300
Middlesbrough	4,230	5,730
Milton Keynes	3,860	4,760
Newcastle upon Tyne	4,020	4,980

	Primary (3-10 year olds)	Secondary (11-15 year olds)
Newham	4,960	6,020
Norfolk	3,690	4,450
North East Lincolnshire	3,770	4,690
North Lincolnshire	3,730	4,580
North Somerset	3,500	4,400
North Tyneside	3,630	4,650
North Yorkshire	3,610	4,270
Northamptonshire	3,570	4,410
Northumberland	3,650	4,550
Nottingham	4,250	5,490
Nottinghamshire	3,480	4,270
Oldham	3,970	4,860
Oxfordshire	3,690	4,530
Peterborough	3,910	4,840
Plymouth	3,570	4,490
Poole	3,330	4,220
Portsmouth	3,800	4,810
Reading	4,080	5,330
Redbridge	4,020	4,840
Redcar and Cleveland	3,860	4,770
Richmond upon Thames	3,810	4,830
Rochdale	4,010	5,010
Rotherham	3,770	4,640
Rutland	3,660	4,430
Salford	4,000	5,050
Sandwell	3,990	4,950
Sefton	3,660	4,630
Sheffield	3,770	4,740
Shropshire	3,640	4,400
Slough	4,400	5,560
Solihull	3,480	4,290
Somerset	3,540	4,380
South Gloucestershire	3,380	4,250
South Tyneside	3,970	4,880
Southampton	3,930	4,880
Southend-on-Sea	3,770	4,750
Southwark	5,470	7,330
St. Helens	3,770	4,760
Staffordshire	3,400	4,190
Stockport	3,470	4,310
Stockton-on-Tees	3,780	4,730
Stoke-on-Trent	3,900	4,910
Suffolk	3,480	4,300
Sunderland	3,820	4,770
Surrey	3,660	4,540
Sutton	3,840	4,750
Swindon	3,570	4,440
Tameside	3,680	4,580
Telford and Wrekin	3,700	4,600
Thurrock	3,900	4,970
Torbay	3,530	4,420
Tower Hamlets	6,120	7,430
Trafford	3,530	4,380
Wakefield	3,670	4,490
Walsall	3,810	4,640
Waltham Forest	4,530	5,730
Wandsworth	5,040	6,460
Warrington	3,390	4,220
Warwickshire	3,520	4,330
West Berkshire	3,760	4,580
West Sussex	3,580	4,410
Westminster	5,440	6,520
Wigan	3,600	4,460
Wiltshire	3,590	4,320
Windsor and Maidenhead	3,760	4,710
Wirral	3,760	4,740
Wokingham	3,610	4,520
Wolverhampton	3,970	5,050
Worcestershire	3,400	4,270
York	3,400	4,300

Notes:
1. Price Base: Cash
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of Standard Spending Assessment / Education Formula Spending (EFS) settlements. Figures include the pensions transfer to EFS.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DCSF Departmental Expenditure Limits relevant to pupils aged 3-10 and 11-15 and exclude education maintenance allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level.
4. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the EFS settlement calculations.
5. Rounding: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
6. Status: Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest estimate is of the average level of funding per pupil in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools; and what proportion of funding per pupil was delivered through local education authorities in each year since 1996-97. [150840]

Jim Knight: All revenue funding to pupils aged three to 19 has been delivered through local education authorities since 1996-97.

The revenue funding figures per pupil aged three to 10 and 11 to 15 for England for years 1997-98 to 2005-06 are provided in the following table. Comparable figures are not available for 1996-97.

	Primary (3 to10-year-olds)	Secondary (11 to 15-year-olds)
1997-98	2,480	3,390
1998-99	2,580	3,470
1999-2000	2,750	3,610
2000-01	2,990	3,900
2001-02	3,160	4,110
2002-03	3,250	4,210
2003-04	3,450	4,280
2004-05	3,550	4,450
2005-06	3,770	4,640

Notes:
1. Price Base: Real terms at 2005-06 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 27 September 2906.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of Standard Spending Assessment/ Education Formula Spending (EFS) settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DCSF Departmental Expenditure Limits relevant to pupils aged three to 15 and exclude Education Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level.
4. The pupil numbers used to convert in figures to per pupil are those underlying the SSA/EFS settlement calculations.
5. Rounding: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
6. Status: Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

The revenue per pupil figures shown in the table below are taken from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which was introduced in April 2006 and are in cash terms. They are not comparable with those for the years 1997-98 to 2005-06 because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded.

The 1997-98 to 2005-06 figures are based on Education Formula Spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS. EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable. An alternative time series is currently under development.

To provide a comparison for 2006-07 DSG, the Department have isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06; as described this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year. As the DSG is just a mechanism for distributing funding there is not a primary/secondary split available. There are other grants that support the schools budget, these are not included in the provided DSG figures. The figures are for all funded pupils aged three to 15.

	Revenue per pupil[1]
DSG 2005-06	
Baseline	3,411
DSG 2006-07	3,643
DSG 2007-08	3,888

[1] In cash terms

Notes:

1. The revenue funding per pupil figures only run to 2005-06 because the Department cannot provide a consistent time series beyond that year as the introduction of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded. The 1997-98 to 2005-06 figures are based on Education Formula Spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. In 2006-07 funding for schools changed with the introduction of the DSG which is based largely on an authority's previous spending.
2. In addition, DSG has a different coverage to EFS. EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. This means we have a break in our time series as the two sets of data are not comparable, an alternative time series is currently under development.
3. To provide a comparison for 2006-07 DSG, we have isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06; as described this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year.
4. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average amount spent on each school pupil was in (*a*) 1997 and (*b*) 2007. [151960]

Jim Knight: The requested information is contained in the following table:

School based expenditure per pupil[1, 2, 3, 4] and combined local authority and school based expenditure per pupil[5] 1997-98 and 2005-06[6, 7]

Cash terms figures[8] as reported by local authorities as at 19 July 2007.

	School based expenditure per pupil[1, 2, 3]						(6)
	Primary	*Pre-primary and primary[4]*	*Secondary*	*Special*	*Total (excluding pre-primary)[4]*	*Total (including pre-primary)[4]*	*Total combined local authority and school based expenditure per pupil[5]*
1997-98[6]	—	1,740	2,360	9,830	—	2,080	2,710
2005-06[3, 4, 7]	3,150	3,170	4,070	16,430	3,710	3,720	4,450

[1] 1999-2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the RO1 form collected by the ODPM to the Section 52 form from the DFES. 2002-03 saw a further break in the time series following the introduction of Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) and the associated restructuring of the outturn tables.

[2] School based expenditure includes only expenditure incurred directly by local authority maintained schools. This includes the pay of teachers and school-based support staff, school premises costs, books and equipment, and certain other supplies and services, less any capital items funded from recurrent spending and income from sales, fees and charges and rents and rates. This excludes the central cost of support services such as home to school transport, local authority administration and the financing of capital expenditure. The pupil data are drawn from the DFES Annual Schools Census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.

[3] The school based expenditure calculation for 2005-06 is broadly similar to the calculation in 1997-98. However, 1997-98 includes all premature retirement compensation (PRC) and Crombie payments, mandatory PRC payments and other indirect employee expenses whereas only the schools element of these categories is included in 2005-06. Also, for some LAs, expenditure that had previously been attributed to the school sectors was reported within the LA part of the form from 2002-03 onwards and hence would be excluded from the 2005-06 school based expenditure figures, though this is not quantifiable from existing sources.

[4] Expenditure was not distinguished between the pre-primary and primary sectors until the inception of Section 52 for the 1999-2000 financial year. Comparable figures for school based expenditure in local authority maintained nursery schools are not available from 2002-03 onwards and consequently direct comparisons should not be made between the pre-primary and primary figures and total (including pre-primary) figures for 1997-98 and 2005-06.

[5] Combined local authority and school based expenditure includes all expenditure on the education of children in local authority maintained establishments and pupils educated by the authority other than in maintained establishments. This includes both school based expenditure and all elements of central LA expenditure except youth and community and capital expenditure from revenue (CERA). Certain elements of central local authority expenditure cannot be attributed to a particular phase of education and consequently a sector breakdown is not available. Pupil figures include all pre-primary pupils, including those under fives funded by the authority and being educated in private settings, pupils educated in maintained mainstream schools and any other local authority maintained pupils. All pupil numbers are adjusted to be on a financial year basis.

[6] Spending in 1997-98 reflects the transfer of monies from local government to central government for the nursery vouchers scheme. These were returned to local government from 1998-99.

[7] Figures for 1999-2000 onwards reflect the return of GM schools to local authority maintenance.

[8] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Pupils: Personal Records

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information is held by *(a)* schools, *(b)* local education authorities and *(c)* the Government on the family circumstances of pupils; and if he will make a statement. [149152]

Jim Knight: It is for schools and local education authorities to decide what information they hold on the family circumstances of pupils. The Department holds information on all pupils in maintained schools on their eligibility for free school meals, and on which pupils are subject to a care order or accommodated by a local authority. There are also some research exercises which collect information on the family circumstances of a limited sample of pupils.

Schools

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools appealed against their local education authority number on the basis of its being too *(a)* low and *(b)* high in each year since 1996-97; and what proportion of appeals was successful in each year. [150677]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Schools: Capital Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much capital expenditure there was on schools in each local authority area in each year since 2003-04, excluding spending on academies; and if he will make a statement. [151882]

Jim Knight: Capital allocations for schools made so far in each local authority area in each year since 2003-04, excluding spending on academies, are set out in the following table.

£000

Local authority name	Local authority number	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Barking and Dagenham	301	5,852	7,395	10,129	27,252	11,252
Barnet	302	12,024	18,533	15,102	41,490	13,379
Barnsley	370	61,039	10,122	7,161	9,607	6,603
Bath and North East Somerset	800	11,948	7,330	5,551	14,864	6,935
Bedfordshire	820	18,359	20,621	16,250	18,939	19,429
Bexley	303	23,749	16,812	12,540	44,948	10,378
Birmingham	330	102,593	54,287	48,367	45,833	46,130
Blackburn with Darwen	889	10,062	6,006	9,629	9,999	6,608
Blackpool	890	17,032	14,992	11,606	8,808	5,041
Bolton	350	15,167	11,403	9,322	24,214	11,793
Bournemouth	837	5,066	5,801	5,151	4,725	4,884
Bracknell Forest	867	8,648	4,203	4,313	4,273	4,388
Bradford	380	20,819	35,284	30,597	19,230	19,380
Brent	304	14,706	13,827	10,031	20,183	16,413
Brighton and Hove	846	7,338	13,357	5,487	6,424	6,929
Bristol, City of	801	73,789	16,368	17,296	14,456	14,699
Bromley	305	12,490	18,774	18,480	18,715	19,395
Buckinghamshire	825	27,460	26,443	21,055	20,583	21,365
Bury	351	7,556	10,833	5,283	18,571	6,854
Calderdale	381	9,555	15,093	7,437	8,548	8,933
Cambridgeshire	873	38,682	33,212	24,598	30,757	19,777
Camden	202	12,152	8,251	11,124	8,014	8,519
Cheshire	875	34,224	30,488	26,421	25,528	26,351
City of London	201	159	97	42	66	71
Cornwall	908	99,602	33,273	18,582	45,532	21,859
Coventry	331	13,574	15,234	13,453	19,656	12,685
Croydon	306	14,376	12,610	12,022	16,154	12,777
Cumbria	909	21,193	23,723	19,008	21,494	22,272
Darlington	841	44,980	4,159	4,454	24,954	4,074
Derby	831	53,692	12,763	9,404	21,546	10,164
Derbyshire	830	74,516	41,778	32,977	42,338	33,219
Devon	878	122,740	56,137	24,974	79,810	42,674
Doncaster	371	63,809	55,974	19,179	12,069	12,286
Dorset	835	22,855	16,276	18,933	64,634	15,462
Dudley	332	13,415	15,705	12,933	19,732	11,671
Durham	840	33,035	25,282	25,815	30,500	22,644
Ealing	307	16,392	77,589	13,936	21,999	9,530
East Riding of Yorkshire	811	20,432	21,642	16,997	26,299	14,475
East Sussex	845	24,402	23,721	17,703	20,647	17,526
Enfield	308	69,375	19,537	13,085	30,790	11,535
Essex	881	63,462	63,202	55,620	51,245	52,028
Gateshead	390	22,804	6,957	65,954	6,505	6,385
Gloucestershire	916	28,486	36,782	30,180	68,389	36,469
Greenwich	203	9,051	16,561	13,074	20,313	14,872
Hackney	204	11,470	13,356	7,739	10,229	9,473
Halton	876	6,969	4,879	5,611	10,727	5,217
Hammersmith and Fulham	205	4,987	10,900	4,972	11,879	6,012
Hampshire	850	70,786	62,874	50,886	59,906	55,967
Haringey	309	23,672	20,708	20,334	15,380	13,279
Harrow	310	6,422	6,574	7,055	17,804	6,909
Hartlepool	805	7,586	3,527	2,989	3,645	3,754
Havering	311	11,506	11,327	8,299	14,192	9,734
Herefordshire	884	27,643	8,354	8,712	8,982	7,140
Hertfordshire	919	43,353	60,759	63,787	69,203	50,055
Hillingdon	312	14,815	18,885	12,280	31,642	12,855
Hounslow	313	36,193	9,515	8,210	10,962	10,338
Isle of Wight	921	10,797	11,424	6,857	14,973	15,556
Isles of Scilly	420	285	228	153	141	144
Islington	206	9,417	11,314	7,039	6,152	6,455
Kensington and Chelsea	207	2,918	4,024	4,413	8,987	5,595
Kent	886	92,848	181,101	90,483	85,225	73,318
Kingston upon Hull, City of	810	10,691	10,871	8,365	6,487	8,348
Kingston upon Thames	314	10,942	14,951	5,992	42,583	8,255
Kirklees	382	17,253	19,324	14,004	19,523	16,454
Knowsley	340	7,495	6,688	8,225	10,397	4,750
Lambeth	208	15,125	22,195	12,750	20,815	16,382
Lancashire	888	62,607	44,234	38,067	54,715	46,664
Leeds	383	28,263	63,654	135,406	24,510	24,183
Leicester	856	12,329	18,259	25,540	12,986	7,434
Leicestershire	855	27,582	33,834	35,673	40,998	25,863

£000

Local authority name	Local authority number	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Lewisham	209	16,601	15,070	16,571	17,813	10,379
Lincolnshire	925	28,157	33,779	29,350	42,750	29,536
Liverpool	341	22,706	18,481	12,826	14,124	15,224
Luton	821	11,734	10,056	6,448	9,926	6,881
Manchester	352	56,424	24,853	14,980	21,696	22,141
Medway	887	17,452	21,793	18,983	12,977	13,267
Merton	315	7,293	5,836	5,446	15,810	10,762
Middlesbrough	806	10,039	7,013	6,228	4,199	4,734
Milton Keynes	826	29,083	39,116	30,831	52,464	42,610
Newcastle upon Tyne	391	16,280	70,368	8,523	12,485	8,336
Newham	316	50,660	16,028	17,193	11,488	8,414
Norfolk	926	39,292	108,282	34,492	70,474	39,356
North East Lincolnshire	812	7,715	7,521	5,967	19,020	7,199
North Lincolnshire	813	6,113	16,272	5,295	6,244	5,949
North Somerset	802	17,971	27,122	17,954	8,166	8,472
North Tyneside	392	11,528	7,134	5,839	18,584	6,964
North Yorkshire	815	34,086	27,377	22,037	56,547	25,610
Northamptonshire	928	130,466	36,015	25,035	38,845	25,829
Northumberland	929	13,730	15,920	11,700	14,269	14,691
Nottingham	892	10,402	17,579	10,488	13,337	9,464
Nottinghamshire	891	157,700	31,112	26,170	30,311	30,673
Oldham	353	14,042	71,191	14,087	11,664	11,539
Oxfordshire	931	33,394	36,896	36,248	26,789	27,536
Peterborough	874	13,297	68,781	16,579	26,830	7,447
Plymouth	879	16,397	56,593	11,728	20,747	11,994
Poole	836	6,161	4,952	4,202	18,394	6,595
Portsmouth	851	10,871	7,028	9,043	5,967	6,093
Reading	870	9,733	5,211	6,564	10,376	4,488
Redbridge	317	13,084	16,768	20,789	17,159	17,942
Redcar and Cleveland	807	59,355	5,903	4,910	17,476	5,662
Richmond upon Thames	318	4,277	6,056	9,584	39,317	9,844
Rochdale	354	12,033	69,346	7,485	8,781	8,829
Rotherham	372	18,005	10,396	8,163	11,708	10,359
Rutland	857	1,284	1,704	1,832	1,614	1,681
Salford	355	10,210	56,770	9,947	11,989	7,869
Sandwell	333	16,344	16,435	12,992	17,223	12,694
Sefton	343	16,930	12,079	13,303	19,464	12,294
Sheffield	373	58,357	83,165	25,473	22,264	17,297
Shropshire	893	10,822	10,366	13,800	12,695	10,865
Slough	871	7,618	52,188	4,498	25,645	6,134
Solihull	334	9,424	9,691	13,175	7,670	7,940
Somerset	933	19,249	21,831	18,240	28,632	21,312
South Gloucestershire	803	14,853	19,134	11,040	14,194	14,657
South Tyneside	393	6,596	21,922	5,150	4,439	4,479
Southampton	852	12,006	6,823	10,728	9,845	7,063
Southend-on-Sea	882	9,907	13,793	7,799	10,833	7,278
Southwark	210	12,593	27,031	21,199	16,184	16,080
St. Helens	342	7,152	6,772	5,783	18,936	7,056
Staffordshire	860	35,529	41,071	29,198	41,187	33,219
Stockport	356	11,709	10,731	11,518	11,232	11,395
Stockton-on-Tees	808	11,858	11,786	7,705	10,863	7,669
Stoke-on-Trent	861	11,333	14,891	6,973	5,235	5,263

£000

Local authority name	Local authority number	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Suffolk	935	34,673	44,931	31,273	34,765	28,079
Sunderland	394	13,436	11,049	9,287	12,925	9,881
Surrey	936	48,336	45,928	47,164	54,580	37,867
Sutton	319	11,286	8,702	8,125	12,637	10,299
Swindon	866	80,240	11,594	9,182	8,747	8,927
Tameside	357	9,008	11,616	11,327	11,427	8,976
Telford and Wrekin	894	77,507	12,310	7,550	14,879	7,830
Thurrock	883	11,007	13,289	8,904	22,969	17,604
Torbay	880	9,470	10,959	8,994	31,837	9,893
Tower Hamlets	211	8,912	8,866	7,942	14,296	15,028
Trafford	358	14,773	13,569	8,389	11,284	8,834
Wakefield	384	16,743	15,790	16,804	24,201	12,558
Walsall	335	19,361	17,518	13,384	23,948	12,428
Waltham Forest	320	10,364	10,260	10,752	6,967	7,032
Wandsworth	212	11,741	10,371	10,495	23,102	14,936
Warrington	877	8,821	8,006	9,805	12,092	8,152
Warwickshire	937	34,454	25,499	19,169	34,055	22,856
West Berkshire	869	7,647	7,957	6,546	19,358	7,575
West Sussex	938	30,799	34,381	36,618	43,006	31,828
Westminster	213	15,195	10,110	7,770	10,708	6,962
Wigan	359	19,790	17,511	10,370	24,387	12,775
Wiltshire	865	27,615	21,251	15,740	42,850	18,149
Windsor and Maidenhead	868	5,972	5,456	4,439	5,726	5,963
Wirral	344	18,774	14,354	13,418	18,486	12,401
Wokingham	872	9,042	12,002	5,185	18,035	6,246
Wolverhampton	336	10,311	15,655	9,498	26,755	11,125
Worcestershire	885	24,264	88,860	19,602	22,138	22,537
York	816	9,651	9,429	8,739	28,494	6,364

Schools: Catering

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the proportion of school kitchens which need *(a)* rebuilding and *(b)* capital investment. [152133]

Jim Knight: The Department has not made these estimates.

In 2006, the Department and the School Food Trust worked together to identify where schools have currently no kitchen provision. In October 2006, the School Food Trust report 'School Meal Take Up in England' estimated that about 3,500 schools in England do not have a cooking kitchen, though some of these may have facilities to regenerate and serve brought-in food.

Based on returns from 19 authorities who attended a conference in London in December, targeted at authorities with high numbers of schools without any kitchen facilities, 1,959 or 62 per cent. of schools in these authorities do not have kitchens. While demonstrating that there are areas with concentrations of schools without kitchens, these figures do not represent the national picture.

Schools: Drugs

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many drug tests were administered on *(a)* teachers and *(b)* students by schools in each local education authority in each of the last 10 years; how many tested positive for drug use in each case; and what steps have been taken against teachers and students who have failed drug tests. [151218]

Kevin Brennan: Schools do not have to inform the Department if they wish to introduce drug testing for pupils and we do not collect information about those that do, the methods used or the results of their tests. However, we know of three maintained schools which have tested pupils for drugs. We do not collect any information about drug testing on teachers.

Schools: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much schools funding was allocated per pupil in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each year since 1997, broken down by age group. [151367]

Jim Knight: The requested information is allocated to local authorities. Eastbourne is part of the East Sussex local authority and the revenue funding figures per pupil aged 3-10 and 11-15 for 1997-98 to 2005-06 are shown in the following table:

	Primary (3 to 10-year-olds)	*Secondary (11 to 15-year-olds)*
1997-98	2,520	3,360
1998-99	2,610	3,470
1999-2000	2,780	3,560
2000-01	3,020	3,850
2001-02	3,180	4,060
2002-03	3,230	4,190
2003-04	3,370	4,200
2004-05	3,490	4,410
2005-06	3,670	4,560

Notes:
1. Price Base: Real terms at 2005-06 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 27 September 2006.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of standard spending assessment/education formula spending (EFS) settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DCFS departmental expenditure limits relevant to pupils aged 3-15 and exclude education maintenance allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level.
4. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the SSA/EFS settlement calculations.
5. Rounding: Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.
6. Status: Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

The revenue per pupil figures shown in the following table are taken from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) introduced in April 2006 and are in cash terms. They are not comparable with those for the years 1997-98 to 2005-06 because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded.

The 1997-98 to 2005-06 figures are based on education formula spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS. EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable. An alternative time series is currently under development.

To provide a comparison for 2006-07 DSG, the Department have isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06; as described above this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year. As the DSG is just a mechanism for distributing funding there is not a primary/secondary split available. There are other grants that support the schools budget, these are not included in the provided DSG figures. The figures are for all funded pupils aged 3-15.

DSG 2005-06	*Figures*
Baseline	3,371
DSG 2006-07	3,598
DSG 2007-08	3,831

Notes:
1. The revenue funding per pupil figures only run to 2005-06 because we cannot provide a consistent time series beyond that year as the introduction of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded. The 1997-98 to 2005-06 figures are based on education formula spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. In 2006-07 funding for schools changed with the introduction of the DSG which is based largely on an authority's previous spending.
2. In addition, DSG has a different coverage to EFS: EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. This means we have a break in our time series as the two sets of data are not comparable, an alternative time series is currently under development.
3. To provide a comparison for 2006-07 DSG, we have isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06; as described above this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year.
4. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much deprivation-related funding is available to English schools in 2007-08; [152446]

(2) how much deprivation-related funding was allocated to each local education authority (LEA) in the last period for which figures are available; how much of this was passed on by LEAs on the basis of deprivation; and if he will make a statement. [152453]

Jim Knight: Funding for local authorities within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) includes an element for deprivation. In 2007-08 the notional amount available to local authorities to distribute to schools

from the DSG and grants totals £3,808 million, with the amounts given to individual local authorities as part of the DSG provided in the attached annex. (This amounts to £2,730 million and excludes the additional grants to local authorities which do not currently have the deprivation element separately identified). It is not possible at present to say how much is passed on by local authorities to schools on the basis of deprivation. However, over the summer and early autumn of 2007 the Government Offices Children's Services Advisors are to discuss with their local authorities how much funding each authority is passing on to schools on the basis of deprivation and how this can be improved where necessary. As part of the process, Department officials will be collecting baseline information regarding the distribution in 2007-08 in order that change can be tracked in future years. Guidance to authorities is to be published during August 2007.

Annex A: Notional deprivation funding within 2007-08 DSG

		£ million
	England	2,730
201	City of London	0.1
202	Camden	15.3
203	Greenwich	22.8
204	Hackney	22.7
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	10.3
206	Islington	20.3
207	Kensington and Chelsea	4.7
208	Lambeth	22.4
209	Lewisham	21.9
210	Southwark	24.0
211	Tower Hamlets	39.4
212	Wandsworth	14.6
213	Westminster	10.1
301	Barking and Dagenham	16.8
302	Barnet	14.7
303	Bexley	12.0
304	Brent	20.6
305	Bromley	11.8
306	Croydon	19.8
307	Ealing	19.9
308	Enfield	22.3
309	Haringey	23.3
310	Harrow	9.8
311	Havering	11.0
312	Hillingdon	14.1
313	Hounslow	15.7
314	Kingston upon Thames	4.6
315	Merton	7.4
316	Newham	35.7
317	Redbridge	14.2
318	Richmond upon Thames	4.2
319	Sutton	8.1
320	Waltham Forest	19.5
330	Birmingham	99.8
331	Coventry	20.0
332	Dudley	18.2
333	Sandwell	25.2
334	Solihull	8.7
335	Walsall	20.1
336	Wolverhampton	18.9
340	Knowsley	15.7
341	Liverpool	43.7

Annex A: Notional deprivation funding within 2007-08 DSG

		£ million
342	St. Helens	11.7
343	Sefton	16.7
344	Wirral	22.6
350	Bolton	18.8
351	Bury	9.6
352	Manchester	45.9
353	Oldham	18.6
354	Rochdale	16.4
355	Salford	17.4
356	Stockport	11.9
357	Tameside	15.1
358	Trafford	10.6
359	Wigan	17.7
370	Barnsley	14.7
371	Doncaster	19.7
372	Rotherham	18.9
373	Sheffield	30.4
380	Bradford	38.7
381	Calderdale	13.0
382	Kirklees	24.2
383	Leeds	38.9
384	Wakefield	19.0
390	Gateshead	12.4
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	18.3
392	North Tyneside	11.4
393	South Tyneside	11.7
394	Sunderland	20.4
800	Bath and North East Somerset	6.0
801	Bristol, City of	21.8
802	North Somerset	6.8
803	South Gloucestershire	8.4
805	Hartlepool	7.8
806	Middlesbrough	11.2
807	Redcar and Cleveland	10.7
808	Stockton-on-Tees	12.1
810	Kingston Upon Hull, City of	22.2
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	12.1
812	North East Lincolnshire	11.3
813	North Lincolnshire	8.8
815	North Yorkshire	19.1
816	York	6.7
820	Bedfordshire	14.7
821	Luton	14.2
825	Buckinghamshire	13.7
826	Milton Keynes	11.8
830	Derbyshire	33.2
831	Derby	16.2
835	Dorset	13.0
836	Poole	5.3
837	Bournemouth	7.2
840	Durham	30.0
841	Darlington	6.2
845	East Sussex	20.6
846	Brighton and Hove	12.5
850	Hampshire	40.2
851	Portsmouth	10.5
852	Southampton	13.3
855	Leicestershire	18.8
856	Leicester	24.4

Annex A: Notional deprivation funding within 2007-08 DSG

		£ million
857	Rutland	1.1
860	Staffordshire	32.6
861	Stoke-on-Trent	18.1
865	Wiltshire	14.3
866	Swindon	8.2
867	Bracknell Forest	3.2
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	3.2
869	West Berkshire	5.3
870	Reading	5.9
871	Slough	8.1
872	Wokingham	3.7
873	Cambridgeshire	16.6
874	Peterborough	12.4
875	Cheshire	26.4
876	Halton	10.4
877	Warrington	9.0
878	Devon	27.1
879	Plymouth	15.4
880	Torbay	7.6
881	Essex	54.8
882	Southend-on-Sea	10.6
883	Thurrock	8.3
884	Herefordshire	6.0
885	Worcestershire	19.8
886	Kent	62.2
887	Medway	14.8
888	Lancashire	61.1
889	Blackburn with Darwen	12.8
890	Blackpool	10.6
891	Nottinghamshire	36.4
892	Nottingham	24.9
893	Shropshire	9.3
894	Telford and Wrekin	10.3
908	Cornwall	24.9
909	Cumbria	22.1
916	Gloucestershire	20.3
919	Hertfordshire	36.5
921	Isle of Wight	7.4
925	Lincolnshire	29.7
926	Norfolk	34.6
928	Northamptonshire	27.6
929	Northumberland	14.6
931	Oxfordshire	17.4
933	Somerset	18.7
935	Suffolk	25.7
936	Surrey	28.3
937	Warwickshire	18.0
938	West Sussex	25.0

Schools: Great Yarmouth

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on upgrading teaching facilities and new build in schools in Great Yarmouth in each of the last 10 years. [151962]

Jim Knight: The Department maintains records of capital allocations to local authorities, and does not maintain records on a constituency basis. Capital allocations to Norfolk county council and schools in its area in each of the last 10 years are set out in the following table

	£ million
1998-99	10.8
1999-2000	12.1
2000-01	28.3
2001-02	25.5
2002-03	[1]130.2
2003-04	39.3
2004-05	[2]108.3
2005-06	34.5
2006-07	[3]70.5
2007-08	39.4

[1] This includes a PFI allocation of £92 million.
[2] This includes a PFI allocation of £60 million, and Targeted Capital Fund allocations of £7.1 million.
[3] This includes an allocation of £14.5 million for a new school by promoters, and Targeted Capital Fund allocations of £15.7 million.

Schools: Offensive Weapons

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many times assault or attempted assault with a weapon occurred in school grounds in each *(a)* local education authority and *(b)* type of school in each of the last 10 years, broken down by type of weapon; [151219]

(2) how many times police have been summoned for assistance on school grounds in each local education authority in each of the last 10 years, broken down by type of incident; [151220]

(3) how many *(a)* students and *(b)* staff members in each local education authority were killed on school premises with a weapon in each of the last 10 years; and what the type of school and type of weapon was in each case; [151232]

(4) how many times a student has been found in possession of a weapon in each local education authority in each of the last 10 years; and what the age of student and type of weapon was in each case. [151233]

Jim Knight: Numbers of persons, by age group, convicted of possession of an offensive weapon and of having a bladed article on school premises for 1999 to 2005 (the years for which figures are available) are on the following table. One pupil was killed with a weapon on school premises in the past 10 years (in a community secondary school, with a knife), and no members of staff. Neither this Department nor the Home Office collects any other relevant data. In the main, schools are very safe places: most pupils never carry a knife in school. Schools can screen for weapons if they wish, and have a statutory power to search pupils they suspect of carrying one. Safer School Partnerships, programmes to improve behaviour, curriculum opportunities for learning about responsibility, conflict, and safety, and other DCSF programmes for young people and parenting can also help.

Offence description	Year	Age group: Aged 10 to 11	Aged 12 to 14	Aged 15 to 17	Aged 18 and over	All ages
827 Having an article with blade or point on school premises[1]	1999	—	1	4	4	9
	2000	—	4	8	5	17
	2001	—	2	6	15	23
	2002	—	6	10	3	19
	2003	2	6	7	14	29
	2004	—	11	16	10	37
	2005	1	14	17	12	44
828 Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises	1999	—	4	5	11	20
	2000	—	1	5	5	11
	2001	—	5	7	6	18
	2002	—	5	10	2	17
	2003	—	5	5	4	14
	2004	—	8	10	11	29
	2005	1	8	15	5	29

[1] Data for "having an article with blade or point on school premises" excludes convictions for West Mercia PFA; until clarification of these cases is obtained.

Notes:

1. These data are on the principal offence basis.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform
IOS: 452-05

Schools: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the average cost of *(a)* building and *(b)* maintaining a school (i) under a private finance initiative contract and (ii) through the public sector. [152469]

Jim Knight: As part of the procurement process all local authorities are expected to demonstrate that PFI method of procurement provides value for money in comparison to other procurement options.

The Department, Treasury, or the National Audit Office have not undertaken any studies of average costs. However, as part of our BSF developments, benchmarking data will be available in the future which will enable us to provide information on estimate of average costs.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of estimated payments under his Department's private finance initiative contracts is projected to be spent on rebuilding of schools in each year between 2008 and 2019. [152474]

Jim Knight: Information on all signed private finance initiative contracts, including balance sheet treatment and future unitary charges, is included in HM Treasury's PFI Signed Projects List, which is available through www.hm.treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats. The information covers the unitary charge payment projections up to 2033-34. (A unitary charge can frequently include capital repayments, service provision, inflation and major refurbishment).

Announcement will be made later this year on the amount of PFI credits available for the next comprehensive spending review period from 2008 to 2011.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost to the public purse was in the last 12 months of paying off contracts with private finance initiative investors for schools that have been prematurely closed. [152476]

Jim Knight: The Department is only aware of one public finance funded school which has closed prematurely in the last five years. (College of Media, Arts and Technology in Brighton and Hove). All detailed cost information regarding closure of the school, including any payment to the PFI investor is held at the local authority level.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of schools categorised as a school causing concern in each of the last 10 years was built and maintained *(a)* under private finance initiative contract and *(b)* through the public sector. [152477]

Jim Knight: Ofsted has provided the table which shows the number of schools in categories of concern for each year since 1996/97.

The Department and Ofsted do not centrally hold information specifically on schools built in the last 10 years which are categorised as causing concern.

*Number of primary and secondary schools in Ofsted categories 1996/97 to 2006/07**

End of academic year	Total primary	Total secondary
Special measures		
1996/97	226	73
1997/98	365	95
1998/99	313	81
1999/2000	272	83
2000/01	234	64
2001/02	193	52
2002/03	184	58
2003/04	201	94
2004/05	123	90
2005/06	137	54
2006/07[1]	179	52
Notice to improve		
2005/06	205	93
2006/07[1]	229	105
Serious weaknesses		
1997/98	419	76
1998/99	606	110

*Number of primary and secondary schools in Ofsted categories 1996/97 to 2006/07**

End of academic year	*Total primary*	*Total secondary*
1999/2000	658	122
2000/01	402	96
2001/02	361	75
2002/03	250	64
2003/04	245	47
2004/05	212	45
2005/06	86	21
2006/07[1]	40	5
Under achieving		
1999/2000	75	15
2000/01	121	24
2001/02	134	24
2002/03	74	15
2003/04	66	12
2004/05	38	11
2005/06	8	6
2006/07[1]	4	0

[1] Number of schools at 31 March 2007 (last published information from Ofsted).

Schools: Uniforms

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects to issue guidance to schools on the supply of school uniforms following the Office of Fair Trading investigation; and what schools will be covered by the guidance. [151708]

Jim Knight: The Department plans to publish updated guidance on school uniforms and related policies by the end of September 2007. This guidance will be available to all schools in England and provides advice on how to develop fair and reasonable school uniform policies.

Schools: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the capital investment in schools in City of York was in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [152190]

Jim Knight: School capital allocations to the City of York in *(a)* 2005-06 were £8.7 million, including additional Targeted Capital Funding (TCP) of £3.1 million, and *(b)* in 2006-07 £28.5 million, including additional TCF funding of £22.2 million.

Investment in each year may differ from allocation figures due to (a) timing differences regarding spend (b) other resources available to the local authority and (c) priorities agreed locally. The Department does maintain records of investment centrally.

Secondary Education

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on the future of the 14 to 19 Education and Skills Agenda. [152573]

Jim Knight: 14-19 remains a key priority for the Department for Children, Schools and Families. We want to ensure that all young people are prepared by their education and training for success in life. Immediately this means that we must raise participation at 17, cut the proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) and raise attainment at 19. We have stretching targets in all these areas and will be introducing legislation to make participation in education or training compulsory up to the age of 18. In parallel, we are reforming curriculum and qualifications to make them more engaging and more relevant to the needs of the economy; and building a system of schools, colleges and other providers working collaboratively to deliver the reformed curriculum effectively.

The new Department will give us an even stronger focus on meeting all the needs of young people and their families in a more coherent way and to give them the best possible start in life. Our 14-19 reforms are absolutely key to this ambition.

Secondary Education: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 124W, on which dates between 1 January and 22 May 2007 senior officials from his Department met officers from Essex County Council to discuss secondary school provision in Colchester. [152008]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* Senior officials met officers from Essex county council on 5 January, 22 January, 12 February and 28 February. A number of issues was discussed, including secondary education in Colchester.

Secondary Education: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the evidential basis was for the statement by the Chief Executive of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority that critics of the new secondary curriculum see education as a winnowing device to sort the wheat from the chaff in his recent speech on the curriculum. [151814]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority Chief Executive's comments were not directed specifically at 'critics' of the secondary curriculum. They were general comments on a particular view of education which he has expressed a number of times.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what evidential basis there is for the statements by the Chief Executive of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority that the new approach to the secondary curriculum will *(a)* give every young person the best preparation for life, *(b)* maximise the achievement of each individual and *(c)* support social mobility in his recent speech on the curriculum. [151815]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority has an ongoing remit to monitor the national curriculum and draws on a wide range of research evidence to do so. This includes research and reports produced by partner bodies such as Ofsted and specialist subject and

professional associations, as well as international work, through INCA (the International Review of Curriculum and Assessment frameworks Internet Archive).

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what international research evidence demonstrates that the new curriculum is the key to growth in educational performance as referred to by the Chief Executive of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority in his recent speech on the curriculum; [151816]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 333W, on secondary education: curriculum, which countries were identified by the international comparisons carried out by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority as having adopted an approach to the curriculum similar to that adopted in the new secondary curriculum; [151899]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 333W, on secondary education: curriculum, if he will place in the Library the results of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority's international comparisons on curriculum in relation to the secondary curriculum review. [151900]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority uses the International Review of Curriculum and Assessment frameworks Internet Archive (INCA), which it funds, in order to make its international comparisons. This provides descriptions of government policy on education in Australia, Canada, England, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the USA and Wales.

Many countries included in the INCA review have chosen a National Curriculum which minimises the amount of prescription and maximises flexibility for teachers. These include, for example, Finland, which frequently performs best in international comparisons of educational performance.

A summary of international curriculum comparisons, made at the time of the review, where applicable, will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, pursuant to the answer of 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 335W, on secondary education: curriculum, for what reasons parents were not specifically consulted on the content of the new programmes of study for the National Curriculum. [151898]

Jim Knight: Parents, like all other groups, had an opportunity to comment on the content of the new programmes of study as part of the secondary curriculum consultation exercise.

A total of 10,613 people had direct contact with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority regarding the content of the new curriculum through conferences, workshop events (including two specifically for parents), and an online questionnaire. There were 1,891 responses to the online consultation alone. Among those invited to the launch of the new curriculum were parenting groups including the National Family and Parenting Institute and Parentline Plus.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether assessments for the third key stage will assess factual knowledge not explicitly identified in the new programmes of study for the secondary curriculum. [151902]

Jim Knight: The national curriculum programmes of study prescribe the fundamental body of knowledge, skills and understanding which every pupil should acquire during Key Stage 3. The assessments developed by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority—through the National Assessment Agency and its test development agencies—require pupils, through application, to demonstrate that they have acquired that knowledge, skills and understanding, as part of the range of factual knowledge that teachers will now have the flexibility to teach.

Secondary Education: Free School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils at the top performing 100 secondary schools qualify for free school meals; what proportion of pupils in their catchment areas were eligible for free school meals; and if he will make a statement. [150686]

Jim Knight: In 2006, the proportion of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals in the top 100 secondary schools (excluding independent schools) based on the percentage of pupils achieving five or more A* to C (including English and maths) was 1.7 per cent. This percentage excludes pupils aged 16 and over.

The equivalent national percentage for all secondary schools (excluding independent schools) was 14.7 per cent.

Catchment areas are set locally. Data on school catchment areas are not held centrally.

Secondary Education: Rural Areas

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's policy is on the retention of high schools in rural and remote areas with school rolls of less than 500. [152905]

Jim Knight: Responsibility for the overall planning of school places rests with local authorities and we expect them to ensure that school places are where parents want them. As part of this they also need to promote high educational standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential. They must also ensure that there are sufficient schools in their area and promote diversity and increase parental choice.

The Department's statutory guidance to local authorities and the schools adjudicator, who are responsible for deciding specific proposals to reorganise schools, contains a presumption against the closure of rural schools. Although this does not mean that no rural school will ever close, the case for closure needs to be strong and clearly in the best interests of education provision in the area.

Secondary Education: Standards

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to raise standards in secondary schools. [152748]

Jim Knight: Standards in secondary schools have risen dramatically since 1997. Record numbers of 16-year-olds are now achieving five good GCSEs.

Over 86,000 more pupils achieved five good GCSEs last year compared with 1997 and 62,000 more achieved five good GCSEs including English and maths compared with 1997. In total over 375,000 more young people have gained five or more good GCSEs over the period 1997 to 2006.

This is as a result of a number of factors, as set out in my reply to PQ119851 on 19 February 2007. I would like to draw particular attention to challenge and support through the secondary National Strategy; of swift and targeted intervention to tackle school failure; more effective use of data by schools and local authorities, helping to track and monitor the progress of pupils; and a system within which schools and local authorities are setting ambitious targets for their pupils.

The new secondary curriculum, to be introduced from 2008, will raise standards further still. Less prescription will allow for more time in the school day to concentrate on English and maths, particularly where pupils are struggling with literacy and numeracy. It will also allow schools to personalise learning in order to make teaching more engaging.

Sixth-form Colleges

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department has lead responsibility for sixth form colleges; what role the Learning and Skills Council has in overseeing their work; what role it will have in the future; and if he will make a statement. [152429]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children, Schools and Families has responsibility for school sixth forms and sixth-form colleges within its wider responsibility for policy and funding for the education of children and young people up to age 19. The new Department will work closely with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills to ensure the successful delivery of our 14-19 reform programme through schools, colleges and training providers.

The changes to planning and funding for post-16 education that were announced in June 2007 will be subject to consultation and will require new legislation. I estimate that we will not be able to give effect to the full legislative changes until the academic year 2010-11. Until then, the LSC will retain the legal responsibility for securing and funding all forms of post-16 education and training outside higher education, including sixth-form colleges. It will continue to work with the FE sector as a whole to raise standards and to ensure that it plays a full and effective part in driving forward our 14-19 reform agenda.

Government policy is to foster more sixth-form colleges; they do an outstanding job and are generally popular with students and parents. The same is true of larger school sixth forms, formed either by an individual school or a consortium. To overcome England's unacceptably low education participation rate beyond GCSE, more provision will be required of both types, working in partnership with other local providers to provide a wide range of high quality opportunities for learners aged 14-19.

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average number of special educational needs pupils in class in each local education authority was in each of the last 10 years. [151241]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Special Educational Needs: Assessments

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average SATS test scores of special educational needs pupils taught at *(a)* special schools and *(b)* mainstream schools were in each of the last 10 years. [151687]

Jim Knight: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Special Educational Needs: Lone Parents

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils with special educational needs statements in each *(a)* local education authority and *(b)* type of school came from single parent homes in each of the last 10 years, broken down by category of special needs. [151203]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Students: Lone Parents

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students in each *(a)* local education authority and *(b)* type of school came from single parent families in each of the last 10 years. [151165]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Sure Start Programme: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent on Sure Start in York; and how many parents have participated. [152189]

Beverley Hughes: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given earlier today at DCSF oral questions.

Teachers: Early Retirement

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research has been undertaken by his Department on the rate of and factors behind teachers retiring early from leadership positions within schools. [151994]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 23 July 2007]*: The latest figures show that in 2005-06, there were 2,870 retirement awards made to teachers whose last known employment was in the leadership group in a maintained school in England. Of these, 500 (17 per cent.) were premature retirements, 1,210 (42 per cent.) received actuarially reduced benefits, 250 (9 per cent.) were ill-health retirements and the remaining 910 (32 per cent.) were age retirements. (Source: Database of Teacher Records and the Pensioner Statistical System (PENSTATS)). These figures were published in December 2006 and can be found at

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000681/addition6.xls

For comparison, in January 2006 there were 56,800 full time equivalent teachers in the leadership group in maintained schools in England. (Source: 618G Annual Survey of Teachers in Service and Teacher Vacancies).

The leadership group encompasses head teachers, deputy heads and assistant heads.

Research commissioned by the Department and published in 2003 looked into the factors influencing teachers' decisions to leave the profession. It identified five main reasons: Workload (eg workload too heavy), New Challenge (eg attracted by another job), School (eg way school is run), Salary (eg offered higher salary elsewhere) and Personal Circumstances (eg opportunity to travel). Of these, workload was the most important factor and salary the least.

The research found that head teachers were less likely, and deputy heads more likely, than classroom teachers to cite workload as being of great importance in their decision to leave the profession.

Considering all teachers, the research found that most of those taking early retirement were doing so because they felt they had worked long enough or because they could afford to. Some wanted time to themselves, others to be with a partner who had retired. Some were prepared to leave without an immediate pension and were contemplating other employment.

The research report is available on the Department's website at

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RR430.pdf

From 1 January 2007, new provisions have been introduced into the Teachers' Pension Scheme that will provide teachers with greater choice and flexibility over the way they manage the transition from work to retirement. The new provisions will allow teachers to wind down in the years leading up to retirement, for example by moving to part time working or taking a post with less responsibility, while protecting their pension rights. New phased retirement provisions have also been introduced that will enable teachers to remain in the workplace in a reduced capacity while at the same time drawing some of their pension benefits.

The Department has commissioned research into the impact these changes to the pension scheme may have on the retirement behaviour of teachers. The fieldwork for this study has already taken place and the project is due to report early in 2008. The research will help inform the key work that the National College of School Leadership is taking forward on succession planning to ensure that we have the right quantity and quality of school leaders both now and in the future.

Teachers: Great Yarmouth

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers there were in Great Yarmouth in each year since 1997. [151958]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of teachers employed in local authority maintained schools in Great Yarmouth constituency in each January from 1997 to 2006.

Full-time equivalent number of teaching staff in local authority maintained schools in Great Yarmouth constituency, January 1997 to 2006

As at January:	*Qualified teaching staff*	*Other teaching staff*	*Total teaching staff*
1997	660	10	670
1998	660	10	670
1999	670	10	670
2000	670	10	680
2001	690	10	700
2002	680	20	700
2003	680	30	710
2004	670	40	710
2005	670	40	700
2006	700	40	740

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Teachers: Manpower

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school teachers in each local education authority had their employment terminated in each of the last five years, broken down by reason for termination; [151151]

(2) how many new teachers entered the profession in each local education authority in each of the last 10 years; [151152]

(3) what the average number of school staff trained in first aid is in each local education authority; [151159]

(4) what the average tenure was of a *(a)* primary school and *(b)* secondary school head teacher in the latest period for which figures are available. [151216]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the drop-out rate is of newly qualified teachers from the profession; [151164]

(2) how many teacher vacancies there were on average in each *(a)* local education authority and *(b)* type of school in each of the last 10 years; [151167]

(3) how many *(a)* primary school and *(b)* secondary school teachers in each local education authority (i) retired, (ii) resigned and (iii) had their contract terminated in each of the last 10 years; [151189]

(4) what the ratio of male to female teachers employed by primary schools was in each of the last 10 years. [151215]

Jim Knight: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information for the number of teachers who have resigned or had their contract terminated is not collected centrally.

Teachers: Pay

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average teacher's salary was in Norfolk in each of the last 10 years. [151959]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the average salary of full-time regular teachers in service in Norfolk local authority in each March from 1996 to 2005, the latest information available.

Average salary of full-time regular teachers[1] in Norfolk local authority, March of each year

Year	£ Average salary
1996	22,000
1997	22,700
1998	23,400
1999	24,200
2000	25,300
2001	27,300
2002	28,300
2003	30,000
2004[2]	31,100
2005[2]	32,400

[1] Includes teachers of all grades.
[2] Provisional.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
Source:
Database of Teachers' Records (DTR)

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average full-time equivalent gross pay of teachers in York schools was *(a)* in cash terms and *(b)* at current prices in each year since 1997. [152193]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the average gross salary of full-time regular teachers in maintained sector service in York local authority in each March from 1997 to 2005, the latest information available.

Gross average salary

	Cash	£ Current prices[1]
1997	22,500	28,800
1998	23,200	28,800
1999	24,100	29,100
2000	24,900	29,600
2001	26,900	31,500
2002	27,800	31,800
2003	29,700	32,900
2004[2]	30,600	33,000
2005[2]	32,200	33,800

[1] Adjusted for inflation to 2006-07 prices using HM Treasury GDP deflator.
[2] Provisional estimates.
Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
Source:
Database of Teachers' Records (DTR)

Teachers: Training

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many graduates entered teacher training courses in each year since 2000. [151181]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number of trainees who were registered to commence mainstream post graduate Initial Teacher Training (ITT) courses, the number of trainees registered to commence the Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP) and the number of trainees registered to commence Teach First from 2000/01 to 2006/07.

Number of trainees registered to commence mainstream post graduate ITT training, the Graduate Teacher Programme and Teach First

Academic year	Mainstream post graduate trainees registered to commence ITT courses[1,2]	Trainees registered to commence ITT courses through the Graduate Trainee Programme[3,4]	Trainees registered to commence ITT courses through the Teach First Programme[5]
2000/01	19,620	1,510	—
2001/02	21,260	3,220	—
2002/03	23,370	3,770	—
2003/04	25,780	5,230	160
2004/05	25,860	5,470	180
2005/06	25,060	5,490	170
2006/07	24,640	4,200	220

[1] Recruitment figures for 2006/07 are provisional and are subject to change.
[2] Includes universities and other HE institutions, SCITT and OU, but excludes employment based routes.
[3] Recruitment in 2006/07 is for the autumn term only and is provisional. A further 2,130 trainees are expected to start on employment based routes during the year. Figures from 2003/04 onwards are subject to future revision.
[4] Figures prior to 2002/03 are taken from TDA records as at the end of the academic year. Figures for 2002/03 onwards are taken from the TDA EBR database as at January 2007 and are not directly comparable with previous years.
[5] 2003/04 was the first year of the Teach First Programme. Teach First data for 2003/04 and 2004/05 are at November of the academic year. Teach First data for 2005/06 and autumn term 2006/07 are at January 2007.
Note:
Recruitment figures shown are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
TDA Employment Based Routes Database TDA's ITT Trainee Numbers Census 2000/01 to 2006/07

Young People: Employment

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children aged 16 and 17 are in employment, broken down by *(a)* small, *(b)* medium and *(c)* large size employers; and if he will make a statement. [152135]

Jim Knight: In 2006 there were around 585,300 young people aged 16 and 17 years in employment in England. The majority (500,100) of these employed young people were also participating in education and training.

Labour Force Survey analysis for 2006 suggests around 73 per cent. of 16 to 17 year olds worked in firms with fewer than 50 employees, 18 per cent.

worked in firms with 50 to 249 employees and 9 per cent. worked in firms with 250 or more employees.

Therefore it is estimated that of the 585,300 young people aged 16 and 17 years in employment in England in 2006, around:

(a) 429,200 worked in firms with fewer than 50 employees;

(b) 103,100 worked in firms with 50 to 249 employees;

(c) 53,000 worked in firms with 250 or more employees.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House how much was spent by her Office on (a) first class and (b) business flights in the last 12 months. [153018]

Helen Goodman: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons spent £12,626.21 on flights in the last 12 months.

Departments: Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House (1) how much was spent by her Office on flowers in the last 12 months; [153017]

(2) how much was spent by her Office on industrial tribunals in the last 12 months; [153022]

(3) how much was spent by her Office on staff away days in the last 12 months; [153024]

(4) how much was spent by her Office on redundancy payments in the last 12 months. [153025]

Helen Goodman: None.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House how many people have been appointed to her Office outside civil service grades in the last 30 days. [153015]

Helen Goodman: One temporary appointment.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House how many press officers are employed by her Office. [153136]

Helen Goodman: None. Press office services are provided by the Cabinet Office Communication Group.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House what the names are of each special adviser in her Office. [153014]

Helen Goodman: There are no special advisers currently in post.

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mrs. May: To ask the Leader of the House how many overseas visits were made by (a) officials and (b) Ministers within her responsibility, and at what cost, in each year since 1997. [151640]

Helen Goodman: The total cost for the 2006-07 financial year yet to be published by the Cabinet Office amounted to £12,862.46. The details of destinations are as follows:

Dates	*Destination*
18 to 19 April 2006	Vienna, Austria
31 August 2006	The Hague, Netherlands
3 October 2006	Brussels, Belgium
28 October to 6 November	Vietnam, Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC)
16 to 20 November 2006	Delhi, India

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the civil service management code and the ministerial code.

Details of overseas ministerial visits, including costs for Ministers and officials are published annually by the Cabinet Office and can be found at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/

Draft Legislative Programme

Mr. Allen: To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the oral statement by the Prime Minister of 11 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1449-51, on the draft legislative programme, what discussions she has had with the Chairs of Select Committees and the Liaison Committee on making all Bills subject to pre-legislative scrutiny. [153070]

Helen Goodman: I have had no discussions with the Liaison Committee or other select committees on this point since the Prime Minister's statement, but the subject of pre-legislative scrutiny of Bills is one which has arisen in previous exchanges with the Liaison Committee. My right hon. Friend expects to meet the Liaison Committee in the autumn.

Mr. Allen: To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the oral statement by the Prime Minister of 11 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1449-51, on the draft legislative programme, how many Bills she is preparing for pre-legislative scrutiny in the new Session; and if she will make it her policy that all Bills will be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny unless a particular reason is given for a Bill not being so subject. [153073]

Helen Goodman: It is hoped to announce the planned draft Bills for next session at the beginning of the session in the normal way. Plans for draft Bills are more tentative than those for Bills expected to be introduced into the main programme and it is too soon to give an indication of a likely number of such Bills at this stage. Some indication of Bills being considered for publication in draft is given in Chapter 3 of the White Paper on the Government's Draft Legislative Programme (Cm 7175, P19).

As I indicated to the hon. Member in answer to an earlier question at *Official Report* 25 July 2007 column 1122, the Government endeavour to subject Bills to pre-legislative scrutiny, where timing and other constraints allow. Where a Bill is introduced which has not been published in draft the reasons for this will frequently be clear.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions since November 2006 *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department have had with representatives of the Jewish community to discuss anti-Semitism in England and Wales; and if she will make a statement. [151005]

Mr. Dhanda: Ministers and officials have had a number of meetings with representatives of the Jewish community since November 2006. Discussions have been on a range of issues affecting the Jewish community, including anti-Semitism.

Coastal Areas: Flood Control

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding local authorities received for *(a)* coastal and *(b)* flood defences in the latest period for which figures are available. [152393]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

In the 2006-07 financial year, English local authorities received £65.8 million worth of capital grant from DEFRA for coast protection projects and £5.8 million for flood defence projects.

Local authorities also received funding from the Department for Communities and Local Government to support non-capital expenditure. In 2006-07, this involved:

£14 million for direct local authority expenditure on coast protection;

£21 million for direct local authority expenditure on flood risk management;

£27 million in connection with levies paid by local authorities to internal drainage boards;

£23 million for levies paid to the Environment Agency. These help to fund agency works that are of local importance but do not meet national prioritisation criteria.

Local authorities carry out works to manage flood risk on less critical watercourses and sea defences in some areas (flood defence) and are responsible for works to protect against coastal erosion (coast protection). However, the Environment Agency is the principal operating authority with responsibility for flood risk management in England from both rivers and the sea.

Council Housing: Construction

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if her Department will make an assessment of the merits of allowing local authorities to build council houses without recourse to independent registered social landlords. [152000]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* On 23 July we published a Housing Green Paper which sets out the Government's plans to enhance the role of local authorities in securing the supply of social housing. It includes opportunities for councils to take more of a direct role in the delivery of new affordable homes.

Departments: Contracts

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, (1) pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 152W-3W, on Departments: contracts, if she will place in the Library the data compiled for the European Commission to which the Answer refers; [151525]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 152W-3W, on Departments: contracts, how much was spent on contracts awarded to external suppliers by public bodies sponsored by her Department in each year since 2001. [151532]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table displays data compiled for the European Commission for calendar years ending 31 December 2003, 2004 and 2005 by Communities and Local Government. This listing includes those contracts of an estimated value above the threshold of the procurement regulations, entered into by Communities and Local Government and its affiliated, autonomous organisations.

The data provided for the year ending 2005 also shows the type of activity contracted for, a brief description of the contract based on the Common Procurement Vocabulary (CPV) code, the type of procurement procedure adopted and the total value of the contract.

Provision of this further data for previous years could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

Data from Communities EC statistical return to OGC

£

Calendar year ending 31 Dec 05	*Activity*	*Type of contract*	*Procedure*	*Value*
Communities centre including	Work	Construction and Civil Engineering	Restricted	15,189,198
Government Offices and	Work	Construction and Civil Engineering	Restricted	18,454,136
Executive Agencies	Work	Construction and Civil Engineering	Restricted	15,944,592
	Work	Construction and Civil Engineering	Restricted	20,802,039
	Work	Construction and Civil Engineering	Restricted	19,059,277
	Work	Construction and Civil Engineering	Restricted	15,991,549
	Work	Construction and Civil Engineering	Restricted	20,664,375
	Work	Construction and Civil Engineering	Restricted	22,148,695
	Supply	Storage Containers	Restricted	8,600,000
	Service	Advertising Consultancy	Restricted	1,900,000
	Service	Business Services	Restricted	416,312
	Service	Software development	Negotiated	700,000
	Service	Business Consultancy	Restricted	220,312
	Service	Office Cleaning	Restricted	131,081
Audit Commission	Supplies	Computer Supplies	Open	900,000
	Services	Exhibition Services	Open	360,000

Data from Communities EC statistical return to OGC

Calendar year ending 31 Dec 05	*Activity*	*Type of contract*	*Procedure*	£ *Value*
	Services	Data processing	Restricted	3,570,000
	Supplies	Books, brochures and Leaflets	Restricted	900,000
	Services	PR Consulting	Restricted	80,000
Housing Commission	Service	Technical Training	Restricted	300,860
	Service	Printing and Publishing	Restricted	549,846
London Thames Gateway	Service	Office Furniture	Restricted	298,474
Development Corporation	Service	Urban Development	Restricted	163,424
Thurrock Thames Gateway	Service	Urban Planning	Restricted	165,531
Development Corporation	Service	Urban Planning	Restricted	180,000
English Partnerships	Works	Road Construction	Restricted	8,121,283
	Services	Economic Research	Restricted	2,471,951
	Works	Highway Construction	Restricted	1,986,042
	Services	Vehicle Insurance Services	Negotiated	240,000
	Works	Construction	Restricted	7,581,147
	Works	Engineering and Construction	Restricted	2,350,086
	Works	Drainage Construction	Restricted	1,065,614

Calendar year ending 31 Dec 04	*Activity*	£ *Value*
Centre including Government Offices and Executive Agencies	Service	40,000,000
	Service	317,237
	Work	2,776,540
	Service	21,673,000
Audit Commission	Supply	288,441
	Service	977,046
	Service	100,000
	Service	180,000
	Service	117,000
	Service	150,000
	Service	100,000
Housing Corporation	Supply	215,601
	Service	1,616,554
Planning Inspectorate	Supply	119,344
	Service	821,798

Calendar year ending 31 Dec 03	*Activity*	£ *Value*
Centre including Government Offices and Executive Agencies	Service	135,000
	Service	178,200
	Service	109,703
	Service	155,731
	Service	148,770
	Service	119,534
	Service	135,750
	Service	209,161
	Service	127,797
	Service	164,550
	Service	191,826
	Service	483,060
	Service	187,116
	Service	116,640
	Service	278,306
	Service	894,180
	Service	1,062,000
	Service	150,575
Audit Commission	Supply	1,500,000
	Supply	240,000
	Supply	300,000
	Supply	15,000,000
	Service	19,000,000
	Service	375,000
	Service	300,000
	Service	200,000
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre	Service	1,992,000
Planning Inspectorate	Service	144,000

Departments: DVDs

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what DVDs have been produced by her Department and its predecessor in the last 24 months; how many copies were produced; and at what cost to the public purse for development, production and distribution. [152531]

Mr. Iain Wright: The majority of the DVDs produced by the Department are provided free to stakeholders and others to assist our communications and widen the scope and effectiveness of the Department's publicity activity.

In the last 24 months DVDs produced through the communications directorate of Communities and Local Government and its predecessors were as follows:

Title	*Number of copies*	*Overall cost (£)*
What is Community Empowerment?	5,000	1,747.00
So you want to be a Firefighter?	30,000	17,399.00
A Bigger Voice	1,000	48,997.00
Local Government White Paper presentational DVD	2,010	11,626.00
Cleaner Safer Greener	1	350.00
CIH Conference	5	400.00
Learner Framework	5,300	1,680.00
MIPIM Exhibition DVD	3,000	7,496.00
Beacon Scheme DVD	53	514.00

Derelict Land: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the *(a)* availability, *(b)* location and *(c)* size of brownfield sites in London suitable for housing development. [150249]

Mr. Iain Wright: The responsibility for carrying out such an assessment lies with the Mayor of London. This work was undertaken and published in July 2005, in the London Housing Capacity Study. This study provides a comprehensive technical analysis of London's potential for future housing growth. It was used to inform the Early Alterations to the London Plan (published December 2006) which provided a minimum target for housing provision in London from 2007-08 to 2016-17, of 30,500 additional homes per year. The study can be found at:

http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/planning/capacity_study/index.jsp

Almost all housing development in London takes place on brownfield land (97 per cent. in 2005). From the Mayor's study, the distribution of identified housing capacity in London for the period 2007-08 to 2016-17 is shown in the following table. About half of identified capacity for housing in London over the next 10 years is located in seven boroughs: Newham, Tower Hamlets, Greenwich, Barnet, Redbridge, Southwark and Brent.

Total housing capacity by London borough, 2007-08 to 2016-17

Borough	Large site capacity	Small site allowance	Non self-contained	Vacants	Total capacity	London plan annual target
Camden	1,432	2,940	998	602	5,972	595
City of Westminster	1,713	3,890	499	950	7,051	680
Islington	4,213	5,703	1,330	0	11,246	1,160
Kensington and Chelsea	694	1,677	116	0	2,487	350
Lambeth	5,826	4,569	989	0	11,383	1,100
Southwark	3,745	7,287	5,247	0	16,279	1,630
Wandsworth	2,960	3,960	509	247	7,676	745
Barking and Dagenham	10,756	1,153	0	0	11,909	1,190
Bexley	2,419	957	54	258	3,688	345
Corporation of London	0	1,654	66	0	1,720	90
Greenwich	18,170	1,027	904	0	20,101	2,010
Hackney	3,640	5,622	690	0	9,952	1,085
Havering	3,533	1,572	0	0	5,105	535
Lewisham	5,437	3,150	1,407	836	10,830	975
Newham	30,371	4,297	441	0	35,109	3,510
Redbridge	13,979	2,290	57	0	16,327	905
Tower Hamlets	18,379	11,615	1,166	0	31,160	3,150
Barnet	15,569	3,286	77	705	19,637	2,055
Enfield	1,201	2,471	66	603	4,342	395
Haringey	4,618	1,332	93	1,157	7,200	680
Waltham Forest	2,342	3,099	184	380	6,005	665
Bromley	1,540	3,259	30	406	5,235	485
Croydon	5,130	3,905	241	1,946	11,222	1,100
Kingston upon Thames	2,088	1,405	1,150	0	4,643	385
Merton	1,576	1,544	114	234	3,868	370
Richmond upon Thames	951	1,706	31	0	2,689	270
Sutton	1,019	2,445	0	0	3,464	345
Brent	7,769	2,877	1,000	1,500	13,146	1,120
Ealing	6,595	1,739	133	0	8,466	915
Hammersmith and Fulham	2,618	1,314	273	585	4,790	450
Harrow	2,324	1,276	146	257	4,002	400
Hillingdon	1,902	1,268	243	843	4,256	365
Hounslow	2,882	1,458	30	0	4,370	445
	187,387	98,146	18,284	11,509	315,327	30,500

Note:
Discussions between the GLA and the boroughs on the identified 10-year housing capacity resulted in some changes to the study outputs. These changes are reflected in the housing targets included in the London plan (final column of the table).
Large site capacity:
Individually identified sites over 0.5 hectares.
Small site allowance:
An allowance from sites less than 0.5 hectares, based on past performance but adjusted for future identified housing opportunities and intensification.
Non self-contained:
Residential units that do not fall within the planning use class of dwelling houses.
Vacants:
Long-term vacant dwellings returning to use.
Source:
Table 18, 2004 London Housing Capacity Study (Greater London Authority (GLA), July 2005).

Empty Property: North East Region

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes in *(a)* private ownership and *(b)* public ownership have been empty for more than six months in each local authority in the north east of England. [152959]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is presented as follows:

Number of long term dwelling vacancies (over six months) in north east local authorities by borough, 1 April 2006

		Private[1]	LA[2]	RSL[3]
35UB	Alnwick	245	16	0
35UC	Berwick-upon-Tweed	0	[4]—	0
35UD	Blyth Valley	348	24	8
35UE	Castle Morpeth	487	7	3
20UB	Chester-le-Street	50	37	2
00EH	Darlington	480	52	2
20UD	Derwentside	608	57	11
20UE	Durham	658	65	6
20UF	Easington	746	[4]—	6
00CH	Gateshead	1,665	161	50
00EB	Hartlepool	545	[5]—	37
00EC	Middlesbrough	1,206	[5]—	478
00CJ	Newcastle upon Tyne	3,923	298	191
00CK	North Tyneside	571	162	9
00EE	Redcar and Cleveland	810	[4]—	228
20UG	Sedgefield	734	50	55
00CL	South Tyneside	838	145	74
00EF	Stockton-on-Tees	992	619	10
00CM	Sunderland	1,679	[5]—	1,253
20UH	Teesdale	153	[4]—	0
35UF	Tynedale	308	[5]—	5
35UG	Wansbeck	448	55	0
20UJ	Wear Valley	585	49	4

[1] Source: Private vacancies (over six months) reported through the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA).
[2] Source: Local authority vacancies (over six months) reported through the Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA).
[3] Source: Registered social landlord long term vacancies are based on a proxy measure—"RSL vacants not available for rent" as reported through the Regulatory Statistical Return.
[4] Information not available.
[5] No local authority stock.

Figures for the private and local authority tenures are presented for those dwellings empty for more than six months as reported by local authorities. Figures for registered social landlord vacancies are based on numbers of vacancies not available for rent as a proxy for long term vacancies.

Fire Services: Ethnic Groups

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many black and minority ethnic firefighters there are, broken down by *(a)* brigade, *(b)* race and *(c)* religion. [152735]

Mr. Dhanda: Available information, based on returns provided by each Fire and Rescue Service, is shown as follows. Information on religion is not centrally held.

Table: Ethnic origin of firefighters as at 31 March 2006—England

Fire and rescue service	*Mixed*	*Asian or Asian British*	*Black or black British*	*Chinese or other ethnic group*	*Total*
Avon	4	1	7	2	14
Bedfordshire and Luton	7	0	7	0	14
Buckinghamshire	1	0	5	0	6
Cambridgeshire	7	1	1	1	10
Cheshire	4	2	1	1	8
Cleveland	1	3	2	0	6
Cornwall	3	0	0	0	3
County Durham and Darlington	1	0	3	0	4
Cumbria	0	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	3	4	1	1	9
Devon	0	1	3	1	5
Dorset	0	0	2	4	6
East Sussex	5	3	0	0	8
Essex	8	2	3	0	13
Gloucestershire	5	0	7	1	13
Greater Manchester	14	6	13	0	33
Hampshire	4	2	0	1	7
Hereford and Worcester	2	0	2	1	5
Hertfordshire	4	2	4	0	10
Humberside	7	1	2	0	10
Isle Of Wight	0	0	0	0	0
Isles Of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	6	4	5	1	16
Lancashire	0	5	6	1	12
Leicestershire	2	4	5	3	14
Lincolnshire	4	0	3	0	7
London	158	55	278	57	548
Merseyside	7	1	9	5	22
Norfolk	3	1	1	0	5
North Yorkshire	2	1	0	1	4
Northamptonshire	4	1	1	1	7
Northumberland	0	0	1	0	1
Nottinghamshire	3	2	6	0	11
Oxfordshire	0	2	0	1	3
Royal Berkshire	7	3	3	0	13
Shropshire	2	0	2	1	5
Somerset	0	0	1	0	1
South Yorkshire	7	0	9	5	21
Staffordshire	12	1	5	0	18
Suffolk	5	2	4	1	12
Surrey	3	2	4	0	9
Tyne and Wear	0	3	3	0	6
Warwickshire	8	4	0	5	17
West Midlands	21	12	55	19	107
West Sussex	2	1	1	2	6
West Yorkshire	15	12	9	1	37
Wiltshire	3	0	7	0	10
England	354	144	481	117	1,096

Source:
2005-06 Annual returns to Communities and Local Government

Fire Services: Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what provision is being made to reimburse fire services for their costs in dealing with the recent flood emergencies; and what provision is being made to increase their reserves. [152874]

Mr. Dhanda: Two separate schemes of emergency financial assistance have been set up to assist local authorities affected by flooding in June and July. Fire and rescue authorities are eligible for grants from these schemes. Each authority claiming grant must have spent 0.2 per cent. of its revenue budget on eligible activities in the financial year to date. Above that threshold, 100 per cent. of eligible costs will be reimbursed, an increase from the normal 85 per cent. Authorities will also be able to claim grant on eligible expenditure up to six months from the beginning of the emergency. This is an increase from two months under normal Bellwin schemes.

It is for authorities to determine the level of reserves which they hold.

Floods: Tewkesbury

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with Severn Vale Housing on providing help to residents who have been flooded in the Tewkesbury constituency; and if she will make a statement. [152908]

John Healey: I am answering this question as Minister for Local Government, responsible for co-ordinating the Government's contribution to recovery from the recent floods.

I understand that Severn Vale Housing have been in contact with their tenants over the last few days to find out how many are affected by the floods and what their needs are. They have been working with the local authority to secure temporary accommodation for the worst affected tenants by utilising all available bed and breakfast accommodation in the area.

Severn Vale Housing are working with the local authority and Severn Trent Water to identify all their

residents who are vulnerable in order to ensure that they get priority in the delivery of bottled water. They are arranging deliveries of bottled water to all their sheltered accommodation.

It will be several weeks before the full extent of the damage caused by the floods will become clear. My officials are working with Tewkesbury borough council, Severn Vale Housing and other local partners to support them as they assess the needs of those residents affected by the floods.

Freedom of Information

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance the Audit Commission has given to local authorities in relation to the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and what research the Commission has conducted in relation to that Act. [152942]

Mr. Iain Wright: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 25 July 2007:

The Department for Communities and Local Government has asked me to reply to your parliamentary question on guidance to local authorities in relation to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The Audit Commission has not provided general guidance to local authorities on the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as this is primarily a matter for the Information Commissioner. The Commission's auditors and inspectors may, however, have had discussions with individual local authorities as part of their work.

As part of a wider Audit Commission national study on "Making better use of information to drive improvement in public services", the Audit Commission commissioned the Constitution Unit of University College London (UCL) to undertake research into Freedom of Information. This resulted in a report "Improving access to and use of public sector information (Helping local authorities to develop good practice in the context of the Freedom of Information Act 2000)". This report is available in full on the Commission website at http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/localgovernment/foi/index.asp?

In addition UCL has also published good practice recommendations for cost-effective compliance with the FOI Act. These are UCL's recommendations and are published on its website at the following link http://www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/foidp/local.htm

A copy of this letter will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Housing: Flood Control

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of residential development in England was on floodplain land in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [152849]

Mr. Iain Wright: The publication 'Land Use Change in England: Residential Development to 2006 (LUCS22)' shows that, on a provisional estimate, 9 per cent. of all dwellings in 2005 were built in flood risk areas. A more robust estimate for 2004 shows that 10 per cent. of all dwellings were built in flood risk areas during that year. This is in line with levels of existing development—flood risk areas account for about 12 per cent. of land in England, including parts of major cities, and around 10 per cent. of the population already live in flood risk areas.

The definition of high flood risk areas and floodplain used by Communities and Local Government is the high risk zone mapped by the Environment Agency as being at a probability of flooding, excluding the presence of flood defences, of at least a one in one hundred years for river flooding and at least a one in two hundred years for coastal flooding. This is the basis for the definition of "high risk areas" in PPS25.

Flood risk is a major factor in the location of new development. The Government's aim is to avoid inappropriate development in areas of high flood risk. The Government published Planning Policy Statement (PPS25) in December 2006 to strengthen and clarify earlier policy on this issue.

PPS25 ensures that flood risk must be taken into account at all stages of the planning process. Development that would not be safe in the higher flood risk areas should be directed to areas of lower risk wherever this is practicable. In particular, more vulnerable development, such as housing, should not be permitted in high risk areas unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the need for the development outweighs the risk, and it will be safe, without increasing flood risk.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what statistics her Department compiles on residential development on flood plains. [152943]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department's publication "Land Use Change in England: Residential Development to 2006 (LUCS22)" contains the most recent data on residential development on flood plains. It shows the amount and percentage of land changing to residential use, and the percentage of new dwellings built on previously-developed land, within flood risk areas, as well as the proportion of all new dwellings built on flood plains.

The publication LUCS22, published in May 2007, is available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/embedded_object.asp?id=1510817

Housing: Greater London

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of domestic property sales in London in the last period for which figures are available were for a value of *(a)* £250,000 to £500,000 and *(b)* above £500,000. [152666]

Mr. Iain Wright: Using HM Land Registry data the number and proportion of all residential property sales in London for 2006 that were sold for a value of *(a)* above £250,000 up to and including £500,000 was 54,100 (32 per cent.), and for *(b)* above £500,000 was 17,100 (10 per cent.).

Housing: Low Incomes

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of planned new housing will be social housing. [152751]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government's Green Paper, 'Homes for the future more affordable, more sustainable' was launched on 23 July outlines the Government's plans for delivering new homes. We are taking urgent action to meet growing demand and address the serious issue of housing affordability. Our new target will deliver 240,000 additional homes a year by 2016.

We are providing £8 billion over the next three years to invest in affordable housing. This new investment will help to deliver 45,000 new social homes a year by 2010-11 with a goal to reach 50,000 in the next spending review.

Housing: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of estimated payments under her Department's private finance initiative contracts is projected to be spent on the construction of houses in each year between 2008 and 2019. [152475]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data are not available in the format requested. Of the total £3.7 billion PFI credits allocated to this Department, £2.7 billion will be used for the Housing PFI Programme: £620 million has been allocated, or set aside, for schemes that will deliver additional social rented housing. Schemes currently on the programme are projected to provide over 3,000 new social rented homes by 2013. The remaining PFI credits have been allocated to schemes that will reduce the number of non-decent homes by over 28,300.

PFI credits act as a promise of government funding and indicate the level of capital investment which will attract government support. Once a PFI scheme is operational, PFI credits entitle the local authority to on-going subsidy from the Department, over the life of the PFI contract, typically 15-30 years.

Subsidy for PFI schemes is paid on a fixed, annual basis over the life of the contract. Subsidy is calculated based on the overall capital cost of a scheme and does not reflect capital expenditure in individual years.

The following tables detail the number of additional social rented houses projected to be constructed during the years 2008-19, and includes the level of PFI credits and annual subsidy payments for schemes which have signed.

Housing PFI Programme—Schemes delivering additional social rented housing

Local authority	*Project name*	*PFI credits (£m)*	*Annual subsidy to LA (£m)*	*Total number of units*	*Construction profile*		
					2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Signed Schemes							
Coventry city council	New homes for old	14.7	1.18	120 units expected to be constructed prior to 2008-09	—	—	—
London borough of Croydon	New for old	6.33	0.46	40	8	—	—
Derby city council	Inner city regeneration	2.8	0.24	150[1] units purchased and refurbished prior to 2008-09	—	—	—
Hammersmith and Fulham	Homes for older people	4.7	0.38	32 units constructed prior to 2008-09	—	—	—
North East Derby district council	Holmewood	0.36	0.03	51 units constructed prior to 2008-09	—	—	—
Selby district council	PFI Project One	6.74	0.54	250	60	—	—
Warrington borough council	Anson and Blenheim	4.30	0.29	105 units constructed prior to 2008-09	—	—	—
	Phase 2	2.00	0.16	38	38	—	—

Local authority	*Construction profile*							
	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*2015-16*	*2016-17*	*2017-18*	*2018-19*
Signed Schemes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Coventry city council	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
London borough of Croydon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Derby city council	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hammersmith and Fulham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	Construction profile							
Local authority	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*2015-16*	*2016-17*	*2017-18*	*2018-19*
North East Derby district council	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Selby district council	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warrington borough council	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Local authority	*Project name*	*PFI credits (£m)*	*Annual subsidy to LA (£m)*	*Projected number of units*	*Projected construction profile*					
					2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*20012-13*	*2013-14*
Schemes in procurement										
London Borough of Brent	Social housing and social care	—	—	380	95	95	95	95	—	—
Cheshire county council	Extra care housing project	—	—	240	140	—	—	—	—	—
Derby city council	Additional social rented	—	—	[2]175	15	130	30	—	—	—
Kent county council	Better homes active lives	—	—	342	282	48	—	—	—	—
Leeds city council	Independent living	—	—	265	65	100	100	—	—	—
West Wiltshire district council	Additional social rented	—	—	400	—	100	100	100	100	—
Schemes developing outline business cases										
Guildford borough council	Additional social rented	—	—	223	—	89	134	—	—	—
Medway	Shaws Wood and Woodlands Care Courts	—	—	30	30	—	—	—	—	—
Woking borough council	Additional social rented	—	—	165	—	121	44	—	—	—
Total		[3]437.00								
Oldham metropolitan borough council	Gateways to Oldham	—	—	[4]22	—	—	—	—	22	—

Local authority	*Projected construction profile*				
	2014-15	*2015-16*	*2016-17*	*2017-18*	*2018-19*
Schemes in procurement					
London Borough of Brent	—	—	—	—	—
Cheshire county council	—	—	—	—	—
Derby city council	—	—	—	—	—
Kent county council	—	—	—	—	—
Leeds city council	—	—	—	—	—
West Wiltshire district council	—	—	—	—	—
Schemes developing outline business cases					
Guildford borough council	—	—	—	—	
Medway	—	—	—	—	

Local authority	Projected construction profile				
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Woking borough council	—	—	—	—	
Oldham metropolitan borough council	—	—	—	—	—

[1] Derby city council's signed scheme is for the purchase and refurbishment of private sector non-decent units, rather than construction of new units.
[2] Derby city council's scheme in procurement includes maximum of 85 units purchased from private sector for refurbishment and minimum of 90 new build units.
[3] Total PFI credits currently allocated to schemes to deliver additional social rented units, remainder set aside for Round 5 schemes.
[4] Funded from the Decent Homes element of the Programme.

Housing: Standards

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether properties assessed as a category 1 hazard under the housing health and safety rating system will not meet the decent homes standard; and how many properties fell into this category in 2006-07. [151710]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Guidance, "A Decent Home: Definition and guidance for implementation (June 2006—Update)" advises that properties assessed as a Category 1 hazard under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System will be considered non-decent in failing to meet the minimum statutory standard. First estimates for the number of properties non-decent on this criterion will become available from the 2006 English House Condition Survey with headline results due to be published in January 2008. The Guidance can be found on the Communities and Local Government website at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/191/ADecentHomeDefinitionandguidanceforimplementationJune2006update_id1152191.pdf

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department has to introduce new *(a)* league tables and *(b)* inspection regimes for (i) council housing and (ii) social housing. [152678]

Mr. Iain Wright: In "Delivering Housing and Regeneration—Communities England and the Future of Social Housing Regulation", launched on 19 June 2007, the Government proposed accepting Professor Cave's proposals for regulatory reform and began a consultation to determine stakeholders' views. Under these proposals, the regulator would:

(a) collect information from social landlords to allow it to intervene to prevent poor performance, and to allow tenants and others to compare the performance of social landlords at a local level

(b) commission inspections of social landlords where there are indications of poor performance, but good performers will have few or no inspections

Professor Cave recommended that the reformed regulatory system should apply to all social housing, whether provided by local authorities, housing associations or other bodies, so that tenants could compare services across the social housing domain and expect the same level of minimum service standards. The Government have proposed immediately accepting the new system for housing associations, but is exploring in more detail how local authority and ALMO performance could be regulated.

Land: Databases

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which organisation has been awarded the contract by English Partnerships to conduct a study of the National Land Use Database; and what the remit is of the review. [152940]

Mr. Iain Wright: Kingston university has been appointed to conduct the review of the National Land Use Database of Previously-Developed Land (NLUD-PDL). Its remit is to review the data collection and management methodology of NLUD-PDL, specifically to improve its timeliness, quality and usefulness both to central Government and to local authorities.

Local Government: Interpreters

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department and its agencies have given to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* housing associations on providing interpreters and translation services for those who do not speak English. [152403]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Communities and Local Government has not issued any guidance to local authorities and housing associations on the provision of interpretation and translation services since its inception in May 2006.

In December 2006 the Secretary of State for Local Government asked the Commission on Integration and Cohesion to consider this issue alongside its final report. The Commission published its final report in June 2007 which includes a set of principles on translation for local authorities and recommends that the Government develops these principles into guidance. The Government will respond to the Commission on Integration and Cohesion's recommendations in the autumn.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to reply to the letter of 20 June 2007 from the hon. Member for Hertsmere on gypsy and traveller sites in Hertfordshire. [152643]

Mr. Iain Wright: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 28 June 2007.

Mortgages

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate the Government have made of the number of mortgage lenders who offer fixed rate mortgages for terms of 10 years or longer. [152949]

Mr. Iain Wright: This data is not collected by Communities and Local Government.

Non-Domestic Rates: Agriculture

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for her Department's review of the business rate exemptions for agricultural land and buildings. [153512]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I have given to the hon. Member for North-East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt) on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1151W.

Ordnance Survey: Publications

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the last technology tracking system report produced by Ordnance Survey. [152387]

Mr. Iain Wright: Ordnance Survey has not produced an internal technology tracking system report since January 2005. These reports were internal management documents.

However the Research and Innovation (Research Labs) division within Ordnance Survey published an annual review of foresight and trends in the development and use of geographic information in September 2006. This document is intended to introduce the work of this division to a wider and external audience.

I have today placed copies of the Ordnance Survey Research Labs Annual Review 2005-06 in the Library of the House.

Planning Inspectorate: Standards

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the effect of delays in setting start dates for appeals is on the Planning Inspectorate's performance against the ministerial targets on timeliness. [152823]

Mr. Iain Wright: None. Ministerial timeliness targets for appeals are based on the starting date and not the date when the appeal is received.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government at what point in time consideration of an appeal by the Planning Inspectorate is deemed to have commenced for the purpose of the Inspectorate's performance statistics. [152824]

Mr. Iain Wright: For statistical purposes, an appeal is deemed to have commenced from the date written notice is given by the Planning Inspectorate to the appellant and the local planning authority that all the documents required to enable the appeal to proceed have been received (the "starting date").

Planning Permission

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications have been drawn to her attention as a consequence of the provisions of section 8 of planning circular 04/06; and what her decision was on whether to call in the application in each case. [152945]

Mr. Iain Wright: Five planning applications have been referred to the Secretary of State under Circular 04/2006. One application has been called in, three have not, and one remains under consideration.

Planning Permission: Flood Control

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications in England for development on floodplains have been *(a)* refused and *(b)* approved by the Planning Inspectorate in the last 12 months. [152946]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Planning Inspectorate does not record the information centrally. It cannot be retrieved without disproportionate cost.

Planning: Appeals

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes the Planning Inspectorate has made to the practice of setting start dates from when an appeal is received in the last 24 months. [152700]

Mr. Iain Wright: None.

Planning: Electromagnetic Fields

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to implement the recommendations of the Stakeholder Advisory Group on Electro-magnetic Fields' report to ensure that magnetic fields below power lines do not exceed 0.4mT. [151473]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

I am grateful to the Stakeholder Advisory Group on Extremely Low Frequency Electric and Magnetic Fields for all the hard work that has gone into the production of its report. The Government will now need to consider the implications of the report's conclusions and recommendations.

Refuges: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many women were recorded as being housed in refuges and safe houses in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each of the last 10 years. [151427]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not hold a total figure centrally.

Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level. The duty owed to a household accepted as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need is to secure suitable accommodation. If a settled home is not immediately available the authority may secure temporary accommodation until settled accommodation is provided.

One type of temporary accommodation is women's refuges. A breakdown by local authority of reported households in women's refuges under homelessness provisions at the end of March from 1998 to 2007 has been placed in the Library of the House. The local authorities that make up East Sussex are: Eastbourne borough council, Hastings borough council, Lewes district council, Rother district council, and Wealden district council

Women may also enter refuges without going through the statutory homelessness route. Many women's refuges receive Supporting People funding, and records of new entrants to Supporting People funded services are submitted by service providers on the client record form.

Data from the client record form are published on the Centre for Housing Research's website. for financial years and at administrative authority level. This includes the number of new clients entering Supporting People funded women's refuges, for service providers in each of the administrating authorities, including East Sussex county council, from 2003-04 to 2006-07, and is available at

http://ggsrv-cold.st-andrews.ac.uk/spclientrecord/

Regional Planning and Development: South East Region

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to amend the draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East by increasing the annual building target above 29,000 a year. [152677]

Mr. Dhanda: Proposed changes to the draft regional spatial strategy for the South East of England will be published following the receipt and publication of the panel's recommendations resulting from the examination in public.

The proposed changes will be consulted on and representations on the changes considered, before the final version of the RSS is approved and published.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to amend the South East England Regional Assembly's draft Regional Spatial Strategy. [152679]

Mr. Dhanda: Proposed changes to the draft regional spatial strategy for the South East of England will be published following the receipt and publication of the panel's recommendations resulting from the examination in public.

The proposed changes will be consulted on and representations on the changes considered, before the final version of the RSS is approved and published.

Smoking: Planning Permission

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether outdoor smoking shelters require planning permission; and what guidance her Department has given to local planning authorities on them. [152854]

Mr. Iain Wright: Outdoor smoking shelters will normally require planning permission although freestanding awnings and canopies may not. While Communities and Local Government has not issued specific guidance, leaving specific matters to the discretion of local authorities and particular local considerations, the Department of Health has worked closely with the Planning Officers' Society to produce guidance for local planning authorities on this issue.

Thames Gateway

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the concerns raised about the Thames Gateway project in the evidence taken by the Public Accounts Select Committee at its meeting on 13 June 2007, HC 693-i. [152663]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the Hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Leyton and Wanstead (Harry Cohen) on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1155W.

Travelling People

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* title and *(b)* date was of the European Court of Human Rights ruling which requires legislation proposed to be introduced in the forthcoming Housing and Regeneration Bill. [152939]

Mr. Iain Wright: The European Court of Human Rights ruling which the Government's draft legislative programme proposes to implement in a Housing and Regeneration Bill is that in the case of Connors v. United Kingdom, given on 27 May 2004.

Unitary Councils

Angela Browning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether it is her policy to approve unitary status only for those councils which command broad stakeholder support. [152153]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to my written statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 68WS. Our Invitation to Councils makes clear proposals will proceed towards implementation only if they were judged to meet the five criteria, one of which is that proposals must be supported by a broad cross section of partners and stakeholders.

Urban Areas: Wind Power

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what her Department's policy is on siting wind turbines in urban areas; [152750]

(2) what planning guidance her Department issues to local authorities on requests for permission to site wind turbines in urban areas. [152757]

Mr. Iain Wright: We consulted earlier this year on a new Planning Policy Statement (PPS) on planning and climate change. This sets out our proposals for how planning should contribute to reducing emissions, and make a full contribution to delivering the Government's Climate Change Programme and energy policies. This includes giving greater emphasis to local renewable sources for supplying the energy needs of new developments and looking favourably on proposals for renewable energy including the use of wind turbines.

The draft PPS builds on our policies in PPS22 "Renewable Energy" which state that renewable energy developments should be capable of being accommodated throughout England in locations where the technology is viable, and environmental, economic, and social impacts can be addressed satisfactorily. PPS22 sets out the detailed considerations applicable to determining planning applications for renewable energy projects, including wind turbines. PPS22 is supported by a Companion Guide that provides practical advice for considering proposals for renewable energy.

Valuation Office: Databases

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Office Agency submitted a bid to the tendering process to set up and maintain the *(a)* home condition report database and *(b)* energy performance certificate database. [152547]

Mr. Iain Wright: No such bid was submitted by the Valuation Office Agency.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Correspondence: Cabinet Office

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many items of correspondence were received by Cabinet Office Ministers from right hon. and hon. Members in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006; what the target time for replying to such correspondence is; and how many replies were sent within the target time. [153009]

Edward Miliband: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/ Peers correspondence. The report for 2006 was published on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 101-04WS. The report for 2005 was published on 30 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 75-78WS.

Departments: Air Conditioning

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on the hire of mobile air conditioning units in each of the last five years. [151981]

Phil Hope: Information on how much the Cabinet Office and its agencies has spent on air conditioning units prior to 2006-07 can be provided only at disproportionate costs.

The Cabinet Office has not spent any money on the hire of mobile air conditioning units in the financial years 2006-07 and 2007 to date.

Departments: Community Development

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) which social enterprises, excluding registered social landlords, have contracts awarded by his Department; and what the value is of each such contract; [152265]

(2) with which social enterprises his Department has contracts; and what the value of each contract is. [150106]

Phil Hope: Businesses that are awarded contracts by my Department are not currently required to state whether they are social enterprises and no detailed central record of contracts awarded is held. Therefore the information for my Department as a whole is only available at disproportionate cost.

However, since 1 April 2007, the Office of the Third Sector within the Cabinet Office has contracted, or provided grants to, with the following social enterprises and social enterprise representative bodies either on strategic partnerships and/or for other services at a total cost of £2,821,300:

CAN
Cats Pyjamas
Co-operatives UK
Development Trusts Association
Pack-It
Plunkett Foundation
Prowess
School for Social Entrepreneurs
Social Enterprise Coalition
Social Enterprise London
Social Firms UK

Departments: Energy

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the energy consumption was of the Cabinet Office *(a)* in total and *(b)* per square metre of building occupied in each year from 2001 to date. [151260]

Phil Hope: The energy consumption for the Cabinet Office *(a)* in total and *(b)* per square metre of building occupied in each year from 2001 to date is shown in the table.

	Total kWh	*kWh/Sq m*
2000-01	21,849,695	335
2001-02	24,637,107	329
2002-03	23,100,770	273
2003-04	20,053,061	232
2004-05	23,901,966	245
2005-06	20,830,010	274

Departments: Official Cars

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many vehicles are *(a)* owned and *(b)* leased by (i) the Cabinet Office and (ii) the Prime Minister's Office, broken down by (A) fuel type and (B) engine cubic capacity. [151265]

Phil Hope: The Prime Minister's Office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office. The information requested is shown in the tables.

Vehicles owned by the Department

Number of vehicles	*Fuel type*	*Engine cubic capacity*
1	Hybrid	1,497
1	Diesel	2,500

Vehicles Leased by the Department

Number of vehicles	*Fuel Type*	*Engine Cubic Capacity*
9	Hybrid	1,497
2	Petrol	2,792
1	Petrol	2,497
1	Petrol	1,999

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister: Standards

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which public service agreement targets were *(a)* met and *(b)* missed by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in the 12 months prior to it being disbanded. [152676]

Edward Miliband: The Deputy Prime Minister's Office had no public service agreement targets of its own, but in its role co-ordinating Government policy made an important contribution to the delivery of PSA targets across Government.

Office of the Third Sector

Mr. Love: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what process the Office of the Third Sector will adopt to ensure that funding for social enterprise research reaches the most appropriate academics; [151338]

(2) if the Office of the Third Sector will commission research into the way social enterprises operate in and impact upon markets; and if he will make a statement; [151336]

(3) how much the Office of the Third Sector is expected to spend on research into social enterprise in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [151335]

Phil Hope: When commissioning research the Office of the Third Sector (OTS) uses its networks and formal academic channels to ensure funding is distributed to research which is original, of value to us and the sector, and of the highest level of academic excellence. In addition it is our practice to be transparent in our commissioning, including research.

The OTS commissioned Hull University to undertake a feasibility study of developing a method for understanding the economic and impact of social enterprise (published January 2007). Other research already undertaken includes:

IFF Research (2005) "A survey of social enterprise across the UK"

GHK (2005) "Review of the Social Enterprise Strategy"

"Annual Small Business Survey 2005 (published 2006)"

"BS Household Survey of Entrepreneurship 2005 (published 2006)"

Copies of these will be placed in the Library for the reference of Members.

During 2007-08 OTS expects to deliver on the initial commitments made in the Social Enterprise Action Plan, published in November 2006, to undertake targeted "think pieces" and other ad hoc pieces of research which explore the role, innovation, value and impact of social enterprises at a cost of around £100,000. Other research commissioned in 2007-08 includes:

Two action research projects, costing £200,000 in total, to investigate ways to connect investors interested in a blended social and financial return with Social Enterprises needing finance.

A small scoping study costing £20,000 on social enterprise networks being undertaken by Rocket Science.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what funding has been allocated to *(a)* Hampshire and *(b)* Southampton in preparation for the 2012 Olympic Games; and what assessment she has made of the potential long-term effects on the people of Hampshire of the Olympics. [151045]

Tessa Jowell: The South East Partnership for the 2012 Games has set out clearly what it can offer and what it intends to gain from the 2012 Games in its regional plan: 'Compete, Create, Collaborate'. The South East Partnership has identified three key priorities: to build on its strengths, to showcase its 'world class' offer, and to create a sustainable legacy. In order to co-ordinate and drive forward this work the South East England Development Agency and Sport England South East have appointed a South East Co-ordinator for the 2012 Games. In addition and in order to drive forward the delivery of the Cultural Olympiad in the south-east, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport is joint funding a Creative Programmer post in the region.

We are in the process of setting up an independent charity, the Legacy Trust, with £40 million lottery and grant in aid, to ensure a UK-wide celebration of the Games. The Legacy Trust has committed to providing a fair proportion of its funding for each region.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Bloody Sunday Tribunal of Inquiry: Costs

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost of the Saville inquiry has been to date; when he expects it to report; and if he will make a statement. [150935]

Mr. Woodward: The cash spend on the Bloody Sunday inquiry was £178.264 million at the end of April 2007.

The preparation of the inquiry report is a matter for the tribunal. Due to the vast amount of evidence that must be considered, it is difficult at this stage to be precise about when the report will be presented to me, although I am advised that this is unlikely before the end of this calendar year and some further time may be needed beyond that.

Department: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what legislative provisions introduced by his Department since 1997 have not yet been brought into force. [149724]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office has introduced 25 Bills since 1997.

Commenced in full.

Northern Ireland Arms Decommissioning Act 1997
Northern Ireland (Elections) Act 1998 (this has been repealed)
Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1998 (this has been repealed)
Northern Ireland (Sentences) Act 1998
Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998
Northern Ireland (Location of Victims' Remains) Act 1999
Northern Ireland Act 2000 (this has been repealed)
Electoral Fraud (Northern Ireland) Act 2000
Northern Ireland Arms Decommissioning (Amendment) Act 2002
Northern Ireland Assembly Elections Act 2003
Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections and Periods of Suspension) Act 2003
Northern Ireland (Monitoring Commission etc.) Act 2003
Electoral Registration (Northern Ireland) Act 2005 (this has been repealed)
Northern Ireland Act 2006 (this has been repealed)
Terrorism (Northern Ireland) Act 2006
Northern Ireland (St. Andrews Agreement) Act 2007

Partially commenced:

Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998
Northern Ireland Act 1998
Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000
Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002
Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2003
Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2004
Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006
Northern Ireland (St. Andrews Agreement) 2006
Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what legislative provisions introduced by his Department since 1997 have been repealed. [149725]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office has introduced 25 Bills since 1997.

Repealed in full:

Northern Ireland (Elections) Act 1998
Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1998
Northern Ireland Act 2000
Electoral Registration (Northern Ireland) Act 2005
Northern Ireland Act 2006

Partially repealed:

Northern Ireland Act 1998
Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998
Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000
Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002
Northern Ireland Assembly Elections Act 2003
Northern Ireland (St. Andrews Agreement) Act 2006

Departments: Agencies

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Department paid in fees to recruitment agencies for *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent staff in each year since 1997. [151681]

Paul Goggins: The information required to enable the Northern Ireland Office to answer this question is not readily available. The collation of such information falls within the disproportionate cost threshold of £700.

Most Northern Ireland Office recruitment is carried out free of charge by Northern Ireland Recruitment Service, an Agency of the Department of Finance & Personnel. Recruitment consultants are used only where Recruitment Service competitions fail to produce suitable candidates or where executive searches are required to identify suitably skilled and experienced applicants.

Departments: Air Conditioning

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on the hire of mobile air conditioning units in each of the last five years. [151972]

Paul Goggins: The Public Prosecution Service in Belfast hired a small number of mobile air conditioning units in May 2004 at a cost of £500. Other than this, the NIO and its agencies have not hired mobile air conditioning units in any of the last five years.

Departments: Official Hospitality

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on hospitality events in each of the last five years. [152825]

Paul Goggins: The following table illustrates the amount the Northern Ireland Office (NIO), excluding its Agencies and Executive NDPBs, has spent on hospitality in each of the last five years.

Expenditure from the NIO's hospitality budgets includes general living costs for Ministers, and official visitors staying at Hillsborough Castle and Stormont House. In addition to its own use, the NIO permits a wide range of organisations to use the facilities at

Hillsborough Castle for a variety of events. These organisations include; other NI Government Departments, the Prison Service, the Police Service, the armed services, and a variety of charitable organisations. Disaggregating the overall figures would only be possible at disproportionate cost. Customers using Hillsborough Castle and Stormont House are charged for the services they receive. The table also illustrates how the recoupment offsets the expenditure.

£

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Hospitality expenditure	363,755	319,741	258,436	299,634	404,476
Recouped from customers	63,325	67,583	64,986	88,862	141,843
Actual amount spent on NIO hospitality	300,430	252,158	193,450	210,772	262,633

Departments: Travel

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by his Department on first class train tickets in the last 12 months. [153063]

Paul Goggins: £18,919 was spent on first class rail tickets in 2006-07 (this is the last 12 months for which audited expenditure figures are available).

Monuments: County Armagh

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the case for the creation of a permanent memorial in the village of Bessbrook, County Armagh to recognise the service and sacrifice of the military in the South Armagh area following the closure of the Bessbrook Mill base. [149073]

Paul Goggins: The Government recognise the service and sacrifices made by the military in South Armagh which has made a substantial contribution to the progress that has taken place in NI. Ministers have agreed to consider how best this should be recognised and I will write to the hon. Lady once this has been completed.

Prisoners Release

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many prisoners were released from each prison in Northern Ireland before completing their full sentences in each month since January. [152480]

Paul Goggins: I am not aware that any prisoner has, since January, been formally discharged from Northern Ireland prisons before completing their sentences. However, with my agreement one prisoner was temporarily released under the prison rules to enable transfer to Cheswold Park hospital, England, to receive specialised treatment, prior to completing his full sentence.

Prisoners: Proscribed Organisations

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was paid to prisoners in Northern Ireland who were imprisoned for scheduled offences connected to a paramilitary organisation in each year since 1998. [149806]

Paul Goggins: Prior to November 2000, prisoners were paid for being employed within the prison regime amounting to approximately £10 per week. Those listed as not employed received a basic payment of £4. In November 2000, the progressive and earned privileges scheme (PREPS) system was introduced, which is a three-tier regime designed to encourage prisoners to improve their behaviour and engage in constructive activity. Under this system, payments are currently made as follows:

Basic regime level—£6

Standard regime level—up to £11

Enhanced regime—up to £20.

The amount received by each prisoner is not held centrally and cannot be broken down for scheduled offences. This could be provided only at disproportionate cost

SCOTLAND

Departments: Agencies

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much the Department paid in fees to recruitment agencies for *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent staff in each year since 1997. [151669]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. Since that date, the Office has not spent any money with recruitment agencies for permanent staff; the costs for temporary staff are in the following table.

	£
1999-2000[1]	2,135
2000-01	68,404
2001-02	55,534
2002-03	60,601
2003-04	54,017
2004-05	7,098
2005-06	—
2006-07	8,190

[1] part year

Departments: Air Conditioning

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on the hire of mobile air conditioning units in each of the last five years. [151978]

David Cairns: Nothing.

Departments: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what proportion of people employed by his Department are disabled. [153602]

David Cairns: This information is published in the annual report of the Scotland Office, a copy of which has been placed in the House Library.

Departments: Flowers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent by his Department on flowers in the last 12 months. [153199]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office does not maintain a central record of flowers purchased.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many press officers are employed by his Department. [153203]

David Cairns: This information is published in the annual report of the Scotland Office, a copy of which has been placed in the House Library.

Departments: Official Hospitality

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on alcoholic drinks for receptions in each of the last five years. [152828]

David Cairns: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 188W.

The Scotland Office keeps no separate record of hospitality expenditure of category of provision.

Dover House: Official Hospitality

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, pursuant to the answer of 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 188W, on Dover House: official hospitality, how many receptions held at Dover House in each of the last five years were organised and funded by *(a)* trade unions, *(b)* charities, *(c)* businesses and *(d)* other types of organisation; and what income his Department received from charges for the use of facilities for receptions in each of the last five years. [152010]

David Cairns: The third party receptions held at Dover House may be categorised in the following table.

	Trade unions	*Charities*	*Other types of organisation*
2006-2007	0	5	20
2005-2006	0	3	8
2004-2005	1	4	19
2003-2004	0	4	10
2002-2003	1	2	18

None of the events listed above was organised and funded by any commercial business. The Scotland Office received no income for any of these events.

Sewel Motions

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what procedure the Government uses to notify the Scottish Parliament of its desire for a Sewel motion to be considered by the Parliament; and what involvement the Scottish Executive has in the process. [151259]

David Cairns: In line with Devolution Guidance Note 10, it is for the Scottish Executive to indicate the views of the Scottish Parliament in relation to a provision or provisions in UK Bills that trigger the Sewel Convention and to take whatever steps are appropriate to ascertain that view. I expect these arrangements to continue.

TREASURY

Customs: Tour de France

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the customs arrangements were for the Tour de France UK leg in terms of drugs and medicines being *(a)* brought in and *(b)* taken out of the UK by teams. [150810]

Jane Kennedy: The organisers and competitors in the Tour de France and their associated personnel were subject to the normal regulatory and anti-smuggling controls both at entry into and departure from the UK.

Departments: Redundancy Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by his Department on redundancy payments in the last 12 months. [153165]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 2140W.

Employment: Yorkshire and Humberside

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were in work in (i) City of York parliamentary constituency, (ii) City of York Council area and (iii) Yorkshire and the Humber in (A) May 1997 and (B) each year since. [152205]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 July 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) men and (b) women were in work in (i) City of York parliamentary constituency, (ii) City of York Council area and (iii) Yorkshire and the Humber in (A) May 1997 and (B) each year since. (152205)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows the number of men and women, aged 16 and over, resident in the City of York constituency, who were in employment, for the 12 months ending in February for 1997 to 2004 from the local area LFS and for the 12 months ending in March for 2005 and 2006, from the APS. Corresponding headline employment rates, for persons of working age (males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59), are also provided. The working-age employment rates allow changes to be seen in the context of changing population numbers. Table 2 shows corresponding data for the City of York Unitary Authority and Table 3 for Yorkshire and the Humber.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. In this case, for the City of York constituency and the City of York Unitary Authority, the sample sizes are not sufficient to give an accurate estimate of even the direction of the change over the period.

Table 1: Employment by sex: City of York parliamentary constituency

Thousand

	Men		Women		Total	
12 months ending	Level[1]	Rate[2] (percentage)	Level[1]	Rate[2] (percentage)	Level[1]	Rate[2] (percentage)
February 1997	22	71	22	65	44	68
February 1998	24	74	21	63	45	69
February 1999	28	81	20	65	48	73
February 2000	25	81	20	72	45	77
February 2001	27	81	24	76	51	79
February 2002	28	81	24	72	51	77
February 2003	29	83	25	72	54	77
February 2004	28	80	25	73	53	77
March 2005	29	80	26	71	55	75
March 2006	27	79	25	73	52	76

[1] Persons aged 16 and over.
[2] Persons of working age - males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59.
Notes:
1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
2. Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with particular caution.
Source:
Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population Survey.

Table 2: Employment by sex: City of York Unitary Authority

Thousand

	Men		Women		Total	
12 months ending	Level[1]	Rate[2] (percentage)	Level[1]	Rate[2] (percentage)	Level[1]	Rate[2] (percentage)
February 1997	43	79	39	71	82	75
February 1998	43	79	34	65	77	72
February 1999	45	82	38	71	83	76
February 2000	44	81	39	71	83	76
February 2001	49	84	44	78	93	81
February 2002	49	84	43	75	93	80
February 2003	50	84	43	74	93	79
February 2004	48	82	43	77	92	79
March 2005	49	82	43	76	92	79
March 2006	48	81	45	76	93	79

[1] Persons aged 16 and over.
[2] Persons of working age—males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59.
Notes:
1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
2. Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with particular caution.
Source:
Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population Survey.

Table 3: Employment by sex: Yorkshire and the Humber

Thousand

	Men		Women		Total	
12 months ending	Level[1]	Rate[2] (percentage)	Level[1]	Rate[2] (percentage)	Level[1]	Rate[2] (percentage)
February 1997	1,163	74	988	66	2,151	70
February 1998	1,178	76	993	66	2,170	71
February 1999	1,202	77	1,010	68	2,212	73
February 2000	1,197	77	1,014	68	2,211	73
February 2001	1,208	78	1,051	70	2,259	74
February 2002	1,221	78	1,044	69	2,265	73
February 2003	1,233	78	1,047	68	2,280	73
February 2004	1,248	78	1,064	69	2,312	74
March 2005	1,252	79	1,068	69	2,320	74
March 2006	1,251	78	1,072	69	2,322	74

[1] Persons aged 16 and over.
[2] Persons of working age—males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59.
Notes:
1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
2. Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with particular caution.
Source:
Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population Survey.

HM Revenue and Customs: Debt Collection

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs debt recovery offices closed in each year since 2001, broken down by parliamentary constituency. [152793]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs has not closed any debt recovery offices since it was created in 2005.

Prior to that in 2001 a total of 12 former Customs and Excise debt recovery offices were closed in the following parliamentary constituencies:

Bristol East, Canterbury, Oxford East, Poole, Spelthorne, Woking, Maidenhead, Reading East, Portsmouth South, Plymouth Devonport, Uxbridge and Brent South

In 2002 a total of three former Customs and Excise debt recovery offices were closed in the following parliamentary constituencies:

Islington South and Finsbury, Finchley and Golders Green and Shrewsbury and Atcham

The former Inland Revenue has not closed any debt recovery offices since 2001.

HM Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff of HM Revenue and Customs were employed in *(a)* call centres and *(b)* frontline offices in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [152811]

Jane Kennedy: The following table provides the estimated number of full-time equivalent staff (FTE) employed in HMRC's centrally managed contact centre network[1] and face to face inquiry centres. Information for earlier years is not readily available.

HMRC came into being in April 2005 and the figures shown in the table prior to this refer to the former Inland Revenue only. Figures in respect of the former HM Customs and Excise are not readily available.

As at end of	*Contact centres total FTE*	*Face to face total FTE*
Former Inland Revenue		
April 2003	4,578	n/a
April 2004	6,446	n/a
HMRC		
April 2005	8,215	n/a
April 2006	8,709	1,465
April 2007	10,120	1,633

[1] Excluding Northern Ireland prior to November 2005.

HM Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were employed by call centres used by HM Revenue and Customs in each year since 2001. [152792]

Jane Kennedy: The table provides the estimated number of full-time equivalent staff (FTE) employed in HMRC's centrally managed Contact Centre network[1]. Information for earlier years is not readily available.

[1] Excluding Northern Ireland prior to November 2005.

HMRC came into being in April 2005 and the figures shown as follows prior to this refer to the former Inland Revenue only. Figures in respect of the former HM Customs and Excise are not readily available.

As at end of :	*Total FTE*
Former Inland Revenue:	
April 2003	4,578
April 2004	6,446
HMRC	
April 2005	8,215
April 2006	8,709
April 2007	10,120

Identity Cards: Advisory Services

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the costs so far incurred on advisory services in relation to the development of the identity card scheme. [152457]

Meg Hillier: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to my predecessor's answer to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois) on 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1778W.

Office for National Statistics: Manpower

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people work in the division of the Office for National Statistics responsible for producing consumer price index and retail prices index figures; how many of these have agreed to relocate to Newport; and if he will make a statement. [152711]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 July 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people work in the division of the Office for National Statistics that is responsible for producing consumer price index and retail prices index figures; how many of these have agreed to relocate to Newport.(152711)

The London division responsible for producing consumer price index and retail prices index figures had a staff complement of 34. A number of staff are considering relocating, although final decisions are not required until after the summer. It is anticipated that the corresponding Newport team will include up to six people with experience of working on the CPI and RPI in London.

Planning Gain Supplement

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how revenue from planning gain supplement is planned to be allocated to local authorities in two-tier areas. [152522]

Angela Eagle: Budget 2007 stated (paragraph 3.149) that, in England, the local share of planning-gain supplement (PGS) would be paid directly to the local planning authority that granted the planning permission to which the PGS liability is attached. It added that the Government will consider whether special arrangements should be made where there exists a special purpose vehicle with planning powers (such as an urban development corporation) and for consents granted by county authorities.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely cost of administering planning-gain supplement for *(a)* HM

Revenue and Customs, *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency and *(c)* local authorities in the first 12 months after it comes into effect. [152523]

Angela Eagle: The costs of administering the planning-gain supplement would be developed in the course of planning and carrying out preparatory work if the Government decide to introduce the planning-gain supplement. The PGS regime is being designed to be simple and cost-effective to administer and it is expected that the unit cost of collecting PGS would be similar to the unit costs of collecting other taxes administered by HMRC.

Further details can be found in the Explanatory Notes to the Planning-gain Supplement (Preparations) Act 2007.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of revenues from planning gain supplement is planned to be retained by the Government. [152525]

Angela Eagle: Details of the proposed allocation of PGS revenues to regions and local authorities were most recently set out in the Housing Green Paper "Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable", Chapter 5, page 54. Full details may also be found in Budget 2007, paragraphs 3.149 to 3.152 and (in respect of the devolved Administrations) in the 2006 pre-Budget report paragraph 3.124.

Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent from the public purse on the Government's private finance initiative contracts in each of the last 10 years; and what proportion was for *(a)* hospitals, *(b)* schools, *(c)* road building, *(d)* housing and *(e)* other projects, broken down by category. [152473]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury's PFI signed deals list provides unitary charge (UC) payment data, broken down by sector and with project details. This is available on the Treasury's public website at: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

It should be noted that UC payments are projections which are conditional on project performance. UC payments cover not only the repayment of capital but also service provisions, inflation uplifts, and other project specific requirements such as refurbishments.

Public Sector: Pensions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people are eligible to receive a public sector pension. [152616]

Andy Burnham: The Occupational Pension Schemes Survey (2006) published by the Office for National Statistics showed that there were around 1.1 million members in public sector schemes. These include active members, those whose pensions are in payment and those entitled to a deferred pension.

Public sector schemes include schemes for the civil service, the armed forces, teachers, employees of the national health service and local authorities, police officers and firefighters as well as some other smaller schemes. Details of the survey can be found at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/opss0707.pdf

Public Works Loan Board

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what controls exist on the amount of borrowing that local authorities can undertake from the Public Works Loan Board. [152664]

Angela Eagle: Loans advanced by the Public Works Loan Board are made from funds provided under section 4(1) of the National Loans Act 1968. Amended by section 130 of the Finance Act 1990, this sets an existing limit of £55 billion (nominal) on the total loans outstanding to the board at any one time, but also contains a provision to alter the limit further to a sum not exceeding £70 billion (nominal).

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consent from central government departments local authorities require to borrow funds from the Public Works Loan Board. [152665]

Angela Eagle: The Local Government Act 2003 allows main (first and second tier) local authorities to set and keep under review their own borrowing limits. Minor (third tier) authorities in England require the specific delegated permission of the Secretary of State (Parish and Town Councils in England) or the Welsh Assembly Government (Community and Town Councils in Wales) to borrow.

Self-Employed: Working Hours

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average amount of time worked each week by self-employed people in the UK. [152618]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 July 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your parliamentary question about the average amount of time worked each week by self-employed people in the United Kingdom. (152618)

The attached table gives the average usual weekly hours worked by self-employed people, for the three month period ending March 2007. These estimates have not been seasonally adjusted.

Estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Average usual weekly hours[1] of work of the self-employed: United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Three months ending March 2007	*Average usual hours[1]*
Total	39.5
Male	43.2
Female	29.6

[1] Respondents to the LFS are asked to state the weekly hours they usually work. The figures in this table cover main jobs only and include paid and unpaid overtime.

Stamp Duties: Tax Yields

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much revenue was raised on stamp duty on property in 2006-07 in *(a)* the United Kingdom and *(b)* England; [150630]

(2) how much revenue was received from stamp duty on *(a)* residential property and *(b)* business property in the United Kingdom in 1996-97; and how much is expected to be received in 2007-08. [150674]

Kitty Ussher: Estimated stamp duty receipts for 1996-97 for the United Kingdom are given in the following table.

	(£ million)
Residential	675
Non residential	383
Total	1,058

Estimated revenues for total stamp taxes in 2006-07 and projected revenues for total stamp taxes in 2007-08 were published in Table C8 of the Budget 2007 report. The breakdown between stamp taxes on land and property and stamp taxes on shares is as follows:

Stamp taxes on land and property transactions

	£ billion
2006-07	9.7
2007-08	10.6

Final figures for stamp duty land tax receipts for 2006-07, including a break down between residential and non-residential, together with national and sub-national breakdowns will be published in September 2007 for 2007-08 it will be published in September 2008.

Tax Allowances: Repairs and Maintenance

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will give consideration to introducing tax reliefs for exterior building cleaning. [152610]

Jane Kennedy: Tax relief is already available to businesses where they incur expenditure on cleaning the exterior of their business premises.

Taxation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate *(a)* direct and *(b)* indirect taxes as a percentage of gross income for all households by income decile; and if he will make a statement. [152710]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 July 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will estimate *(a)* direct and *(b)* indirect taxes as a percentage of gross income for all households by income decile. (152710).

Estimates of household income and related taxes are provided in the ONS analysis 'The effects of taxes and benefits on household income'. The latest analysis for 2005/06 was published on the National Statistics website on 17th May 2007 at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/taxesbenefits. The analysis is based on data from the Expenditure and Food Survey, which is a sample survey covering approximately 7,000 households in the UK.

The table below shows the average direct and indirect tax paid by households in each income decile group as a percentage of gross household income. They have been calculated from the numbers appearing in Table 14 of the taxes and benefits analysis.

Gross income includes income from wages, occupational pensions, self-employment income, investment income, and income from state benefits, all before tax. Direct taxes include income tax, national insurance contributions and council tax. The indirect taxes include VAT, duties, and a number of smaller items such as television licences. Indirect taxes also include intermediate taxes - these are indirect taxes paid by companies which are deemed to be passed onto households through the prices they pay for goods and services. A more detailed breakdown showing each of the different taxes appears in the annual article.

Indirect taxes, when expressed as a proportion of gross income appears particularly high for the bottom income decile, although this result needs to be interpreted carefully. Estimates of indirect taxes are estimated based on household expenditure. It should be remembered that measured expenditure will not necessarily balance with measured income for the year. This is especially true for the bottom income decile where average measured income is significantly lower than average expenditure. For these households, indirect taxes (which reflect expenditure) are not being met solely from current income, and so indirect taxes are very high when expressed as a proportion of gross income.

There are a number of plausible reasons why for some households, expenditure might exceed income. Households with low incomes may draw on their savings or borrow in order to finance their expenditure. In addition, the lower decile in particular includes some groups, who have, or report, very little income (for example, self-employed people starting a business or someone who has just been made redundant). In these cases, expenditure is not being met from current income. Some types of receipts are not included as income in the EPS e.g. inheritance and severance payments. In some cases, the information given on expenditure is not consistent with that on income received because of timing differences.

Taxes as a percentage of gross income, for all households by decile group, United Kingdom, 2005-06

Percentage

	Decile groups of all households[1]										
	Bottom	*2nd*	*3rd*	*4th*	*5th*	*6th*	*7th*	*8th*	*9th*	*Top*	*All households*
Indirect taxes[2]	33.6	22.6	20.3	18.1	17.1	16.2	14.8	14.1	12.5	9.8	14.5
Direct taxes[3,4]	10.6	8.8	12.3	13.7	16.6	19.1	20.9	21.5	23.6	25.4	20.6
All taxes	44.2	31.4	32.6	31.8	33.7	35.3	35.7	35.6	36.1	35.2	35.1

Notes:

1 Households are ranked by equivalised disposable income.

2 Includes VAT, Vehicle Excise duty and taxes on tobacco, alcohol and hydrocarbon oil.

3 Income tax and Employees' National contributions (Including tax relief at source on life assurance premiums).

4 Council tax and Northern Ireland rates after deducting

Taxation: Domicile

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what changes have been made to residence and domicile rules relating to taxation as a consequence of the review of such rules launched in Budget 2002; and if he will make a statement. [151769]

Jane Kennedy: No changes have been made to the residence and domicile rules that govern personal taxation since the review, which was announced at Budget 2002, and is still on-going.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when the last estimate of the tax foregone in the UK as a consequence of the use of the remittance basis by those not domiciled in the UK was made; and if he will make a statement; [151770]

(2) how many individuals claiming non-domicile tax status were born to parents whose parents were born in the UK; and if he will make a statement; [151909]

(3) how many individuals claiming non-domicile tax status were born to parents who were born in the UK; and if he will make a statement; [151910]

(4) how many individuals claiming non-domicile tax status were born in the UK; and if he will make a statement; [151911]

(5) if he will estimate how much was paid in *(a)* income tax, *(b)* national insurance contributions, *(c)* capital gains tax, *(d)* VAT and *(e)* council tax, by non domiciled taxpayers in each of the last three years; [151912]

(6) what estimate he has made of the number of penalties likely to arise as a result of non-disclosure of offshore bank accounts; and if he will make a statement; [151914]

(7) if he will estimate the cost of the £55,000 inheritance tax tax-free allowance for transfers of assets to a non-domiciled spouse in each of the last five years for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [151915]

Jane Kennedy: The information is as follows.

1. No substantiated estimates have been made of the tax foregone in the UK as a consequence of the use of the remittance basis by those not domiciled in the UK, as individuals do not have to provide HM Revenue and Customs with information on overseas income and gains if this does not give rise to a tax liability in the UK. Work towards estimating tax foregone was carried out in 2003, but weakness in the supporting data made these unreliable and the exercise has not been repeated.

2, 3, and 4. This information is not available.

5. *(a)* and *(b)* The estimated tax and national insurance liabilities from self-assessment tax returns for the two latest available years are:

£ billion

Tax year	*Income tax*	*NICs*
2003-04	2.9	0.1
2004-05	3.3	0.2

No such estimate is available for 2002-03.

(c), (d) and (e) The requested information is not available.

6. Over 60,000 account holders have told HMRC they have a disclosure to make. Most of these individuals will pay a penalty of 10 per cent. of the tax they are disclosing. Higher penalties will also be required for those who HMRC hold information on but chose not to notify that they had a disclosure to make.

7. The cost of inheritance tax relief for transfers on death to non-domiciled spouses is estimated to be less than £1 million a year.

Taxation: Gambling

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated turnover and profit of spread betters based in the UK was in 2006-07; how much tax was paid by them in that year; and whether any of them paid no tax in that year. [152614]

Angela Eagle: Revenues from general betting duty are published in the HM Revenue and Customs Betting, Gaming and Lottery Duties Bulletin, available at http://www.uktradeinfo.co.uk/index.cfm?task=bullbett but are not broken down by type of betting.

Unemployment

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the rate of *(a)* youth and *(b)* adult (i) employment and (ii) unemployment was in (A) Jarrow constituency, (B) South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and (D) the UK in each year since 1997; [151944]

(2) how many *(a)* adults, *(b)* women and *(c)* single parents were (i) in work and (ii) unemployed in (A) Jarrow constituency, (B) South Tyneside, (C) the North East and (D) the UK in each year since 1997. [151945]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 July 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking what the level of (a) youth and (b) adult (i) employment and (ii) unemployment has been in (A) Jarrow constituency, (B) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (D) the UK in each year since 1997 and how many (a) adults, (b) women and (c) single parents were (i) in work and (ii) unemployment in (A) Jarrow constituency, (B) South Tyneside, (C) the North East and (D) the UK in each year since 1997. (151944, 151945).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows the number of males, females and people, who were (i) aged 16 and over, (ii) young persons aged 16 to 24 and (iii) persons aged 25 and over, resident in the Jarrow constituency, who were in employment, for the 12 months ending in February for 1997 to 2004 from the local area LFS and for the 12 months ending in March for 2005 and 2006, from the APS. The table also shows employment rates which allow changes to be seen in the context of changing population numbers. Tables 2 to 4 show data for South Tyneside metropolitan borough, the North East and Great Britain respectively.

For unitary and local authorities, the ONS produces estimates of total unemployment, following ILO definitions, from a statistical model. Annual estimates for other areas and breakdowns are compiled from the annual local area LFS and the APS following ILO definitions.

Table 5, attached, shows the number of males, females and people, who were (i) aged 16 and over, (ii) young persons aged 16 to 24 and (iii) persons aged 25 and over, resident in the Jarrow constituency, who were unemployed, for the 12 months ending in February for 1997 to 2004 from the local area LFS and for the 12 months ending in March for 2005 and 2006, from the APS. The table also shows unemployment rates which allow changes to be seen in the context of changing population numbers. Tables 6 to 8 show data for South Tyneside metropolitan borough, the North East and Great Britain respectively.

Table 9, attached, shows employment levels, unemployment levels and rates for lone parents aged 16 and over and employment rates for lone parents of working age, resident in the South Tyneside metropolitan borough, the North East and Great Britain, for the three months ending in June, for the years 1997 to 2006 from the LFS household datasets. Data for the Jarrow constituency are unavailable as Parliamentary Constituency markers are not held in this dataset.

The estimates in Tables 1-9 are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. In this case, the sample sizes for the Jarrow constituency and South Tyneside metropolitan borough are not sufficient to give an accurate estimate of even the direction of the change over time.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). Table 10, attached, shows the annual average number of males, females, people, young persons aged 18 to 24 and persons aged 25 and over, resident in the Jarrow constituency, claiming JSA for 1997 to 2006. Also shown are the total numbers of claimants as percentages of the resident working age population for males, females and all people. These percentages are not readily available for ages 18 to 24 and 25 and over. Tables 11 to 13 show data for South Tyneside metropolitan borough, the North East region and the United Kingdom respectively. Data for single parents are not available in this dataset.

As the information provided is extensive, a copy of the tables has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* 20 Parliamentary constituencies and *(b)* 20 local authorities were with the lowest employment rates in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the employment rate was in each case. [152642]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 July 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the (a) 20 Parliamentary constituencies and (b) 20 local authorities were with the lowest employment rates in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the employment rate was in each case. (152642)

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1, attached, lists the 20 parliamentary constituencies, in Great Britain, with the lowest employment rates, for persons of working age, for the 12 months ending December 2006 from the APS. Table 2, attached, lists the 20 local authorities, in Great Britain, with the lowest working-age employment rates for the same period.

These statistics are published each quarter for all parliamentary constituencies and local authorities in the local area labour market statistical indicators publication (accessible from http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14160) and in the Labour Market Statistics regional First Releases (accessible from http://www.statistics.gov.uk/onlineproducts/lms_regional.asp).

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

Table 1: 20 parliamentary constituencies with the lowest working-age employment rates; January 2006 to December 2006

Parliamentary constituency	*Working-age employment rate* (*Percentage*)
Birmingham, Hodge Hill	47
Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath	47
Birmingham, Ladywood	49
Glasgow Central	52
Liverpool, Riverside	52
Poplar and Canning Town	52
Bethnal Green and Bow	55
East Ham	55
Glasgow North East	57
Hackney South and Shoreditch	57
Bradford West	58
Sheffield Central	58
Bootle	58
Holborn and St. Pancras	58
Walsall North	59
Manchester, Gorton	59
Sheffield, Brightside	59
Birmingham, Erdington	60
Ilford South	60
Hackney North and Stoke Newington	60

Note:
Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
Source:
Annual Population Survey.

Table 2: 20 local authorities with the lowest working-age employment rates; January 2006 to December 2006

Local authority	*Working-age employment rate* (*Percentage*)
Tower Hamlets	53
Newham	58
Hackney	59
West Somerset	60
Westminster	62
Kensington and Chelsea	62
Merthyr Tydfil	62
Birmingham	63
Barking and Dagenham	63
Lambeth	63
Liverpool	64
Ceredigion	65
Glasgow City	65
Southwark	65
Nottingham	65
Blaenau Gwent	65
Teesdale	65
Manchester	65
Brent	65
South Tyneside	65

Note:
Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
Source:
Annual Population Survey.

Unemployment: Social Rented Housing

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of tenants in social housing were *(a)* unemployed and *(b)* economically inactive in (i) 1997 and (ii) the most recent year for which figures are available. [152600]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 July 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the proportion of tenants in social housing who were (a) unemployed and (b) economically inactive in (i) 1997 and (ii) the most recent year for which figures are available. (152600)

The attached table shows the numbers and rates of the unemployed and inactive tenants in social housing for 1997 and 2006. The estimates cover the three month period ending December each year, and are not seasonally adjusted. Those in social housing include people in Local Authority, Scottish Homes, New Town Developments, Housing Associations, Co-operatives and Trusts.

Estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Unemployed and economically inactive tenants in social housing[1] 1997 and 2006, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

	Unemployed[2]		Inactive[3]	
Three months ending December each year	Number (000s)	Rate (Percentage)[4]	Number (000s)	Rate (Percentage)[5]
1997	733	19.8	2,400	39.9
2006	580	18.0	2,441	43.8

[1] Social housing includes local authority, Scottish homes, new town developments, housing associations, co-operatives and trusts.
[2] Includes all persons aged 16 and over.
[3] Includes men aged 16 to 64 and women age 16 to 59.
[4] Unemployed people as a percentage of all economically active people who live in social housing.
[5] Economically inactive people of working age as a percentage of all persons of working age who live in social housing.
Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Unemployment: Young People

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many 16 to 24-year-olds not in full-time education were economically inactive in each year since 1997; and what proportion of the 16 to 24-year-old age group this represented in each year. [152647]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 July 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question, about the levels and proportions of economically inactive people aged 16 to 24 who are not in full-time education for the period since 1997. (152647)

Each month the ONS publishes statistics showing both the level and the rates of employment, unemployment, and inactivity for people age 16-24 who are in full-time education and not in full-time education in the Labour Market Statistics First Release. Table 14 of the First Release has estimates of economically inactive people aged 16-24 who are not in full-time education in column 11, which is available in the attached link.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/LMS_FR_HS/WebTable14SA.xls

These estimates are seasonally adjusted and include historical data back to 1992.

Estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Welfare Tax Credits

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research his Department has undertaken on the relationship between receipt of tax credits and levels of deprivation. [151706]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC undertakes a range of research about the tax credits system. Details of planned and on-going research as well as research findings are published on the Department's website at: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/

Child and working tax credits provide support to around 6 million benefiting families, helping to lift approx 600,000 children out of child poverty.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of claims for *(a)* working tax credit and *(b)* child tax credit were made (i) over the telephone, (ii) using a paper form and (iii) in person in each of the last 10 years. [152810]

Jane Kennedy: This information is not available in the format requested. As there is only one form on which to claim tax credits, claims for working tax credit and child tax credit are not recorded separately. All new claims must now be completed on a paper form. The number of paper claims received is around 8,500,000 from 1 November 2002 to 23 July 2007.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his answer of 3 July 2007, Official Report, column 957W, on welfare tax credits, if he will make it his practice to provide answers including full figures rather than by reference to a website. [152955]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC publish a great deal of information on tax credits and this is available on their website. Where information is already in the public domain, it is our usual practice to refer to this in providing answers to hon. Members parliamentary questions. This allows hon. Members to see for themselves the source of the information and it often contains other details which, while not pertinent to the question, could be of interest to them. In the case of official statistics the website will contain any future updated information.

Young People: Suicide

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many young people *(a)* under the age of 18 and *(b)* aged 18 to 19 years committed suicide in each of the last five years, broken down by gender. [152718]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 July 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many young people (a) under the age of 18 and (b) aged 18-19 years committed suicide in each of the last five years, broken down by gender. (152718)

The table below contains numbers of suicides for those aged under 20 by age group and sex in England and Wales from 2001 to 2005, the latest available year.

It is assumed that most deaths from injury/poisoning of undetermined intent at ages 15 and over are cases where the harm was self-inflicted but there was insufficient evidence to prove that the deceased deliberately intended to kill themselves. For this reason, ONS includes in its suicide statistics both those deaths from intentional self-harm, and those from 'injury or poisoning of undetermined intent.' The same cannot be assumed in deaths at ages under 15 and therefore deaths from injury or poisoning of undetermined intent are not included when examining suicide (intentional self-harm) in children. As there were no deaths in children aged under 13 with a suicide verdict

for the period requested, the table shows the number of suicides in children aged 13 to 14, and the number of suicide or injury/poisoning of undetermined intent deaths in those aged 15 to 17 and 18 to 19.

Number of deaths from suicide and injury/poisoning of undetermined intent, ages 13 to 19, England and Wales, 2001 to 2005[1]

	Ages 13 to 14		*Ages 15 to 17*		*Ages 18 to 19*	
	Suicide[2]		*Suicide and injury/poisoning of undetermined intent*[3]		*Suicide and injury/poisoning of undetermined intent*[3]	
	Male	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
2001	3	2	43	11	81	17
2002	3	2	43	19	70	17
2003	0	3	34	13	57	15
2004	3	2	31	19	72	26
2005	1	0	26	11	48	17

[1] Figures are for deaths occurring in each calendar year.
[2] The cause of death for suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84.
[3] The cause of death for injury/poisoning of undetermined intent was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes Y10-Y34 excluding Y33.9 where the Coroner's verdict was pending.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

African Union: EU External Relations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is Government policy that the Prime Minister will not attend the EU-AU Summit in Lisbon this year if Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe attends the summit; and if he will make a statement. [152309]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Invitations have yet to be issued to the EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon. We are continuing to work with EU colleagues for a solution in line with the EU Common Position. We believe that Robert Mugabe's attendance would be wrong.

Asylum

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when HM High Commission Islamabad received notification from the Home Office of the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal's decision in the case of Mr. M.I., sponsored by Mr. R.A. of Aylesbury (FCO reference 119381; appeal reference VA/31440/2006); and when he expects to issue a visa to Mr. M.I. [146724]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* Following notification from the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal, the visa section at our high commission in Islamabad wrote to Mr. M. I. on 27 June asking him to submit his passport so they could issue the visa. The visa was subsequently issued on 5 July.

China: Tigers

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Chinese counterpart on *(a)* Chinese policy on tiger conservation and *(b)* the manner in which the Chinese State Forestry Administration International Workshop on Strategy for Tiger Conservation was organised; and if he will make a statement. [152026]

Meg Munn: We raise the issue of tiger conservation with our Chinese counterparts at every suitable opportunity. My hon. Friend the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Barry Gardiner) discussed illegal trade in tiger parts with the Chinese Vice Minister for Forestry in July 2006. We are aware of concerns over the organisation of the Chinese State Forestry Administration's International Workshop on Strategy for Tiger Conservation. We have noted that the International Tiger Coalition has proposed further discussions with the State Forestry Administration and would welcome such a move.

Departments: Flowers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by his Department on flowers in the last 12 months. [153043]

Mr. Jim Murphy: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only by examining individual invoices. This would incur disproportionate cost.

Departments: Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many press officers are employed by his Department. [153039]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has 28 press officers in London working with domestic, international, foreign and foreign language media and around 300 officials based in our overseas missions (including locally-engaged staff) whose duties include, to a greater or lesser extent, press and public affairs.

Departments: Legislation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Bills introduced by his Department in the last five years contained sunset clauses; and what plans he has for the future use of such clauses. [151844]

Mr. Jim Murphy: No such Bills have contained sunset clauses. The appropriateness of a sunset clause for the whole or part of any proposed legislation is considered on a case by case basis.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Bills introduced by his Department in the last five years did not contain sunset clauses; and if he will make a statement. [152482]

Meg Munn: None of the Bills introduced by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office during the relevant period have contained such a clause.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the name is of each special adviser in his Department. [153040]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has two special advisers, Madlin Sadler and Sarah Schaefer, who work a job-share.

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to which periodicals his Department subscribes. [153047]

Meg Munn: A current list of periodical titles to which the Foreign and Commonwealth Office subscribes will be placed in the Library of the House and a copy sent to the hon. Member.

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by his Department on staff away days in the last 12 months. [153050]

Mr. Jim Murphy: This information is not held centrally, as Foreign and Commonwealth Office Departments are responsible for their own budgets. To collate the information requested by the hon. Member would incur disproportionate cost.

Departments: Travel

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* business class and *(b)* first class flights in the last 12 months. [153044]

Meg Munn: This information is not available centrally in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and it would incur disproportionate cost to collate the information.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by his Department on first class train tickets in the last 12 months. [153045]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) spent £191,940 on claims for first-class train tickets submitted through our electronic expenses system between 1 July 2006 and 30 June 2007.

This figure includes most, but not all, first-class train travel by FCO staff. We do not hold central records of train tickets bought with corporate credit cards or for which paper claims are submitted. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Embassies

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which embassies had the seniority of their ambassadors downgraded in each of the last five years. [151030]

Meg Munn: We introduced our current banding system for classifying the rank of senior posts in 2004. It is therefore not straightforward to match changes in the status of posts from before 2004. However, the following Head of Mission posts have since 2002 been, or will in due course be, downgraded, while remaining in seniority terms part of the Senior Management Structure: Bandar Seri Begawan, Berne, Brasilia, Dublin, Hanoi, Havana, Kampala, Luxembourg, Lima, Lisbon, Muscat, Rome, UKDelegation to NATO Brussels, UKDelegation to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Paris, Valletta, Wellington.

The following posts are either no longer part of the Senior Management Structure or will be downgraded in due course: Abidjan (currently vacant), Belmopan, Dakar, Dushanbe, Gaborone, Georgetown, Guatemala City, the Holy See, La Paz, Lilongwe, Lusaka, Montevideo, Port Louis, Port of Spain, Pyongyang, Quito, Suva, Tashkent, UK Delegation to the Council of Europe Strasbourg, Yaounde.

A number of Consul-General or Head of Subordinate Post positions have also been downgraded or deleted.

The grading of all positions as Head of diplomatic post is kept under constant review, to reflect the responsibilities of each post.

European Reform Treaty

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in which areas will powers of national veto over European legislation and policy cease if the treaty agreed at the EU Council on 23 June comes into effect. [146189]

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will list *(a)* new and *(b)* existing articles that may be (i) introduced and (ii) moved to be subject to qualified majority voting under the terms of the Inter-governmental Conference Mandate; and if he will make a statement. [147729]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government expect the new Reform treaty to contain extensions of qualified majority voting (QMV) under 50 articles. However, the number of extensions that will apply to the UK will be significantly less than 50. We expect 13 extensions will not apply to the UK. Nine of these relate to Justice and Home Affairs (where we have secured an extension of our existing opt-in mechanism). Three relate to the euro (where our opt-out applies). One relates to social security (where we will have an emergency brake including a veto power).

Existing areas of policy activity moved from unanimity to QMV

1. Immigration and frontier controls (UK opt-in)
2. Judicial co-operation in criminal matters (UK opt-in)
3. Minimum rules for the definition of criminal offences and sanctions (UK opt-in)
4. Eurojust (structure, operation, field of action and tasks) (UK opt-in)
5. Police co-operation (data sharing and training) (UK opt-in)
6. Europol (structure, operation, field of action and tasks) (UK opt-in)
7. Social security measures to facilitate free movement of workers (emergency brake including a veto power)
8. Co-ordination of measures to facilitate self-employment in other member states
9. Measures implementing the common transport policy (removes existing limited derogation on the common transport policy)
10. Incentive measures to promote cultural awareness and diversity

Existing institutional/procedural measures moved from unanimity to QMV

11. Appointment of European Central Bank (ECB) executive board (UK opt-out)

12. The procedures for Comitology processes (rules enabling member states to oversee the Commission's exercise of its implementing powers)

13. Adoption of detailed financial rules for the establishment and implementation of the budget (including accounting and budgetary principles)

14. Specialised courts (establishment of specialised first instance courts)

15. Proposals for amending the statute of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) (the statute governs the terms of appointment, organisation and procedures of the ECJ)

16. Proposals from the Commission for amendments to certain parts of the statute of the European System of Central Banks

17. Presidency of Council configurations (arrangements for rotation)

Existing areas of policy activity where there is a new specific legal base subject to QMV

18. Measures necessary for the use of the euro (UK opt-out)

19. Measures relating to euro group co-ordination and surveillance (applicable only to eurozone members) (UK opt-out)

20. Establishment of integrated management system for external borders (UK opt-in)

21. Mechanism for peer review of member states' implementation of policies in the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) area (UK opt-in)

22. Measures to promote crime prevention (UK opt-in)

23. Implementation of own resources decisions

24. Provisions enabling repeal of the aspects of an article related to state aids policy and the effect of the past division of Germany

25. Procedure for entry into the euro (applies only to recommendations from eurozone

members to the Council on authorising entry)

26. Provisions enabling repeal of an article on transport policy as it affects areas of Germany affected by its past division

27. Authorisation, co-ordination and supervision of EU-level intellectual property rights protection

28. Clarification of how EU rules and principles apply to services of general economic interest (broadly, public services)

29. Measures to facilitate diplomatic and consular protection

30. EU humanitarian aid operations

31. Energy (measures on energy markets, energy security and energy saving)

32. Tourism (promotion of competitiveness and best practice)

33. Civil protection (promoting co-operation among member states to prevent or protect against natural or man-made disasters)

34. Implementation of solidarity clause (assistance, if requested, in the event of a natural or man-made disaster)

35. Creation of a 'start-up fund' for urgent Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) measures (for 'Petersberg' tasks)

36. Urgent EU aid to third countries

37. Definition of a general framework for implementing the existing Common Commercial Policy

New areas of EU policy activity subject to QMV

38. European Research Area (removal of barriers to free flow of research)

39. Space policy (measures to promote joint initiatives and research and development)

40. Incentive measures to promote sport

41. Administrative co-operation (capacity-building measures in new member states)

42. Membership of structured co-operation in defence (procedural issues relating to its establishment)

New institutional/procedural measures subject to QMV

43. Appointment of European Council President by the European Council

44. Appointment of High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy by the European Council

45. Council review of general rules on composition of the Committee of the Regions and European Economic and Social Committee

46. Citizens' initiatives (petition procedure)

47. Ensuring an open, efficient and independent European administration

48. Negotiation of withdrawal agreement

49. Operating rules for a consultative EU Judicial appointments panel (including

composition)

50. Role of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy in CFSP implementing measures (measures proposed by the High Representative following a specific request from the European Council).

European Union: Constitutions

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what definition he uses of *(a)* constitutional concept and *(b)* constitutional treaty in relation to the European Union. [151143]

Mr. Jim Murphy: As the then Prime Minister (right hon. Tony Blair) set out in his statement to Parliament on 25 June, the Reform treaty will differ fundamentally from the Constitutional treaty in both form and substance.

The Reform treaty rejects the Constitutional treaty approach. The mandate for the Reform treaty agreed by the European Council states clearly:

"The constitutional concept, which consisted in repealing all existing Treaties and replacing them by a single text called 'Constitution', is abandoned".

Guatemala: Trade Unions

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he made to the government of Guatemala on the safety of trade union activists in that country; and if he will make a statement. [153459]

Meg Munn: Our embassy in Guatemala City lobbied the government of Guatemala in conjunction with our EU partners on 20 February and bilaterally on 16 May, to carry out a full investigation into the death of a trade union activist, Pedro Zamora. We regularly encourage the government of Guatemala to improve the security situation for all Guatemalans.

Iraq: Documents

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the draft Iraq dossier written by Mr. John Williams of 9 September 2002 was requested by the chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee; and what purpose the draft served. [152956]

Mr. Jim Murphy: As my hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East (Dr. Howells) told the House on 13 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 293WH, John Williams's draft was prepared on his own initiative and not commissioned as part of the formal drafting process overseen by the then Joint Intelligence Committee chairman, John Scarlett.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs by what formal mechanism the final version of the Iraq dossier was agreed by the members of the Joint Intelligence Committee; and on what date agreement was reached. [152957]

Mr. Jim Murphy: John Scarlett, then chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC), explained the process through which the Government's draft dossier was drafted and cleared with the JIC in his evidence to Lord Hutton of 23 September 2003 (www.the-hutton-inquiry.org.uk, paragraphs 76-77). In his minute to the then Prime Minister (Mr. Blair) of 4 June 2003, also available on the Hutton inquiry website, Mr. Scarlett stated that the final draft was circulated to JIC members on 19 September and subsequently agreed by them.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether a copy of the draft Iraq dossier written by Mr. John Williams dated 9 September 2002 and given to the Hutton inquiry on 12 September 2003 was given to *(a)* the BBC and *(b)* other parties to the inquiry. [152958]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Cabinet Office provided a copy of John Williams's draft to Lord Hutton's inquiry in September 2003. Copies were not sent to either the BBC or other parties to the inquiry.

Iraq: Hezbollah

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of Hezbollah activity in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [148960]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We are analysing the extent of Hezbollah's involvement in Iraq and will take firm action against any armed groups in Iraq that attack our forces or otherwise seek to undermine the country's stability or the democratically elected government.

Iraq: Local Government

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Government will give support to the establishment in the Nineveh Plains and the Al-Shikhan and Al-Handaniya districts of Iraq of a province linked to the central government in Baghdad for the Chaldo Assyrians and others historically connected to that area; and if he will make a statement. [153461]

Meg Munn: Any decision regarding the establishment of new provinces in Iraq is a matter for the democratically elected Iraqi Government and the Iraqi people themselves. We remain opposed to dividing the country or creating enclaves along ethnic or sectarian lines. Many cities and areas of Iraq, including in Ninawa province, have strongly mixed ethnic and religious communities. While creating enclaves may hold superficial appeal, in practice this would be difficult to arrange and carry a significant risk of worsening, not alleviating violence.

Iraq: Religion

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Government will provide support to the Christian community of Iraq against attempts forcibly to Islamicise them; and if he will make a statement. [153462]

Meg Munn: We are aware of recent reports about the threats faced by Christians in the Dora area of Baghdad. We have raised this with the Iraqi Government who have told us the security force presence in the area has been increased to counter this threat. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and press, and support, the Iraqi Government in taking action to ensure all Iraqis are protected from such threats.

A sustainable improvement in security will only be possible if Iraq's political, ethnic and religious communities can work and live together in harmony. We will continue to support the Iraqi Government's efforts to promote reconciliation and national unity in this regard.

Israel: Nuclear Weapons

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 708W, on Israel: Non-Proliferation Treaty, whether Israel is a non-nuclear weapon state. [153705]

Meg Munn: The Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) defines a nuclear weapon state as: any state which has manufactured and exploded a nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive device prior to 1 January 1967. This definition is exclusive to the following states party: the People's Republic of China; the French Republic; the Russian Federation; the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and the United States of America.

As the State of Israel has never signed the NPT, it is classed as neither a Nuclear Weapon State, nor a Non-Nuclear Weapon State.

NATO: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on steps to be taken by the UK following the content of the final communiqué of the NATO Defence Ministers meeting of 14 and 15 June 2007 relating to work needed to enhance the ability to protect information systems of critical importance to the alliance against cyber attacks. [152306]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government's Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) is key to the UK's work on cyber defence. Since its formation on 1 February, CPNI has made an ongoing contribution to the cyber security of NATO and allies.

Pakistan: Violence

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications of recent violence in north Waziristan for the security situation in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [152307]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Since July 15 there has been a surge of violence in north Waziristan following the breakdown of the peace agreement negotiated between local tribal and religious leaders and the government of Pakistan in September 2006. The attacks have mostly been directed at members of the Pakistani army and security forces. Last week, President Musharraf described blocking the "rising tide of Talibanisation" as the biggest challenge facing his government and moved a further two army divisions to north and south Waziristan.

Pakistani support is central to our attempts to defeat the Taliban in Afghanistan and we recognise the significant steps Pakistan has taken, at considerable loss of life, to improve the rule of law in its border areas. We are encouraging both governments to intensify their security dialogue and to agree further measures to combat the Taliban and other insurgent groups opposing Afghanistan's peaceful reconstruction.

The security forces continue to monitor all the border areas including north and south Waziristan.

Prince Charles: Gifts and Endowments

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what basis Mr. Michael Fawcett was included in the process for the selection and purchase of official gifts given by HRH the Prince of Wales during his official visit to the US in 2005, as noted by Sir Michael Peat during his briefing to the press on Tuesday 26 June 2007 on the launch of the Prince of Wales's Review; and if he will make a statement. [152971]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Gifts are selected by the Royal Household under guidelines set by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether official gifts presented by the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall during their visit to the USA in 2007 were paid for by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; to whom they were given; what the gifts were; what the value was; which of the gifts' selection or purchase was the responsibility of Mr. Michael Fawcett; and if he will make a statement. [152972]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Official gifts presented by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cornwall during the visit to the USA in January were paid for by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). They were given to their hosts and those who played a major part in the organisation of the visit. The gifts consisted mainly of signed photographs of their Royal Highnesses and other mementoes.

Regarding the cost of gifts, I refer my hon. Friend to the reply my right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary (Margaret Beckett) gave to him on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 49-50W. A copy of the letter referred to in the reply has been placed in the Library of the House.

Gifts are selected by the Royal Household under guidelines set by the FCO.

Sudan: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the situation in Abyei County, Sudan, with particular reference to the implications of the introduction of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in this border area. [152342]

Meg Munn: The 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) established a Commission to demarcate the boundary of the disputed Abyei area. This Commission, to which the UK provided an expert, presented its final report to the presidency of Sudan in July 2005. The Misseriya tribe objected to the findings of the report, causing increased tension between it and Abyei's Dinka Ngok community. They are backed by the National Congress Party and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement respectively. The deadlock on the Commission's recommendations is unresolved but this need not delay the establishment of a civil administration in Abyei. While the parties deliberate, tensions remain and local people's access to basic services is restricted. We continue to urge the joint north/south Government of National Unity to implement the CPA in full.

Sudan: Violence

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the arrest of Mr. Oman Ibrahim, spokesperson of the Committee Against the Kajbar Dam, in northern Sudan on 20 July; and what representations he has made on the detention of lawyers and journalists following the shootings at the dam on 13 June 2007. [152814]

Meg Munn: The UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) Human Rights office is following Mr. Ibrahim's case closely. According to information from the Sudan Organisation Against Torture and UNMIS Human Rights, Mr. Ibrahim was arrested without a warrant and then transferred to Khartoum on 21 July. UNMIS Human Rights are expecting clarification of Mr Ibrahim's place of detention and are pressing the authorities to allow them access. UNMIS Human Rights also reported that the UN's Special Rapporteur for Human Rights, Sima Samarm, will visit Sudan soon to take this forward. UNMIS have asked her to raise the Kajbar Dam incident with her Sudanese government interlocutors.

The Greek EU presidency in Sudan plans to lead an EU démarche to the government of Sudan on the Kajbar incident. The UK is pressing the Greek presidency to take this matter forward urgently, as follow up to our earlier representations to the government of Sudan during the meeting of the EU-Sudan Dialogue on Human Rights on 21 June.

Syria

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the activities of the National Salvation Front in Syria; whether his Department has contact with this group; and if he will make a statement. [152789]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The National Salvation Front in Syria (NSF) is a coalition of exiled Syrian opposition groups. It was launched in March 2006. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have had occasional contact outside Syria with members of the NSF and other affiliated groups at a junior level. This is part of our routine contacts with a broad range of political groups concerned with Syria.

Uganda: Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 19 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 529W, on Uganda: Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference, what advice has been given to British police officers on their actions in the event of anti-government demonstrations; and if he will make a statement. [153451]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy) on 19 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 529W. No specific advice has been given to British police officers who will be present to provide protection for members of the Royal Family and Government Ministers throughout the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. They will take action necessary to ensure the safety of the VIPs they are protecting, including in the event of anti-government demonstrations.

USA: Terrorism

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the blanket overflight clearance for American military flights for operations against terrorism granted by the UK along with other NATO states on 12 September 2001 still applies; and if he will make a statement. [152308]

Mr. Jim Murphy: On 12 September 2001, the North Atlantic Council invoked article 5 of the Washington treaty. Following that decision NATO allies agreed to grant blanket overflight clearance to US and other allies' military flights subject to national procedures. This remains the case. Decisions of this type remain in force unless revoked by the North Atlantic Council.

Under UK procedures all flights through UK airspace must comply with UK law. We have also made clear that we expect to be consulted on any request to render a detainee through UK territory or airspace.

JUSTICE

Departments: Air Conditioning

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent by his Department and its predecessors and its agencies on the hire of mobile air conditioning units in each of the last five years. [151982]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice uses mobile air conditioning units only as a last resort, for example, when plant failure or exceptionally hot weather otherwise threatens continuity of service or the health and safety of employees. The costs are met from local budgets and cannot be separated from other local expenditure except at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how much the Department spent on *(a)* management consultants and *(b)* other external consultants and advisers in each year since 2000; and which of these consultants undertook work for the Department with a total contractual value in excess of £10 million over this period. [146333]

Maria Eagle: Since the Ministry of Justice was only formed on 9 May 2007, my response refers to the former Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) and those bodies which were formerly part of the Home Office which are now part of the new Department.

DCA

(a) Expenditure with consultants since 2000 was as follows:

	£ million
2000-01	2.6
2001-02	6.5
2002-03	5.7
2003-04	9.0
2004-05	10.6
2005-06	15.5
2006-07	10.7

Since 2000, DCA has spent in excess of £10 million with PA Consulting on a number of consultancy contracts over a number of years.

(b) Other than consultancy, DCA bought a range of other professional services including HR and legal services. Some of those contracts included the provision of advice, however, figures for the cost of obtaining this advice is not held separately from other expenditure and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR)

(a) Expenditure records are not available prior to 2003. Since 2003, expenditure with consultants was as follows:

	£
2003-04	125,000
2004-05	1,100,000
2005-06	3,600,000
2006-07	3,400,000

Since 2003, no supplier of consultancy services received payments in excess of £10 million.

(b) Other than consultancy, OCJR bought a range of other professional services including HR and legal services. Some of those contracts included the provision of advice, however, figures for the cost of obtaining this advice is not held separately from other expenditure and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

National Offender Management Service (NOMS)

(a) Expenditure records are not available prior to 2005. Since 2005, expenditure with consultants was as follows:

	£ million
2005-06	1.1
2006-07	1.87

Since 2005, no supplier of consultancy services has received payments in excess of £10 million.

(b) Information relating to other expenditure with external consultants and advisers since 2005 is as follows:

	£
2005-06	787,000
2006-07	2,100,000

HM Prison Service (HMPS)

(a) Expenditure records are not available prior to 2001. Since 2001, expenditure with consultants was as follows:

	£ million
2001-02	3.7
2002-03	4.1
2003-04	2.7
2004-05	7.1
2005-06	12.7
2006-07	12

Since 2001, no supplier of consultancy services has received payments in excess of £10 million.

(b) Other than consultancy, HM Prison Service bought a range of other professional services including HR and legal services. Some of those contracts included the provision of advice, however, figures for the cost of obtaining this advice is not held separately from other expenditure and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Employment Agencies

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Department paid in fees to recruitment agencies for *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent staff in each year since 1997. [151676]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice does not hold this information centrally and it is, therefore, not possible to collate this without incurring disproportionate costs.

The Ministry of Justice ensures that job vacancies are advertised in a wide range of publications, including those targeted at minority communities where it is appropriate. Details of vacancies are placed on the Civil Service Recruitment Website as the site of first choice for central government recruitment. There is no advertising cost associated with this facility.

As a part of the Civil Service reform agenda, at senior levels, applications from outside the Civil Service and from all sections of the community are encouraged. External recruitment support may be used to facilitate this.

Departments: Flint Bishop Solicitors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* its agencies have made payments to Flint Bishop Solicitors since 1997. [151394]

Maria Eagle: Details of payments made by the Ministry of Justice's predecessor the Department for Constitutional Affairs (which includes Her Majesty's Court Service, Tribunals Service and Public Guardianship Office) prior to the Ministry's formation on 9 May 2007 to Flint Bishop and Barnett Solicitors in each financial year since 1997 are as follows:

	£
1997-98	Nil
1998-99	86.46
1999-2000	Nil
2000-01	105.00
2001-02	553.00
2002-03	51.00
2003-04	90.00
2004-05	180.00
2005-06	Nil
2006-07	Nil
2007 to 9 May	Nil
Total	1,065.46

Since the formation of the Ministry of Justice on 9 May 2007, no payments have been made to Flint Bishop and Barnett Solicitors.

Departments: Legislation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which Bills introduced by his Department and its predecessors in areas within his Department's responsibility in the last five years did not contain sunset clauses; and if he will make a statement. [152481]

Maria Eagle: The appropriateness of a sunset clause for the whole or part of any Bill proposed by the Ministry of Justice is considered on a case by case basis. It is an issue that would be considered during the preparation of the regulatory impact assessment, which should accompany any Bill.

During the last five years, none of the Bills introduced on topics that now come under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice have included full sunset clauses.

The Gender Recognition Act 2004 contained a partial sunset clause in relation to "fast track" applications, which were permitted only in the first two years of operation of the Act. The European Parliamentary and Local Elections (Pilots) Act 2004 permitted the piloting of provisions relating to the conduct of elections on a specific occasion in 2004.

The list of the Bills introduced in the last five years coming under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice and which did not contain sunset clauses is as follows:

Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill 2007
Legal Services Bill 2007
Offender Management Bill 2007
Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Bill 2007
Compensation Act 2006
Electoral Administration Act 2006
Criminal Defence Service Act 2006
Fraud Act 2006
Emergency Workers (Obstruction) Act 2006
Inquiries Act 2005

Constitutional Reform Act 2005
Mental Capacity Act 2005
Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004
Courts Act 2003
Criminal Justice Act 2003
European Parliament (Representation) Act 2003
Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003
European Parliamentary Elections Act 2002
The Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002
Land Registration Act 2002
Public Trustee (Liability and Fees) Act 2002

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many overseas visits were made by *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers within his responsibility, and at what cost, in each year since 1997. [151654]

Maria Eagle: Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis, a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2006-07 was published on Wednesday 25 July 2007. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the civil service management code and the ministerial code. Providing information on the total number of visits by officials and Ministers and the costs of all visits would incur disproportionate cost.

Driving Offences: Fines

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average fine has been for persons convicted of an offence under section *(a)* 14(3) and *(b)* 41D of the Road Traffic Act 1988. [152860]

Maria Eagle: Information collected centrally, and held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, on police action taken for motoring seat belt offences is combined and does not distinguish between the offence of driving/riding in a motor vehicle not wearing a seat belt (s14 (3) of the Road Traffic Act 1988) and that of driving a motor vehicle with child not wearing a seat belt (s15 (2) and 15 (4) of the Road Traffic Act 1988).

Section 41D of the Road Traffic Act 1988 (as inserted by the Road Safety Act 2006) came into force on 27 February 2007. Data on its operation will be available in 2009.

National Offender Management Service: Manpower

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice by what means the manpower needs of the National Offender Management Service are assessed; and what processes are in place to ensure such needs are met. [152351]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is a commissioner of services. NOMS assesses and determines its direct staffing needs by the normal budget and planning cycles with due regard to broader Government policies.

The national probation service

The 42 probation areas within the national probation service are required to supply detailed workforce information to NOMS on a quarterly basis. This information is collated and published in the form of a quarterly work force information report. This report is used to identify trends and to inform strategic decisions about future requirements.

Local probation areas are invited to bid annually for the number of centrally funded trainee probation officer places they require. This enables them to ensure that they maintain a sufficient flow of qualified probation officers in the work force. Other grades of staff are recruited locally, as required by the local area probation board.

NOMS funds probation officer training via the Diploma in Probation Studies programme and also provides materials and some funding for the training of probation services officers.

As at December 2006 (the latest figures available), the national gap against active vacancies was 3.87 per cent. (0.84 per cent. for probation officers and 3.03 per cent. for probation service officers).

HM Prison Service

Staffing requirements in the public sector Prison Service are collated centrally based on returns by each establishment and headquarters group. Recruitment is undertaken according to the needs of establishments and geographical areas. This is a flexible approach according to needs. These plans are monitored against actual staff numbers monthly by senior managers.

As at 30 June 2007, the current national gap between total staffing availability against requirement in the unified grades was 1.3 per cent. (344 staff).

Open Prisons

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* very high risk and *(b)* high risk prisoners are serving sentences in open prisons. [150501]

Mr. Hanson: Only prisoners classified as category D, the lowest security category, and thus assessed as presenting a low risk, are eligible for open conditions.

In the case of offenders sentenced to indeterminate sentences, they may be placed in open conditions only on a recommendation of the Parole Board, which has been accepted by the Secretary of State.

In either case, offenders will be placed in an open prison, following an individual and rigorous risk assessment. In all cases, the protection of the public is paramount.

The National Offender Management Service now also uses the Offender Assessment System (OASys) in order to assess the risk of serious harm represented by offenders. Probation officers have been undertaking OASys assessments for offenders already placed in open prisons, following the risk assessment processes that were in place at the time.

According to the OASys assessments, as at 26 July, there were three offenders in all open prisons who had been assessed as very high risk of serious harm. At the same date, according to information provided so far by open establishments, there are around 250 offenders in all open prisons who have been assessed as high risk of serious harm.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* high risk and *(b)* very high risk prisoners are housed at Leyhill open prison; and how many in each category are housed in open prisons nationally. [150993]

Mr. Hanson: Only prisoners classified as category D, the lowest security category, and thus assessed as presenting a low risk, are eligible for open conditions.

In the case of offenders sentenced to indeterminate sentences, they may be placed in open conditions only on a recommendation of the Parole Board, which has been accepted by the Secretary of State.

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According to the OASys assessments, in Leyhill Open Prison, as at 26 July, there were two offenders who had been assessed as very high risk of serious harm and 48 offenders who had been assessed as high risk of serious harm.

According to the OASys assessments, as at 26 July, there were three offenders in all open prisons who had been assessed as very high risk of serious harm. At the same date, according to information provided so far by open establishments, there are around 250 offenders in all open prisons who have been assessed as high risk of serious harm.

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many three-bed cells are in use in each institution being used by the Prison Service in England and Wales. [152788]

Mr. Hanson: The number of three-bed cells are shown in the following table. Only 36 of these establishments have three-bed cells. The cells at Birmingham, Preston, Gloucester, Leyhill, North Sea Camp and Whatton are currently not in use as of 24 July 2007.

Number of three-bed cells in use in each prison establishment as of 24 July 2007

Establishment	*Number of cells with a maximum capacity of three*
Acklington	4
Askham Grange	7
Bedford	12
Birmingham	2
Blakenhurst	2
Bullingdon	2
East Sutton Park	5
Elmley	245
Erlestoke	2
Foston Hall	2
Glen Parva	3
Gloucester	1
Guys Marsh	9
Haslar	32
Hewell Grange	1
High Down	168
Kingston	2
Latchmere House	4
Leicester	4
Lewes	1
Leyhill	1
Liverpool	9
Low Newton	1
New Hall	2
North Sea Camp	1
Norwich	6
Onley	2
Preston	5
Rochester	3
Styal	30
Swansea	7
Usk	3
Wakefield	7
Wandsworth	4
Whatton	1
Winchester	23
Total	618

Prison Service: Uniforms

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost of the planned replacement of the uniform of prison officers working in young offender institutions. [152018]

Maria Eagle: Officers working in the juvenile estate wear a relaxed style of uniform consistent with the Prison Service's approach to working with this age group. Various permutations are permitted at the discretion of Governors at prisons housing more than one category of prisoner.

Implementation was organised locally and staged across a two year period. Any attempt to ascertain additional costs to the Prison Service would therefore be complex and would incur disproportionate costs.

Reoffenders

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted of a crime while serving a prison term in each of the last 10 years, broken down by category of offence. [150149]

Mr. Hanson: Information is not available on the number of offences committed in prison which subsequently lead to court proceedings.

Mr. Jack: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the reoffending rate was of prisoners from each prison in the latest period for which figures are available. [152086]

Mr. Hanson: Re-offending rates are not available for individual prisons. Prison information is not included in the standard datasets used to calculate the national

level re-offending rates. In addition, since many prisoners serve their sentence in a number of different prisons it is not possible to relate their subsequent re-offending to a single prison.

Secure Psychiatric Units

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the possible use of spare capacity in secure psychiatric hospitals to accommodate *(a)* male and *(b)* female adult sentenced prisoners. [152349]

Mr. Hanson: Since taking up his position my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice has had no discussions with the Secretary of State for Health on this subject.

There were discussions at ministerial and official level between the Home Office and the Department of Health prior to 9 May 2007 and the creation of the Ministry of Justice. These discussions continued at official level once responsibility for prison policy transferred to the Ministry of Justice.

HMP Kennet, which opened in June 2007, was converted from a former secure hospital. There are few unused mental health units in existence and it takes considerable time and investment to convert them meaning that building new capacity in existing prisons usually represents better value for money. Any spare mental health capacity is usually in beds within units, rather than whole units, and so is not suitable for redesignation.

If an individual is serving a prison sentence and suffers from severe mental illness, they can only be transferred to detention in mental health secure accommodation if they meet the strict criteria of the Mental Health Act 1983. Detention in secure NHS facilities other than under the Mental Health Act 1983 would be unlawful.

Future prison capacity is being considered by Lord Carter of Coles who is due to report in the autumn of 2007.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Asbestos: Industrial Health and Safety

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of businesses in the UK which are not fully compliant with the asbestos regulations. [149890]

Mrs. McGuire: No such estimate has been made.

Inspectors from the Health and Safety Executive, local authorities, Her Majesty's Custom and Excise and the Office of the Rail Regulator monitor compliance with those asbestos regulations dealing with health and safety matters when visiting premises in Great Britain and will issue notices or undertake prosecutions in accordance with the Health and Safety Commission's enforcement policy when businesses fail to comply.

HSE also publishes research undertaken on levels of compliance with particular asbestos regulations on its website such as the recently published "Cascading messages through others—the effect on awareness of, and compliance with the duty to manage asbestos regulations" (RR559).

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many prosecutions have been brought in the last five years against businesses failing to comply with asbestos regulations; and how many asbestos-related deaths have occurred during the last five years. [149891]

Mrs. McGuire: In the five-year period 2001-02 to 2005-06 there were 257 offences prosecuted by the HSE's Field Operations Directorate (FOD) and local authorities under asbestos regulations in Great Britain, of which there were 195 convictions. A yearly breakdown of offences prosecuted is provided in the following table.

	Offences prosecuted	*Convictions*	*Total fines (£)*	*Average fine (£)*
2001-02	77	63	120,800	1,917
2002-03	49	35	100,500	2,871
2003-04	57	48	116,100	2,419
2004-05	28	24	145,950	6,081
2005-06	46	25	76,750	3,070

There is no single source of data that gives the total number of asbestos-related deaths. The number of deaths from mesothelioma and asbestosis combined in Great Britain in each of the last five years for which data are available are given in the following table.

Great Britain

	Number
2000	1,819
2001	2,095
2002	2,101
2003[1]	2,120
2004[1]	2,235

[1] Provisional

Sources: HSE GB mesothelioma register
HSE GB asbestosis register

The total number of asbestos-related lung cancer deaths cannot be directly enumerated, since asbestos-related lung cancers (other than mesothelioma) are clinically indistinguishable from lung cancers due to other causes. Current evidence suggests that the number of other asbestos-related lung cancer deaths is similar to the number of deaths due to mesothelioma. Therefore, since mesothelioma deaths account for the vast majority in the above tabled, the total number of deaths due to asbestos is likely to be approximately double that given above.

Average Earnings: Elderly

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average income of those aged over 65 years *(a)* was in 1997 and *(b)* is now. [152648]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information that is available is shown in the following table.

Average gross income of pensioner units where the head is aged 65 or over (per week, 2005-06 prices)

	1997-98	£ 2005-06
Pensioner couples	369	445
Single pensioners	178	233

Notes

1. Gross income is income from all sources received by the pensioner unit including income from social security benefits, earnings from employment, any private pension, and tax credits.
2. Based on survey data and as such subject to a degree of sampling and non sampling error.
3. Figures are for Great Britain.
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £
5. Pensioner units are either pensioner couples or single pensioners.
6. Pensioner couples are couples where one or more of the adults are state pension age or over.
7. The head of the benefit unit in most cases will be the same as the head of household. Head of household is classified as the highest income householder (person in whose name the property is owned or rented) without regard to gender. For households where the pensioner benefit unit does not include the head of household, the head of benefit unit will be the first person interviewed in the benefit unit.

Source:

Pensioners' Income Series 2005-06 (Revised)

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what obligations will be placed on non-resident parents to report changes of *(a)* employment, *(b)* income and *(c)* address under the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission; and if he will make a statement. [146140]

Mr. Plaskitt: There are no plans to require non-resident parents to report such changes in circumstances.

Maintenance will normally be based on income figures provided by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) for the latest available tax year. But if the non-resident parent's income changes, and their current income is higher or lower than the HMRC figure by 25 per cent. or more, the non-resident parent or parent with care will be able to report this as a change of circumstance. The maintenance calculation would then be reviewed and based on the non-resident parent's current income.

Child Support Agency

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of Child Support Agency liability orders contained inaccuracies in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [146143]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 25 June 2007, *Official report*, column 431W.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the responsibilities are of the hon. Member for Warwick and Leamington (Mr. Plaskitt) with regard to the Child Support Agency. [152070]

Mr. Plaskitt: My noble Friend Lord McKenzie of Luton has the policy lead for the Child Support Agency. I have portfolio responsibility for the Child Support Agency in the House of Commons.

Child Support Agency: Arrears

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Child Support Agency (CSA) has authority to make advance payments of arrears in cases where the arrears are due to error on the part of the CSA; and if he will make a statement. [150572]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 18 July 2007]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 26 July 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Child Support Agency (CSA) has authority to make advance payments of arrears in cases where the arrears is due to error on the part of the CSA; and if he will make a statement. [150572]

An advance payment of maintenance is a discretionary lump sum payment of arrears made to a parent with care by the Agency before the money is collected from the non-resident parent. The criteria which must be met before the Agency can authorise payment are set out in the Advance Payments of Maintenance Guide, which can be found at http://intralink/2/csa/guides/apm_guide/apm_guide.htm.

Where there is a request for an advance payment of maintenance the Agency will thoroughly investigate the circumstances of a case to determine whether it is a valid request. Only those cases where maladministration is established and that satisfy all the pre-defined administrative criteria can be considered.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency: Debt Collection

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the amount of Child Support Agency arrears which is recoverable; how much of that he expects to be recovered by *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2010, *(c)* 2011, *(d)* 2012, *(e)* 2015 and *(f)* 2020; and if he will make a statement. [146168]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Agency has committed this year, under the Operational Improvement Plan, to collect £970 million in child support maintenance of which at least £120 million is arrears. The Agency has estimated £1.4 billion of existing arrears is collectable.

The Government propose in the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill to introduce powers to encourage ongoing compliance by extending the range of enforcement powers that are currently available to the Agency and streamlining the framework in which they are used. The Bill also proposes to introduce powers so that the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission will be able to manage debt more effectively. Subject to parliamentary approval the Commission will be able to:

negotiate debt settlements; with agreement of the PWC.

recover arrears from the estate of deceased non-resident parents;

offset child maintenance liabilities; and

write off debt in very limited circumstances, typically with agreement of PWC.

Future arrears recovery targets have yet to be agreed.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Child Support Agency cases involved committal proceedings in each of the last five years. [147934]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty dated 26 July 2007:

In reply to your recent parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many Child Support Agency cases involved committal proceedings in each of the last five years. [147934]

The information you asked for is provided in the attached table. This includes sentences passed for England, Wales and Scotland.

Commitment to prison or disqualification from holding a driving licence is the ultimate sanction available to the courts for recovery of arrears of Child Support maintenance. If the non-resident parent is found guilty of wilful refusal or culpable neglect the court will decide which of the available sanctions is the most appropriate.

I hope you find this answer helpful

Numbers of committals and driving licences disqualifications

	April 2002 to March 2003	*April 2003 to March 2004*	*April 2004 to March 2005*	*April 2005 to March 2006*	*February 2006 to January 2007*
Number of suspended prison sentences passed	36	107	[1]225	[1]390	[1]385
Number of prison service sentences passed	4	9	[1]5	[1]15	[1]40
Number of suspended driving licence disqualification sentences passed	7	9	[1]25	[1]35	[1]30
Number of driving licence disqualification sentences passed	1	1	[1]5	[1]5	[1]5

[1] Sourced from the Agency's quarterly summary statistics. Prior to April 2004, the figures given were clerically collated and are actual figures, not subject to rounding.

Notes:

1. Figures sourced from the Agency's quarterly summary statistics are rounded to the nearest five.
2. The figures for 2006-07 are from February 2006 to January 2007 and these are the latest available published figures.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* liability orders, *(b)* county court orders, *(c)* third party debt orders and *(d)* property charging orders were secured by the Child Support Agency in each of the last five years. [147935]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 26 July 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many (a) liability orders (b) county court orders (c) third party debt orders and (d) property charging orders were secured by the Child Support Agency in each of the last five years.

To enable us to provide you with as much information as possible, we are providing figures on how many orders for recovery have been granted by the County Courts with subsequent registration of the order as county court judgements, and the number of Child Support Agency orders registered by the Agency in the Register of Judgements, Orders and Fines.

The information available is displayed in the attached table. Robust information is not available in relation to the number of orders for recovery third party debt and charging orders granted prior to the introduction of the new Management Information database during 2003.

An order for recovery is required prior to undertaking any County Court actions such as third party debt orders or charging orders. The Agency does not distinguish between the number of charging orders granted in respect of property as opposed to other assets such as stock and shares or interest in trusts. The data supplied in the gable is therefore in respect of all charging orders granted.

Once a liability order has been granted, if it has been determined that actions taken via the County Court are appropriate to recover the arrears due to the Agency, the liability order will be registered in the County Court and an 'order for recovery' obtained. The County Courts have the responsibility for registering the liability order as a county court judgment.

The Agency may also enter the liability order in the Register of Judgments, Orders and Fines (for England and Wales) as a Child Support Agency order. This register is used by credit reference agencies to establish someone's credit rating and can affect membership of a professional body or employment status.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Number of liability orders granted and Child Support Orders registered for the past five years ending March 2007

	April 2002 to March 2003	*April 2003 to March 2004*	*April 2004 to March 2005*	*April 2005 to March 2006*	*April 2006 to March 2007*
Liability Orders granted	2,383	3,885	*7,760	*11,245	*13,335
Order for Recoveries registered (county court orders)	—	—	1,965	2,947	4,037
Third Party Debt Orders secured	—	—	398	316	396
Charging Orders Secured	—	—	409	818	1,142

Number of liability orders granted and Child Support Orders registered for the past five years ending March 2007

	April 2002 to March 2003	April 2003 to March 2004	April 2004 to March 2005	April 2005 to March 2006	April 2006 to March 2007
Child Support Orders registered	284	513	1,315	2,328	1,922

Notes:
1. A liability order is a document obtained from the court showing that they legally recognise that the debt is owed. This is the same in both England and Wales and Scotland. This is required before the Agency can use litigation powers (Diligence in Scotland).
2. The figures marked with an asterix* are sourced from the Agency's Quarterly Summary Statistics. Prior to April 2004, the figures given were clerically collated and are actual figures, not subject to rounding.
3. Figures sourced from the Agency's Quarterly Summary Statistics are rounded to the nearest five.
4. The Liability Order figures for 2006-07 are from February 2006 to January 2007 and these are the latest figures are published available.
5. The registration of the liability order as a county court judgment in the Register of Judgments, Orders and Fines (for England and Wales) is the responsibility of the County Courts. The data provided therefore is the number of orders for recovery obtained and the number of Child Support orders registered by the Agency in the Register of Judgments Orders and Fines.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what projections he has made of the level of disregard for child maintenance necessary to lift 100,000 children out of poverty. [150782]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 19 July 2007]:* Around 80,000 children could be lifted out of poverty by extending the £10 disregard to existing old scheme cases, increasing the flat rate from £5 per week to £7 per week and increasing the proportion of parents with care who are in receipt of maintenance. These measures were outlined in the child maintenance White Paper 'A new system of child maintenance'.

The level of the disregard has not yet been decided. In the regulatory impact assessment which accompanied the publication of the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill, we published a prudent estimate, based on the assumption of a £20 disregard, that the reforms would lift an additional 100,000 children out of poverty. Clearly, a higher disregard would lead to a greater number of children being lifted out of poverty.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 206W, on children: maintenance, if he will investigate the Chief Executive of the Child Support Agency's claims *(a)* that he encourages the use of the telephone as the primary means of communication between offices and *(b)* that the same administrative and procedural rules apply to all offices of the agency. [152804]

Mr. Plaskitt: I can reassure the hon. Member for North Durham that the Agency actively encourages the use of the telephone as the primary means of communication between offices to update or discuss particulars on a case. There is a local service level agreement with CSA Bolton that, in the specific circumstance of dealing with a complaint on a clerical case, we initiate communication in writing to ensure all the necessary information to progress and resolve the client's concerns is to hand.

I can also reassure the hon. Member that all Child Support Agency offices, including CSA Bolton, are subject to the same legislative and procedural rules when administering a case.

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the effectiveness of the policy of naming and shaming non-resident parents on his Department's website for not meeting Child Support Agency payments. [153472]

Mr. Plaskitt: We have carefully considered both the responses to our 'naming and shaming' policy and the initial impact that this policy has had since the first set of names were posted on the Child Support Agency website last month.

We have also listened carefully to the concerns raised by stakeholders and others around the potential impact of the current policy. The interests of children are paramount in everything we do.

Initial consideration of the impact of the first names being published has shown that the number of visits on the relevant section of the website peaked on the day the policy was launched. However it quickly returned to previous levels—suggesting low levels of patronage of this part of the website and therefore questioning its potential effectiveness.

In light of this we will not publish further names at this time whilst we would keep under consideration whether this policy has a role to play in the future. In the mean time the CSA will be focusing its expanded debt and enforcement team on a wider range of initiatives that are intended to help improve compliance. These methods include making more use of credit reference agencies and HMRC data and introducing more flexible payment methods. In the future the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission will be building on this, introducing further enforcement measures to maximise compliance.

Departments: Common Purpose

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department paid to Common Purpose in each of the last five years; for what purpose; and what the outcome of the expenditure was. [147601]

Mrs. McGuire: A number of DWP senior managers have attended leadership courses run by Common Purpose in the last five years. The total expenditure for each of the last five years is listed in the following table. The courses have helped improve leadership skills. Given the nature of these courses, they have also helped foster valuable partnerships in the local community which can be used to improve the service offered to our customers.

	£ Total Spend[1]
2002-03	43,452
2003-04	72,691
2004-05	48,980
2005-06	43,111
2006-07	31,161

[1] Rounded to nearest £1

Departments: Flint Bishop Solicitors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have made payments to Flint Bishop solicitors since 1997. [151377]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions have no records of making any payments to a company called Flint Bishop Solicitors. However it has made payments to a company called Flint Bishop and Barnett. The information shown in the following table is for payments made to Flint Bishop and Barnett solicitors.

Payments made to Flint Bishop and Barnett solicitors since 1997 to date

	£ Amount
1997	229.13
1999	4,914.73
2001	1,206.00
2003	8,591 .04
2004	45,523.22
2005	1,466.56
2006	411.56

Departments: Legislation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which Bills introduced by his Department in the last five years did not contain sunset clauses; and if he will make a statement. [152490]

Mrs. McGuire: The Bills introduced by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) in the last five years which did not contain sunset clauses were the Bills for the State Pension Credit Act 2002, the Age-Related Payments Act 2004, the Pensions Act 2004, the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 and the Child Benefit Act 2005— and also the Child Maintenance and other Payments Bill and the Pensions Bill which are currently before Parliament.

The Bill for the Welfare Reform Act 2007 did contain such a clause: see section 31(3).

The appropriateness of a sunset clause for the whole or part of any proposed legislation is considered on a case-by-case basis. It is also addressed when a regulatory impact assessment relating to legislation is being prepared.

Departments: Ministerial Red Boxes

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many ministerial red boxes his Department bought in each of the last five years; what the cost of each was; who the suppliers were; and what tendering process was used in selecting them. [150406]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department has bought a total of 12 boxes in the last five years, as detailed in the following table.

	Number of Boxes	Cost of each box (£)
2003	6	1 @ 565
		5 @ 585
2004	0	—
2005	3	1 @ [1]385
		1 @ 510
		1 @ 515
2006	2	2 @ 529
2007	1	1 @ 730

[1] Cost reduced as supplier was able to use salvaged lock in new box.

The boxes are ordered from Banner Business Supplies (formerly the Stationery Office).

The Department has not been involved in any tendering process for the supply of boxes.

Departments: Sick Leave

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the expenditure by his Department on managing and rehabilitating sick employees of his Department in the last 12 months. [152157]

Mrs. McGuire: Managing and rehabilitating employees is carried out in conjunction with the Department's Occupational Health provider. In the period July 2006 to June 2007 the Department spent a total of £3.147million on occupational health services.

Departments: Visits Abroad

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much each of the agencies of his Department spent on foreign travel in each of the last five years. [150041]

Mrs. McGuire: Details of the total departmental spend on foreign travel, including travel to European Union countries, in the 12 months since June 2006 is provided as follows. Information prior to this date or by agency is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

	£
Overseas hotels	80,354
Overseas air	638,404
Overseas rail	99,955
Total	818,713

Employment

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the implications for employment policy of the report by the Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research at Sheffield Hallam University on the real level of unemployment. [147942]

Mrs. McGuire: This report understates the improvement in the labour market over the last 10 years. Since 1997, the number of people in work has increased by over 2.5 million and the numbers claiming out of work benefits is down by over 900,000.

The Government have re-affirmed its commitment to employment opportunity for all—the modern definition of full employment. The long-term aim is an employment rate equivalent to 80 per cent. of the working age population.

This means that, while the 45 per cent. fall in the number claiming Jobseeker's Allowance since 1997 is an important achievement, the focus of the Government's effort to help people re-engage with work extends much more widely—particularly lone parents, those on incapacity benefits and others at a disadvantage in the labour market.

These policies are bearing fruit. Since 1997 there has been a significant improvement in reduction of unemployment, especially long-term unemployment. Over the same period the number claiming lone parent benefits is down by over 230,000 and the number on incapacity benefits, which is falling for the first time in decades, has reached a seven year low.

Employment: Absent Parents

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research his Department has undertaken into the employment rate of non-resident parents. [152072]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 24 July 2007]:* In 2001 the Department conducted a large survey of the Child Support Agency caseload (DWP report 152) which profiled both persons with care and non-resident parents and most of the non-resident parents (61 per cent.) were in full-time employment at this time.

At the moment the Department is currently conducting the relationship separation survey which interviews CSA and non CSA persons with care and non-resident parents and covers employment. The results of this research will be published in January 2008.

Hazardous Substances: Storage

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* additional and *(b)* amended advice has been issued on the separation from each type of hazardous material storage of (i) other businesses, (ii) residential homes and (iii) schools and other establishments following the Buncefield fire; and if he will make a statement. [149918]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* HSE published a consultation document (CD) 'Proposals for revised policies for HSE advice on development control around large-scale petrol storage' in February 2007. This set out a number of options:

Option 1—no change to land use planning (LUP) advice;

Option 2—change size of consultation distance and zones, based on hazard;

Option 3—change size of consultation distance (as option 2) and development sensitivity levels;

Option 4—change size of Consultation Distance informed by risk, and adopt new development proximity zone to give more restrictive advice.

The consultation period closed on 22 May and responses are being analysed.

HSE had previously written in December 2006 to all planning authorities identified as having at least one similar installation to the Buncefield depot. This letter asked planning authorities, ahead of the CD's publication, not to progress pre-application discussions with developers about any proposal within 250 metres of the site boundary which would add to the number of people in the area, or any significant public use development up to 400 metres from the boundary.

Hazards: Housing

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Health and Safety Executive on separation distances needed between Control of Major Accident Hazard sites and residential houses, with particular reference to liquefied natural gas storage facilities; and if he will make a statement. [150806]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

I have had no such discussions.

It is a matter for HSE under the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990 to set a consultation distance around major hazards sites and to notify the relevant Local Planning Authority (LPA). The Town and Country (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 requires the LPA to consult HSE about certain proposed developments within any consultation distance and on any applications for hazardous substances consent.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many incapacity benefit claimants have transferred from claiming incapacity benefit to *(a)* pension credit and *(b)* any other benefit in each month since November 2004. [152330]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 24 July 2007]:* The available information is in the following table.

Number of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance terminations where the claimant moved on to other benefits

Quarter ending	*Number who flowed on to pension credit*	*Number who flowed on to income support*	*Number who flowed on to jobseeker's allowance*
November 2004	1,300	34,500	22,800
February 2005	1,900	32,200	21,800
May 2005	1,700	37,100	22,600
August 2005	1,500	34,500	20,400
November 2005	1,200	34,800	19,200
February 2006	1,800	35,300	18,900
May 2006	1,900	38,100	19,000
August 2006	2,100	40,700	20,400
November 2006	[1]1,200	[1]34,100	[1]12,900

[1] Figures for the latest quarter do not include any late notifications and are subject to major changes in future quarters. For illustration purposes, total commencements for May 2004 increased by 18 per cent in the year following their initial release.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

Figures represent people who moved to pension credit, income support or jobseeker's allowance within seven days of the IB/SDA claim ending.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 5 per cent. terminations dataset.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* 20 Parliamentary constituencies and *(b)* 20 local authorities were with the highest number of incapacity benefit claimants in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many there were in each such constituency and local authority. [152645]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following tables.

20 parliamentary constituencies with the highest number of incapacity benefit/severe disablement Allowance claimants—November 2006

Parliamentary Constituency	*Number of claimants*
Glasgow East	10,750
Glasgow North East	10,580
Liverpool Riverside	9,960
Manchester Central	9,790
Easington	8,900
Manchester Blackley	8,890
Regents Park and Kensington North	8,870
Glasgow Central	8,800
Liverpool Walton	8,560
Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney	8,530
Rhondda	8,470
Rutherglen and Hamilton West	8,320
Caerphilly	8,220
Glasgow South West	8,220
Blackpool South	7,950
Liverpool West Derby	7,780
Blackburn	7,720
Rochdale	7,690
Glasgow North West	7,680
Middlesbrough	7,590

Note:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. WPLS

20 local authorities with the highest number of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants—November 2006

Local authority	*Number of claimants*
Glasgow City	58,030
Birmingham	54,610
Liverpool	39,190
Manchester	36,140
Leeds	31,010
Sheffield	26,190
North Lanarkshire	25,700
Bradford	24,790
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	22,480
Edinburgh, City of	22,370
Wigan	21,230
Bristol, City of	21,170
Sunderland	21,110

20 local authorities with the highest number of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants—November 2006

Local authority	*Number of claimants*
Fife	20,320
South Lanarkshire	20,300
Wirral	20,110
Wakefield	19,890
Stoke-on-Trent	19,280
Cardiff	18,310
Kirklees	17,960

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100 Per cent. WPLS

Low Incomes

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people lived in households earning less than 40 per cent. of median income *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* in 2006, broken down by region. [152027]

Caroline Flint: *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* The information requested is not available.

Mesothelioma

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people died from mesothelioma in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north east and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [150558]

Mrs. McGuire: The number of mesothelioma deaths which occurred in South Tyneside, the north east, and England is given in the following table. Death statistics for mesothelioma are not held in a form which allows data for individual UK constituencies to be readily available.

	Place of death		
	South Tyneside	*North East*	*England*
1997	15	126	1,181
1998	12	100	1,334
1999	8	119	1,406
2000	15	123	1,425
2001	18	154	1,630
2002	9	127	1,622
2003[1]	8	112	1,641
2004[1]	15	134	1,718

[1] Provisional.

Source:

HSE Great Britain Mesothelioma Register

Minimum Wage

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will link the permitted work upper earnings level to the minimum wage; and if he will make a statement. [152149]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 24 July 2007]:* The permitted work upper earnings limit has been linked to the national minimum wage since it was introduced in 2002. It will be increased from £86 a week to £88.50 a week from 1 October this year to maintain this link.

Pension Funds: Divorce

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effectiveness with which pension fund trustees are carrying out their functions in relation to divorcees under the new rules on pension sharing; and if he will make a statement. [152560]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Pension sharing on divorce became available for all new divorces commenced on or after 1 December 2000, to enable divorcing couples to achieve a fair financial settlement.

All trustees are required to have a knowledge and understanding of the law relating to pensions.

Pensioners: Income

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average weekly income of *(a)* a pensioner couple and *(b)* a single pensioner in (i) the UK, (ii) Yorkshire and Humber and (iii) City of York constituency was in (A) real and (B) cash terms in (1) 1997 and (2) the latest date for which figures are available. [152211]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information that is available is shown in the following tables. Information cannot be provided at a lower level than government office region.

Average gross weekly income by family type in real terms (£ per week, 2005-06 prices)

	1997-98—1999-2000	2003-04—2005-06
Pensioner couples		
Yorkshire and Humber	380	440
Great Britain	400	482
United Kingdom	n/a	480
Single pensioners		
Yorkshire and Humber	178	217
Great Britain	191	229
United Kingdom	n/a	229

Average gross weekly income by family type in cash terms (£ per week)

	1997-98—1999-2000	2003-04—2005-06
Pensioner couples		
Yorkshire and Humber	324	428
Great Britain	341	469
United Kingdom	n/a	468
Single pensioners		
Yorkshire and Humber	152	211
Great Britain	163	224
United Kingdom	n/a	223

Notes:
1. Gross income is income from all sources received by the pensioner unit including income from social security benefits, earnings from employment, any private pension, and tax credits.
2. Based on survey data and as such subject to a degree of sampling and non sampling error.
3. Figures are based on the average of three years' data as single year estimates do not provide a robust guide to year-on-year changes. Figures in real terms represent the average of the three individual years, each shown in 2005-06 prices. For this reason, cash figures (based on the cash figures for each year) do not equal the values in real terms for the period 2003-04—2005-06.
4. Data for the United Kingdom are not available for the period 1997-98 to 1999-2000.
5. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £.
6. Pensioner units are either pensioner couples or single pensioners.
7. Pensioner couples are couples where one or more of the adults are state pension age or over.

Source:
Pensioners' Income Series 2005-06 (Revised)

Pensions: Females

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women in the UK are not eligible to receive a full state pension. [152650]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As of August 2006 there were around 3.5 million women of state pension age in Great Britain not receiving a full basic State Pension.

Notes:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 50,000.

Figures refer to women living in GB as UK data are not available.

The full rate of basic State Pension in August 2006 was £84.25 per week.

A full basic State Pension is paid to those who fully satisfy the contribution conditions either in their own right or where applicable, on the basis of their late or former spouse's contributions.

Source:

Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study. The data is available via the Tabulation Tool on the Department's website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

Pensions: Financial Assistance Scheme

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether the Financial Assistance Scheme asks qualifying pension schemes to provide information which could enable it to determine whether the employer in relation to the scheme took a contributory holiday at any stage; [152340]

(2) whether he intends to undertake research on the extent to which employers in relation to qualifying schemes for the Financial Assistance Scheme took contribution holidays. [152341]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There is no requirement on the Department to request or hold information relating to pension contribution holidays. I have no plans to undertake such research.

Pensions: Low Income

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of pensioners in the UK receive the minimum level of weekly income in retirement as defined by the Government. [152651]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The guarantee credit element of Pension Credit ensures people aged 60 or over have a minimum guaranteed weekly income of £119.05 for single people and £181.70 for couples. This is known as the standard minimum guarantee. There are £1.5 million beneficiaries of the standard minimum guarantee, which represents around 12 per cent. of the population aged 60 or over. This does not include people who are entitled to additional amounts within their Pension Credit for severe disabilities, caring responsibilities and housing costs.

Notes:

Figures are derived from the DWP five per cent sample data, rated to match 100 per cent totals.

Beneficiary figures are as at November 2006.

GB population figures are as at mid 2005.

Beneficiary figures are rounded to the nearest 100 and include those receiving guarantee credit only and those on guarantee credit and savings credit.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate five per cent sample and 100 per cent Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study data; and ONS, Population Estimates Unit

Poverty

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* children under 16 years old, *(b)* adults and *(c)* pensioners were living in severe poverty in each year since 1997. [150063]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not available as there is no standard definition of severe poverty.

An internationally recognised measure of low income—and the most commonly used globally—is 60 per cent. of median household income.

In the Households Below Average Income report, the Department reports on low income, and sets out the percentage of households with less than 70, 60 and 50 per cent. of equivalised median income.

The latest figures on low income for people in the UK can be found in "Households Below Average Income 1994/95-2005/06 (Revised)".

Social Security Benefits

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of claims for *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* income support were made (i) over the telephone, (ii) using a paper form and (iii) in person in each of the last 10 years. [152659]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the outcome is of the disability equality impact assessment of the personal capability assessment. [152130]

Caroline Flint: A disability equality impact assessment (DEIA) of the revised personal capability assessment (PCA) has been carried out as part of the Department's overall DEIA of welfare reforms.

The mental health component of the PCA has been thoroughly reviewed in order to ensure that it reflects the type of conditions prevalent today. In particular it now reflects the needs of people with learning disability, autistic spectrum disorder, and other conditions that are not mental illnesses but that have a significant impact on mental function. We anticipate that this will lead to assessments that are more equitable between groups with different impairments.

The new element of the PCA, the work-focused, health-related assessment, explores the person's perceptions and concerns about their condition, as well as identifying health-related support and interventions that will help the person to get back into work.

Throughout the review of the PCA, stakeholder groups representing disabled people have been fully consulted and involved; and focus groups containing a number of people with mental illness, learning disability, or autistic spectrum disorder have been consulted. The work-focused, health-related assessment has been piloted with customers claiming incapacity benefit.

Unemployment Benefits: Expenditure

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of unemployment benefits was *(a)* at current prices and *(b)* as a percentage of gross domestic product in each year since 1979. [152210]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the following tables.

Unemployment benefits paid in Great Britain since 1978-79 (£ million 2007-08 prices)

	Unemployment benefit	*Income support for the unemployed*	*Jobseeker's allowance—contribution-based*	*Jobseeker's allowance—income-based*	*Housing benefit/council tax benefit and predecessors*	*Total*
1978-79	2,546	2,075	—	—	971	5,592
1979-80	2,251	1,803	—	—	931	4,985
1980-81	3,733	2,317	—	—	1,032	7,082
1981-82	4,532	4,026	—	—	1,478	10,035
1982-83	3,730	6,383	—	—	1,741	11,853
1983-84	3,557	7,738	—	—	1,934	13,229
1984-85	3,562	8,421	—	—	2,059	14,042
1985-86	3,401	9,020	—	—	2,173	14,594
1986-87	3,595	8,990	—	—	2,283	14,868

Unemployment benefits paid in Great Britain since 1978-79 (£ million 2007-08 prices)

	Unemployment benefit	Income support for the unemployed	Jobseeker's allowance—contribution-based	Jobseeker's allowance—income-based	Housing benefit/council tax benefit and predecessors	Total
1987-88	2,882	7,824	—	—	2,242	12,948
1988-89	2,031	5,588	—	—	2,223	9,842
1990-91	1,381	4,670	—	—	2,364	8,415
1991-92	2,400	6,286	—	—	2,656	11,342
1992-93	2,552	7,800	—	—	3,680	14,031
1993-94	2,334	8,107	—	—	3,831	14,272
1994-95	1,809	7,215	—	—	3,884	12,908
1995-96	1,489	6,516	—	—	3,642	11,647
1996-97	768	3,083	435	2,396	3,319	10,000
1997-98	—	—	603	4,342	2,583	7,528
1998-99	—	—	587	3,819	2,090	6,496
1999-2000	—	—	557	3,394	1,827	5,779
2000-01	—	—	535	2,915	1,622	5,072
2001-02	—	—	549	2,498	1,412	4,459
2002-03	—	—	588	2,388	1,424	4,401
2003-04	—	—	559	2,260	1,290	4,110
2004-05	—	—	445	1,759	1,333	3,537
2005-06	—	—	512	1,919	1,477	3,907
2006-07	—	—	493	2,024	1,637	4,154
2007-08	—	—	495	2,051	1,694	4,240

Unemployment benefits paid in Great Britain as a percentage of GDP since 1978-79

	Unemployment benefit	Income support for the unemployed	Jobseeker's allowance—contribution-based	Jobseeker's Allowance—income-based	Housing benefit/council tax benefit and predecessors	Total
1978-79	0.4	0.3	—	—	0.1	0.8
1979-80	0.3	0.3	—	—	0.1	0.7
1980-81	0.5	0.3	—	—	0.1	1.0
1981-82	0.7	0.6	—	—	0.2	1.5
1982-83	0.5	0.9	—	—	0.2	1.7
1983-84	0.5	1.1	—	—	0.3	1.8
1984-85	0.5	1.1	—	—	0.3	1.9
1985-86	0.4	1.2	—	—	0.3	1.9
1986-87	0.4	1.1	—	—	0.3	1.8
1987-88	0.3	0.9	—	—	0.3	1.5
1988-89	0.2	0.6	—	—	0.3	1.1
1989-90	0.1	0.5	—	—	0.2	0.9
1990-91	0.2	0.5	—	—	0.3	0.9
1991-92	0.3	0.7	—	—	0.3	1.3
1992-93	0.3	0.9	—	—	0.4	1.6
1993-94	0.3	0.9	—	—	0.4	1.5
1994-95	0.2	0.8	—	—	0.4	1.3
1995-96	0.2	0.7	—	—	0.4	1.2
1996-97	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.3	1.0
1997-98	—	—	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.7
1998-99	—	—	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.6
1999-2000	—	—	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.5
2000-01	—	—	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.4
2001-02	—	—	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.4
2002-03	—	—	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.4
2003-04	—	—	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.3
2004-05	—	—	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3
2005-06	—	—	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3
2006-07	—	—	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.3
2007-08	—	—	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3

Notes:
1. Figures are consistent with Budget 2007 published expenditure and forecasts.
2. Percentage figures in Table (2) are rounded to one decimal place.
3. Unemployed benefit (UB) was replaced by Jobseeker's Allowance which was introduced in October 1996.
4. Jobseeker's Allowance (income based) figures include claimants in receipt of income-based Jobseeker's Allowance who would also be entitled to the contributory element.
5. Jobseeker's Allowance (contribution based) figures include claimants in receipt of income-based Jobseeker's Allowance who would also be entitled to the contributory element. Only the amount of income-based award above the level of contribution-based award is included in this.
Source:
DWP Expenditure tables

Allowances Yorkshire and Humberside

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in *(a)* Yorkshire and Humber and *(b)* City of York received (i) winter fuel payments and (ii) free television licences in the last year for which figures are available. [152188]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In winter 2006-07 753,890 households in the Yorkshire and Humber Government Office Region received a winter fuel payment and 14,830 households in the City of York constituency received the payment.

TV Licensing, who administer free television licences for people aged 75 or over as agents for the BBC, are not able to provide geographical breakdowns of the number of free licences issued. However, in winter 2006-07, the number of households with at least one person aged 75 or over receiving the winter fuel payment in the Yorkshire and Humber Government Office Region was 303,160 and there were 6,620 such households in the City of York constituency. Each of these households would be eligible for a free TV licence.

Notes:

1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Figures for 2006-07 refer only to the main payment run so they do not include the late payment run figures. We estimate that there are approximately 100,000 people in Great Britain paid in late payment runs (0.8 per cent. of all payments). Since most of the payment runs are to people who are not receiving another benefit from DWP and whose claims had not been received by the qualifying week, most are men aged 60 to 64.

3. Any residence found to have four or more occupants is not included in these figures as it is assumed to be a Residential Care or Nursing Home.

4. Government office regions and parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:

Information directorate 100 per cent. data

Written Questions

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to answer questions *(a)* 147300 and *(b)* 147298, on the Abingdon Carpets pension fund, tabled by the hon. Member for Islwyn on 28 June. [151929]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I replied to my hon. Friend's questions on 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 733W.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been issued with more than one antisocial behaviour order. [151723]

Mr. Coaker: From the data collected centrally, it is not possible to identify where multiple antisocial behaviour orders have been issued to the same person.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what proportion of people in receipt of antisocial behaviour orders had previously received *(a)* a criminal conviction, *(b)* a police caution, *(c)* a penalty notice for disorder and *(d)* another form of antisocial behaviour intervention in each of the last three years for which figures are available; [151726]

(2) what the average number of prior convictions is of persons in receipt of antisocial behaviour orders. [151727]

Mr. Coaker: Data collected centrally on antisocial behaviour orders does not include any information on a person's criminal history.

Asylum: Zimbabwe

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers have been returned to Zimbabwe in the last six months. [152056]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 25 July 2007]:* Between October 2006 and March 2007, 170 asylum applicants (including dependants) were removed from the UK to Zimbabwe. This is the latest six-month period for which figures are available. Figures include persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them, persons leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration and those who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities. This figure has been rounded to the nearest five and is provisional.

The figure does not include any enforced removals; in the case of Zimbabwe, on 26 September 2006 we stated in the High Court that we will not enforce the return of failed asylum seekers to Zimbabwe until ongoing country guidance litigation is concluded, and that continues to be the position.

At present, the latest figures available correspond to the first quarter of 2007. Information relating to asylum removals during the second quarter of 2007

will be published in the Asylum Statistics: 2nd Quarter 2007 bulletin (scheduled for 21 August). Copies of this publication will be available from the Library of the House and on the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Boris Berezovsky

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 53W, on Boris Berezovsky, if she will take steps to enable parliamentary scrutiny of the decisions of the Border and Immigration Agency relating to political asylum via questions relating to individual cases; and if she will make a statement. [152465]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 24 July 2007]:* All applicants are assured at the beginning of the asylum process that details about their claim will be treated in confidence. Therefore it is not possible to comment on individual cases. The Border and Immigration Agency must meet the legal requirements placed on Government Departments by the laws of confidence, article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights and the Data Protection Act 1998. These laws ensure that those genuinely in need of protection can feel secure in telling us the nature of their claim.

Departments: Air Conditioning

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by her Department and its agencies on the hire of mobile air conditioning units in each of the last five years. [151985]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Legal Costs

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was ordered in costs against her Department in the House of Lords cases *(a)* Huang (FC) *v.* Secretary of State for the Home Department and *(b)* Kashmiri (FC) *v.* Secretary of State for the Home Department. [152099]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not available.

Departments: Ministerial Red Boxes

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many ministerial red boxes the Department bought in each of the last five years; what the cost of each was; who the suppliers were; and what tendering process was used in choosing their supplier. [150294]

Mr. Byrne: Records relating to the purchase of ministerial red boxes in the Department in the last five years are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants within her Department's areas of responsibilities in the last 12 months. [149047]

Mr. Byrne: When travelling on departmental business officials are expected to make efficient and cost-effective accommodation arrangements.

Expenditure figures on overnight accommodation for the Home Office includes information for the core Home Office, the Border and Immigration Agency, the Office for Criminal Justice Reform and the National Offender Management Service (the latter two are now part of the Ministry of Justice). Prior to the Machinery of Government changes, the Department employed approximately 78,000 staff with this figure reducing to approximately 25,000 once the changes were implemented. The total amount covers expenditure on hotel accommodation in the UK and overseas by these civil servants and all ministers.

The overall spend for financial year 2006-07 for hotel accommodation was £8.28 million.

Information on civil servant overnight accommodation expenditure separately could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Deportation

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department following the judgments in *(a)* Huang (FC) *v.* Secretary of State for the Home Department and *(b)* Kashmiri (FC) *v.* Secretary of State for the Home Department, if her Department will review its policy on deportations. [152109]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 24 July 2007]:* The relevant policy document has been revised in light of the judgment in Huang and Kashmiri and is available on the Border and Immigration Agency website at:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/asylumpolicyinstructions/apis/article8echr?view=Binary

Decisions to deport (or remove) foreign nationals from the UK are subject to the instructions found in that document.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the number of deaths caused by uninsured drivers. [152754]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available.

Drug Seizures

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2073-74W, on drug seizures, what the *(a)* date and *(b)* weight was of each seizure referred to on page 22 of the Serious Organised Crime Agency's Annual Report; and which agency was responsible for each seizure. [152448]

Mr. Coaker: SOCA is tasked with reducing the harm caused to the UK by serious organised crime. To this end SOCA operations are directed against the most serious organised criminal enterprises (OCEs) causing harm to the UK regardless of their location. For the reasons that the hon. Member will now understand following his recent meeting with the chair and DG of SOCA, publication of the details the hon. Member requests would assist those OCEs to evade interdiction. Many of the seizures relate to ongoing work against the OCEs involved. It is important that SOCA can continue to hide or disguise its involvement in commodity (including Class A drugs) seizures, and that those OCEs involved in drug trafficking which affects this country remain unaware of the background to activity against them by SOCA and its national and international partners.

Drugs: Crime

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* quantity and *(b)* street value of illegal drugs was seized by (i) the Serious Organised Crime Agency, (ii) its predecessor agencies and (iii) local police forces in each of the last 10 years, broken down by type of narcotic. [152034]

Mr. Coaker: The Serious Organised Crime Agency in its first year of operation, 2006-07, was responsible with other law enforcement agencies for the seizure of 73 tonnes of cocaine, 1.5 tonnes of heroin, 4.4 million tablets of ecstasy, 260 kgs of opium and 1 million doses of LSD with a UK street market value of more than £3 billion.

The street market value of cocaine and heroin seizures from 2000 were:

	£ million	
	Cocaine	*Heroin*
2000	101	136
2001	60	169
2002	9	97
2003	105	64
2004	65	62

The latest available seizure data for police forces, including the National Crime Squad, in England and Wales from 1997 has been placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate she has made of the change in the quantities of illegal drugs in the UK over the last 10 years; and what assessment she has made of the changes to the average street value of illegal drugs in that period; [152051]

(2) what estimate she has made of the total amount of illegal drugs imported into the UK in each of the last three years. [152035]

Mr. Coaker: Home Office Online Report 16/06, "Measuring aspects of problem drug use: methodological developments" provides the most recent baseline estimates of market size for 2003-04. The estimates are subject to wide margins of error and are not for methodological reasons comparable with earlier estimates.

The street price of the main drugs of misuse are estimated to have reduced since 2000.

Firearms: Greater London

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of gun crime have occurred in each London borough since 1997. [150892]

Mr. Coaker: Firearms are taken to be involved in an incident if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person or used as a threat. The number of offences recorded by the City of London and Metropolitan police in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used between 1997-98 and 2005-06 is given in the tables. Data cannot be broken down by London borough.

Table 1: Crimes recorded in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used: City of London and Metropolitan police forces, 1997-98 to 2001-02

	Number of firearm offences
1997-98	1,951
1998-99[1]	2,034
1999-2000	2,945
2000-01	3,036
2001-02[2]	4,197

[1] There was a change in the counting rules for recorded crime on 1 April 1998.
[2] Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.

Table 2: Crimes recorded in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used: City of London and Metropolitan police forces, 2002-03 to 2005-06[3,4]

	Number of firearm offences
2002-03	4,202
2003-04	3,891
2004-05	3,697
2005-06	3,884

[3] Data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002, which may have resulted in inflated figures for some crime categories. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
[4] Data for 2006-07 will be available in January 2008.

Immigration: Bulgaria and Romania

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the target processing time is for applications for *(a)* Romanian and *(b)* Bulgarian nationals under each of the different application processes and pathways through which they can apply to work and remain in the UK; and what percentage of such applications met that target time in the last period for which figures are available. [151484]

Mr. Byrne: The published service standards are 70 per cent. of applications under the Accession (Immigration and Worker Authorisation) Regulations, cleared within 20 working days of receipt for both Romanian and Bulgarian nationals. 77 per cent. of applications made were cleared within the target time in the three month period ending on 31 March 2007.

The published service standards are 30 per cent. for applications under the European Community Association Agreement, cleared within 70 working days of receipt

for both Romanian and Bulgarian nationals. 94 per cent. of applications made were cleared within the target time in the three month period ending on 31 March 2007.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average *(a)* cost and *(b)* time taken to process applications for (i) Romanian and (ii) Bulgarian nationals under each of the different application processes and pathways through which they can apply to work and remain in the UK was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [151487]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the average cost to process applications for Romanian and Bulgarian nationals is not available.

For the three month period ending on 31 March 2007, 77 per cent. of applications under the Accession (Immigration and Worker Authorisation) Regulations, were cleared within 20 working days of receipt for both Romanian and Bulgarian nationals.

In the same period, 94 per cent. of applications under the European Community Association Agreement, were cleared within 70 working days of receipt for both Romanian and Bulgarian nationals.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many different application processes and pathways there are through which Romanian and Bulgarian nationals can apply to work and remain in the UK. [151488]

Mr. Byrne: There are two main pathways within which Romanian and Bulgarian nationals can apply to work and remain in the UK.

Romanian and Bulgarian nationals can apply under the Accession (Immigration and Worker Authorisation) Regulations for a Worker Authorisation Card or a Registration Certificate to confirm they are exercising a Treaty Right in the UK as a Student, Self-employed, Self-sufficient or Highly skilled person, or are exempt from Work Authorisation.

Bulgarian and Romanian nationals who have had valid leave to remain pre-accession under the European Community Association Agreement and can meet the terms of the agreement for the remainder of the qualifying period, are able to apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain as a self-employed person.

Bulgarian and Romanian nationals can also seek Indefinite Leave to Remain under the immigration rules if they were in a category leading to settlement prior to accession.

Immigration: Detention Centres

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the use of immigration removal centre places for non-immigration-related detainees. [152787]

Mr. Byrne: Immigration removal centres can only be used for the purpose of holding those detained solely under Immigration Act powers. Section 147 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 refers.

Naturalisation

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when a determination on application for naturalisation of A1079396, acknowledged by her Department on 21 December 2005, will be made. [150005]

Mr. Byrne: The application has now been determined. The applicant will be informed of the outcome in writing.

Passports: Fraud

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) has taken to improve the IPS detection of passport fraud since 2001. [151505]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* Over the last six years the Identity and Passport Service has undertaken a range of initiatives to improve the prevention and detection of passport fraud. These include:

Significantly increased security in the passport book through the development and issue from last year of the ePassport which incorporates an RF chip and other advanced physical security features.

From 2002 the creation of a database of around 750,000 infant death records to counter frauds using dead children's identities.

The introduction of secure delivery of passports to customers from February 2004 resulting in an 80 per cent. reduction in losses of passports in the post.

From December 2003, improved arrangements for the reporting, recording and sharing of data on lost/stolen passports. This database of around 1 million records is now shared with UK border control and border control authorities worldwide via Interpol.

The establishment of fraud and intelligence units in each of its seven passport issuing offices with professional, accredited training for all investigators.

The introduction of the Passport Validation Service which enables approved government agencies to validate the status of a UK passport which has been presented to them as evidence of identity. The service is also available to organisations regulated by the Financial Services Authority that have to comply with the "Know Your Customer" statement of good practice requirements.

On an operational level, IPS are using intelligence received and data on known frauds to actively manage passport fraud identified after the issue of the passport. It is currently investigating some 2,000 cases.

IPS work collaboratively with the Border and Immigration Agency on (BIA) matters relating to

passport fraud and with the police and the Serious Organised Crime Agency on joint actions against those involved in passport fraud. The BIA's National Document Fraud Unit regularly provides training for IPS officers to assist them on detecting passport fraud, and works closely with IPS document experts to ensure the latest and most effective security measures are incorporated in UK passports. IPS and BIA exchange information and intelligence relating to document fraud and BIA accesses electronic records of issued, lost and stolen UK passports and notifies IPS when attempts are made to use UK passports fraudulently.

Going forward, IPS has developed a comprehensive counter fraud strategy to combat identity fraud in the passport issuing process. This strategy includes:

interviews for all first-time adult customers;

checking biographical information to ensure that the identity claimed on the application form is real, living, and can be linked to the customer through cross checks against a range of public and private sector databases;

the development of facial recognition systems to check applicant images against a database of images of suspected fraudsters;

checking applicants against increasingly sophisticated internal watch files including the database of passports reported lost or stolen;

strengthening its business processes for identity authentication, and training and support for passport examiners and specialist fraud units;

utilising intelligence on known fraud patterns and enhanced capability from information sharing arrangements to conduct searches of the IPS database of 50 million passport records to identify fraud committed in the past.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Angola: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* level of poverty, *(b)* access to basic health care, *(c)* access to a basic education and *(d)* level of government corruption in Angola; and what assistance he is giving to Angola. [151628]

Mr. Thomas: The last comprehensive assessment of income poverty in Angola was the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (IDR) in 2001, which was carried out by the National Institution of Statistics, financed by the World Bank. This found that 68 per cent. of the population lived below the poverty line, and 26 per cent. in extreme poverty. In 2004, Angola's Ministry of Health stated that 30 to 40 per cent. of the population had access to primary health care. In 2005 the Ministry of Education reported a primary education net enrolment of 62 per cent.

Angola rates poorly on corruption indices, although it has shown some improvement in recent years.

DFID has a bilateral programme of £3 million in 2007-08 for Angola. During this period, Angola will also benefit from other funding sources, including £1.9 million for demining, over £1 million from the Africa Conflict Prevention Pool, and major regional programmes on HIV/AIDS and reintegration of ex-combatants.

Thailand and Burma: Karen Refugees

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contribution the Government are making to support the work of non-governmental organisations working with Karen refugees on the Thai-Burma border; and if he will make a statement. [152867]

Mr. Malik: DFID will provide £1.8 million in the period from July 2005 to March 2008 to support Thai based non-governmental organisations to work with refugees, the majority of whom are Karen, and provide cross-border support to internally displaced people on the Thai-Burma border. The British Embassy in Bangkok regularly speaks to the Royal Thai Government on issues affecting Burmese refugees in Thailand.

DFID considers that both in-country and cross border support is important. It will continue to review the options for reaching displaced people, and the best balance between support from inside Burma and through cross-border border groups and support to refugees. Decisions will take into account planned new work by humanitarian experts from UN OCHA, which will provide better independent analysis of the needs of displaced people, a clearer picture of what other donors are doing, and a better assessment of where there are gaps.

Departments: Air Conditioning

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on the hire of mobile air conditioning units in each of the last five years. [151973]

Mr. Malik: The only air conditioning units hired by DFID in our UK offices over this period was during 2003-04, when the cost was £703. There are no agencies for which we are responsible.

Departments: Employment Agencies

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the Department paid in fees to recruitment agencies for *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent staff in each year since 1997. [151671]

Mr. Malik: DFID does not make use of recruitment agencies when recruiting permanent staff to the Home Civil Service. In accordance with the Civil Service Commissioners code external appointments are made on merit on the basis of fair and open competition.

DFID periodically engages temporary staff through recruitment agencies, mainly in administrative grades. A management fee is included in the salary costs for each person supplied by the agency but it is not possible to disaggregate the total cost of these fees without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departments: Legislation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which Bills introduced by his Department in the last five years contained sunset clauses; and what plans he has for the future use of such clauses. [151840]

Mr. Malik: The International Development Act received royal assent on 26 February 2002. It does not contain a sunset clause

The appropriateness of a sunset clause for the whole or part of any proposed legislation is considered on a case by case basis. It is also addressed when a regulatory impact assessment relating to legislation is being prepared.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which Bills introduced by his Department in the last five years did not contain sunset clauses; and if he will make a statement. [152488]

Mr. Malik: The International Development Act received royal assent on 26 February 2002. It does not contain a sunset clause

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people have been appointed to his Department outside civil service grades in the last 30 days. [153120]

Mr. Malik: DFID has appointed two people outside civil service grades in the last 30 days.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many press officers are employed by his Department. [153122]

Mr. Malik: DFID currently employs nine press officers.

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development to which periodicals his Department subscribes. [153114]

Mr. Malik: The DFID Library has subscriptions to printed or electronic versions of the periodicals in the following list. Details of subscriptions held by individual DFID Country Offices and Divisions could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

British Medical Journal—Clinical Research
BMJ.com
Bookseller and Bookseller Buyer's Guide
Comparative Education
Courrier International
Democratization
Development in Practice
The Economist—UK Edition
Economist Intelligence Unit Reports and Profiles
Environment and Urbanisation
Far Eastern Economic Review
Foreign Affairs
Foreign Policy
Gender and Development
Gender Technology and Development
Journal of Development Studies
Journal of International Development
Journal of Knowledge Management
Lancet
Latin American Weekly Report
New Scientist—UK edition
New Statesman
Newsweek—International Edition
Oxford Development Studies
People Management
Public Administration and Development
Reproductive Health Matters
Research Fortnight
Review of African Political Economy
Spectator
Sustainable Development
Third World Quarterly
Time—Europe
Week Magazine
World Development

Departments: Redundancy Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent by his Department on redundancy payments in the last 12 months. [153110]

Mr. Malik: The amount spent by the Department for International Development on redundancy payments in the 12 months from June 2006 to May 2007 was £2,653,413.

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* staff training and *(b)* communication training in the last 12 months. [153112]

Mr. Malik: In financial year 2006-2007, the Department for International Development (DFID) spent £5.94 million on staff learning and development.

DFID does not have the systems to identify the full range of training activity across its UK and overseas operations that fall under the banner of "communications" training. Information is only available on some of the larger-scale initiatives to improve communications capability in the last year (2006-2007). These are (with costs):

Training to improve the DFID's capability in communicating and working with the media: £58,126 (from 6/3/06-25/7/07).

Communications training to improve customer service in the Human Resources Division: £35,000.

Effective writing skills for DFID's Policy Division: £27,000.

Foreign language training: £140,500.

Strategic communications workshops for Communications Officers across DFID: £7,620.

Departments: Tribunals

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent by his Department on industrial tribunals in the last 12 months. [153113]

Mr. Malik: DFID has spent no money on industrial tribunals in the last 12 months. DFID spent £1,500 in the form of compensation payments which originated from a tribunal in a previous period.

Developing Countries: Debts

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much developing countries' debt was written off by the UK Government in financial year 2006-07. [148432]

Mr. Malik: Final figures for debt relief expenditure in 2006-07 by the UK Government are not yet available. They will be published in the autumn in DFID's new edition of Statistics on International Development, along with other information on how the UK uses financial resources to support international development.

Developing Countries: Overseas Aid

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding the UK provided for *(a)* education, *(b)* healthcare and *(c)* clean water in developing countries in financial year 2006-07. [148433]

Mr. Malik: Provisional estimates of DFID bilateral expenditure show that DFID spent £367.8 million on education, £514.7 million on health and £46.8 million on water and sanitation in financial year 2006-07. These figures do not include DFID contributions to a range of multilateral organisations, a significant proportion of which will also fund education, healthcare and clean water in developing countries.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 21 June 2007 on the global water crisis. [153493]

Mr. Thomas: The letter of 21 June 2007 from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire about the global water crisis was received in DFID on 2 July. A reply to this was issued on 24 July.

North Korea: Overseas Aid

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions his Department has had with the European Aid Co-operation Office and the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) about ECHO ending its humanitarian support in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in 2008. [152803]

Mr. Malik: DFID has not had any discussions with ECHO or formally with the EuropeAid Co-operation Office this issue. The ending of the ECHO programme by May 2008 was agreed by member states in spring 2006 in the light of the relative stability of the humanitarian situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. EuropeAid will take over operations from ECHO. EuropeAid's terms of reference will differ from those under which ECHO operates, although they will take over responsibility for NGOS operating in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The EuropeAid programme will concentrate more on food security.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contribution the Government has made to the relief effort for those displaced by the floods in Central and Eastern Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [151032]

Mr. Thomas: DFID's has not given any direct funding to flood relief as we work through multilateral mechanisms, ensuring more effective co-ordination and response. In 2007, we have contributed £40 million to the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and £40 million to the Sudan Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF), a pioneering multi-donor fund that allows the UN Humanitarian Co-ordinator to direct resources to the most pressing needs. Both mechanisms have funding available and are awaiting appeals to be submitted to them by relief agencies involved in the flood response. DFID is working with the UN to ensure that these appeals will be promptly considered and, where approved, quickly processed. A multi-agency emergency response, including the Sudanese Government and co-ordinated by the UN, has created a shared mechanism to deliver food and other types of assistance to those most in need.

Vaccinations: Tuberculosis

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the new tuberculosis vaccine developed by the Global Plan to Stop TB will be available worldwide; and what assessment he has made of whether sufficient funding will be allocated to enable developing countries access to it. [152900]

Mr. Malik: The Global Plan to Stop TB are not developing a new tuberculosis vaccine. Development of a new TB vaccine is being carried out by a number of different organisations across the globe. It is estimated that a new TB vaccine will be available between 2014 and 2018.

Decisions about allocation for funding for access will be made once a vaccine is available.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Barbecues: Carbon Emissions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will estimate the annual carbon emissions from barbecues based on figures for the total annual sale of charcoal and barbecue gas canisters. [151743]

Mr. Woolas: Carbon dioxide emissions from charcoal combustion are not included in the UK Greenhouse Gas inventory. This is because charcoal is a biomass fuel, rather than a fossil fuel. Emissions data on the use of barbeque gas canisters is not held.

Buildings: Carbon Emissions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the per capita annual carbon emissions resulting from the *(a)* space heating and *(b)* air conditioning of domestic and non-domestic buildings. [151745]

Mr. Woolas: The Government's Market Transformation Programme (MTP) estimates that in 2006 the total annual carbon emissions resulting from non-domestic buildings were approximately 10.5 million tonnes from space heating and 1.6 million tonnes from air conditioning.

Figures derived from the BREHOMES model of housing stock energy use indicate that the total annual carbon emissions in 2004 resulting from domestic buildings were approximately 20.5 million tonnes from space heating and 7,500 tonnes from domestic air conditioning.

The population of the UK in 2004 was 59.787 million so the emissions per capita for domestic space heating can be estimated as 343 kg carbon. Those for domestic air conditioning were about 0.13 kg carbon.

Conservation: Paper

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to reduce the Government's paper consumption by 2010. [152449]

Joan Ruddock: The Government have set out their vision for sustainable waste management in their "Waste Strategy for England 2007". In addition to setting the paper industry targets to reduce paper waste, Departments are required to meet cross-Government sustainable operations targets, launched June 2006, which include commitments to reduce all waste arisings, to increase recycling rates and to meet mandatory levels of recycled content in copier and printed paper. The report is available at:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/sdig2006/

Domestic Wastes: Environmental Health

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of *(a)* any change in incidence of vermin and *(b)* risks to public health following decisions by local authorities to move to fortnightly refuse collections. [150159]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA has part-funded an independent study, carried out by Enviros Consulting and Cranfield university, to determine whether there are any additional risks to public health associated with the use of alternate collection systems for household waste, compared to weekly collection of refuse.

The study, which is published on the Enviros website, found no evidence of adverse health impacts or rises in vermin populations associated with fortnightly residual refuse collection, compared to weekly refuse collection. The study also included a review of other published studies.

The study found that the influence of domestic waste management arrangements on rats is likely to be insignificant in comparison to other factors, such as the age of the property, the area (urban or rural), and the adequate upkeep of drains. Where local authorities plan to change arrangements for the collection of residents' waste, it is essential that they consult local people and design schemes appropriately for local circumstances. New guidance in the form of the Waste and Resources Action Programme's recently published guidance for local authorities on the design and implementation of alternate collection services is available from their website at the following address:

http://www.wrap.org.uk/local_authorities/toolkits_good_practice/alternate week_html.

I have placed copies in the Library of the House.

Environment Agency: Equal Opportunities

David Lepper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how people with disabilities are being consulted in relation to the disability equality duty by the Environment Agency in the Southern Region. [149546]

Mr. Woolas: National duties are placed on the Environment Agency by the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 2005 that are not region specific. The Agency's national Disability Equality scheme and its associated action plan are available to the public on its website.

As required by the DDA 2005, ongoing and widespread consultation with disabled people, staff and stakeholders in the development of this scheme has taken place. This included interviews and focus groups with staff from across the organisation. The consultation included staff from a range of backgrounds and levels in the Agency, and external organisations which represent the interests of disabled people.

The Environment Agency views such consultation and engagement as essential to the development of the scheme and its continued progress.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will assess the case for extension to other areas of the flood alleviation scheme in Scunthorpe constituency where money from the Rural Development Fund is used to reward farmers for using their land to retain water upstream from towns to prevent flood damage. [150617]

Mr. Woolas: Environmental Stewardship, the agri-environment scheme funded through the Rural Development Programme, does not contain any measures specifically targeted at flood alleviation. Environmental Stewardship can support complimentary measures, such as the creation of water meadows, which could contribute towards flood management. Under the scheme, however, the primary objective of such measures would be the restoration of natural habitats and thereby biodiversity gain.

Decisions about the targeting of Environmental Stewardship are taken through local consultation.

Natural England takes the lead in discussions with stakeholders and delivery partners such as the Environment Agency.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent meetings he has had with ministerial colleagues to discuss future flood prevention. [150865]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA Ministers have met with their counterparts at Treasury to discuss funding, in general and for flood risk management; at Communities and Local Government (CLG) to discuss planning issues in relation to flood risk; and at Treasury, CLG and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to discuss insurance in relation to flooding with the Association of British Insurers.

Meetings continue to be held with CLG, Cabinet Office and a range of other interested Government Departments to discuss recovery from the recent floods and the lessons learned review into the causes, management and response.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on flood defence schemes announced for construction in 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [151147]

Mr. Woolas: The overall programme of flood and coastal erosion risk management works is prioritised on an annual basis in the light of demands on the system and the budget available.

Operating authorities (the Environment Agency, local authorities and internal drainage boards) are required to produce annual Medium Term Plans (MTPs) setting out their proposed flood protection and prevention schemes for the following three years. As follows is a list of Environment Agency schemes that were shown on their 2005 MTP with a construction start in 2006-07 and with a construction spend in 2006-07 of greater than £250,000.

Information on local authority and internal drainage board schemes is not held centrally and collating this information is likely to incur a disproportionate cost.

Project name	*Environment Agency region*	*Current status*
Alconbury	Anglian (Central)	Construction on hold
St. Neots	Anglian (Central)	In appraisal—construction planned for 2008
Felixstowe Coastal Defence Units 2, 3 and 4	Anglian (Eastern)	In appraisal—construction planned for 2008
Happisburgh/ Winterton Phase 3B	Anglian (Eastern)	In appraisal—construction planned for 2008
Easton Broad	Anglian (Eastern)	In appraisal—construction planned for 2008-09
Kessingland to Benacre Sea Defences	Anglian (Eastern)	Completed
Humber East Halton Marshes/Skitter	Anglian (Northern)	In appraisal—construction on hold
Tidal Nene Stabilisation	Anglian (Northern)	In construction—planned completion October 2007
Grand Sluice Outfall	Anglian (Northern)	Completed
Wisbech Defences	Anglian (Northern)	In design—construction planned 2008 to 2010
South Ferriby Sluice Refurbishment	Anglian (Northern)	Completed
West Bridgford	Midlands	In construction—planned completion March 2008
Burton Phase 2	Midlands	In construction—planned completion March 2008
Gainsborough Frontages	Midlands	Construction to start July 2007
Keadby to Amcotts	Midlands	Completed
River Eden/Petteril Flood Defences, Carlisle	North West	In construction—planned completion October 2007
Lower Lancaster phase 2—St. George's Quay	North West	Construction planned for 2008-09
Thornton—Cleveleys	North West	In construction—planned completion 2008
River Alt	North West	In design—construction planned for 2008
Northenden Weir (River Mersey)	North West	Construction on hold subject to availability of funding
St. Ives	South West	In construction—planned completion March 2009
Boscastle—River Valency Phase 3	South West	In construction—planned completion in 2008
Padstow Harbour	South West	In construction—planned completion in 2007
Ashburton	South West	In construction—planned completion in 2009
East Suttons to Denge Interim Beach Management 2006-07	Southern	Completed
Dartford Creek Frontage	Thames	In construction—planned completion October 2007
Willowbank Bund Repair	Thames	Completed
Wandle Mills Culvert	Thames	On hold due to mapping requirements
Bruton Dam Reservoir Improvements	Wessex	In design—construction planned 2008-09
Parrett Banks (Left Bank)—the Croft	Wessex	Completed

Project name	Environment Agency region	Current status
Parrett Banks at Silveys Wharf, Bridgwater	Wessex	Completed
Ings Beck	Yorkshire	In appraisal—construction planned 2007-08
Burstwick Drain	Yorkshire	In appraisal—construction planned 2007-08

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on flood protection measures in *(a)* England, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* city of York in each year since 2003-04. [151562]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency is the principal authority with responsibility for flood risk management in England. Details of their spending on flood protection measures in *(a)* England, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* city of York in each year since 2003-04 are set out in the following tables.

(a) Environment Agency spend in England.

	£ million
2003-04	355.7
2004-05	396.6
2005-06	509.7
2006-07	418.6

(b) Environment Agency spend in the area covered by the Yorkshire Regional Flood Defence Committee (YRFDC).

	£ million
2003-04	37.3
2004-05	33.4
2005-06	40.7
2006-07	34.0

Yorkshire and the Humber is predominantly dealt with by YRFDC although some areas are also covered by the Agency's Anglian and Midlands regions.

(c) Environment Agency expenditure in the city of York.

	£ million
2003-04	0.9
2004-05	0.8
2005-06	1.0
2006-07	0.8

Further smaller sums are expended by local authorities and internal drainage boards.

Flood Control: Expenditure

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the expected total expenditure was when the scheme was approved of each *(a)* capital and *(b)* resource expenditure flood defence project (i) under way and (ii) completed in the last two years, at 2007 prices; and what the final total expenditure was or expenditure to date has been on each scheme at 2007 prices; [151731]

(2) what the expected total expenditure on each coastal defence project *(a)* under way and *(b)* completed in the last two years was when the scheme was approved, at 2007 prices; and what the final total or expenditure to date has been on each scheme at 2007 prices. [151732]

Mr. Woolas: I regret that it is not possible to provide the information requested in the usual timescale given the date baseline. I shall write to you as soon as possible and a copy of my reply will be placed in the House Library.

Over recent years, total investment in flood and coastal defence has increased significantly in real terms. For example, the Environment Agency completed 220 capital improvement projects to reduce flood risk from rivers and the sea between 2003-04 and 2006-07, and 129,000 households have benefited from this work.

Flood Control: South West Region

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent on flood defences in the South West region since 1997. [151570]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows (a) gross flood risk management expenditure by the Environment Agency in the South West Region, administered through their South West and Wessex Regional Flood Defence Committees and (b) DEFRA funding for local authority capital improvement projects to reduce flood and coastal erosion risk in the same area.

(Many projects which protect against coastal erosion also provide significant benefits against flooding from the sea).

£000

Financial year	Environment Agency	Local authority
1997-98	25,018	4,833
1998-99	25,666	4,706
1999-2000	21,897	3,730
2000-01	23,670	3,164
2001-02	30,606	2,455
2002-03	39,377	8,288
2003-04	42,102	10,993
2004-05	39,093	5,607
2005-06	50,170	23,376
2006-07	48,890	20,615

Flood Control: Tewkesbury

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* the Environment Agency on drawing up a list of buildings which house groups of vulnerable people to be prioritised for rescue when flooding occurs in Tewkesbury constituency; and if he will make a statement. [152885]

Mr. Woolas: Under central guidance on the requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act, 2004, it is the responsibility of all the statutorily designated Category 1 responders, including local authorities, emergency services, primary care trusts and the Environment Agency to identify and make plans to assist vulnerable people in any emergency.

Flood Control: Yorkshire and Humberside

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent *(a)* in England and *(b)* in the Ouse catchment area on flood protection and alleviation measures by (i) the Government, (ii) City of York council and (iii) North Yorkshire county council in 2006-07; and what estimate he has made of the likely expenditure in 2007-08. [151563]

Mr. Woolas: Defra funds most of the Environment Agency's flood related work and grant aids individual capital improvement projects undertaken by local authorities and, in low-lying areas, internal drainage boards (IDBs). The programme to manage risk is driven by these operating authorities. Defra does not build defences nor direct the authorities on specific projects to undertake.

Local authority non-capital expenditure (on levies to the Agency and IDBs and on their own spend on flood risk management) is largely supported by the local government funding mechanisms operated by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG).

Table 1 shows total central and local government expenditure on flood protection and alleviation measures in *(a)* England and *(b)* the Ouse catchment area. This includes expenditure on flood defences, flood warning, research and development etc. but excludes expenditure on measures primarily to reduce risk of coastal erosion (which can also sometimes help reduce flood risk).

Table 1

(£ million)

	(a) England		*(b) Ouse catchment*[1]
	Defra grant and other expenditure	*Local authority non-capital expenditure*	
2006-07	432.0	71.0	5.7
2007-08 (Forecast)	466.0	74.0	6.4

[1] Defined as Environment Agency expenditure within the Ouse catchment between the confluence with the River Ure and the confluence with the River Derwent. Defra grant to local authorities and/or internal drainage boards within the Ouse catchment, if any, could not be determined without incurring disproportionate cost.

Table 2 shows estimates of non-capital spend by City of York council on their own flood defence measures and on special levies to IDBs obtained from returns provided by the council to DCLG.

Table 2

(£ million)

	Flood defence revenue expenditure	*IDB special levies*
2006-07	0.1	0.5
2007-08	0.1	0.6

We have no records of spend by North Yorkshire county council in the years in question.

Floods

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 10W, how his Department defines significant flooding. [151916]

Mr. Woolas: The Common Incident Classification Scheme is the standard Environment Agency approach for the classification of all incidents, including flooding.

Significant flooding (Major Incident) is normally declared when 10 or more properties flood.

Floods: Damage

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether a full assessment is planned of the damage caused by the recent floods in England; [150613]

(2) if he will establish an independent inquiry into the recent floods in the north of England; [150614]

(3) what assistance is available to farmers to compensate for their loss of crops in flood-affected areas; [150820]

(4) what assessment he has made of the impact of the recent flooding in the East Riding of Yorkshire on farmers; and if he will make a statement; [151286]

(5) what plans he has to assist farmers in the East Riding of Yorkshire who have been affected by the recent flooding; and if he will make a statement. [151287]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Members to the statement given by the Secretary of State on 12 July 2007; *Official Report*, column 63WS, in which he announced that we are establishing a review to identify the lessons that need to be learned about how to manage and respond to this type of event in the future.

I also refer the hon. Members to the answer given by the Secretary of State of 19 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 422, in which he explained that we have lifted the rules on cross-compliance and waterlogged land until the end of this month. This will enable farmers to get on to the land and do what they can to rescue their crops. By notifying the Rural Payments Agency, they are able to use set-aside land for grazing and foraging, unless the agency says there is a difficulty, in recognition of the fact that the land they would otherwise use is currently underwater.

Compensation will not be available for farmers who have lost crops as a result of the recent flooding. Farmers who have taken out insurance for such damage should, of course, make a claim against their policy. We have great sympathy for those who are uninsured but there is no general right to compensation, since that would undermine the decision of those who did take out insurance and in the longer term undermine the competitive insurance market in this area that the UK currently benefits from. The Government are keen to help farmers manage risk more thoroughly themselves as part of establishing a more market focused farm industry.

Floods: Housing

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many homes there are *(a)* in designated development sites in each standard region, *(b)* in such sites that are situated in floodplains and *(c)* in such sites in significant flood risk areas; and if he will make a statement. [148955]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Pontefract and Castleford (Yvette Cooper) to the hon. Member for Shrewsbury and Atcham (Daniel Kawczynski) on 8 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 369W, and the answer I provided on 24 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 945W.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received from the insurance industry on the number of homes considered to be uninsurable due to high risk of flooding; and if he will make a statement. [151883]

Mr. Woolas: The Association of British Insurers (ABI) wrote to the Secretary of State on 28 June. In their letter, the ABI stressed that insurers want to continue offering cover to nearly all households, but highlighted concerns about the level of risk for at least 400,000 homes in England. The letter reiterated calls for investment in flood management to rise to £750 million per annum by 2011 and the ABI has since welcomed the announcement that Government funding will increase beyond this level—to £800 million by 2010-11.

Along with other ministerial colleagues, I met representatives of the ABI on 10 July to discuss the implications of the flooding that occurred in June. At the meeting, the ABI stressed its commitment to the existing Statement of Principles for insurance cover and, in particular, the continuing availability of cover in high-risk locations where defences are planned. Officials are continuing to share information and work with the ABI, and we understand that ABI members are continuing to provide flood cover as standard to virtually all households.

Floods: Warnings

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the procedure is for signing up to receive flood warnings from the Environment Agency; and whether it is free to use. [150821]

Mr. Woolas: Anyone who thinks they may be at risk of flooding can call the Environment Agency's Floodline to find out if they are eligible to register for free flood warnings. Flood warnings can be received by telephone, mobile, fax or pager.

320,887 such warnings were issued by the Environment Agency between 1 June 2007 and 24 July 2007.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on recruiting voluntary wardens to distribute flood warnings in person. [150824]

Mr. Woolas: The Secretary of State for the Environment is not aware of any representations on recruiting voluntary wardens to distribute flood warnings in person. However, the Department is aware of many volunteer schemes that contribute a very important part of flood resilience activity.

While the Environment Agency encourages the recruitment of voluntary flood wardens, it does not use flood wardens to distribute flood warnings.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the reliability of automatic flood warning systems via *(a)* landline, *(b)* answer phone to a landline and *(c)* mobile phone. [150825]

Mr. Woolas: Floodline Warnings Direct (FWD) remains 100 per cent. operational. FWD sent over 50,000 messages to landlines and mobile phones between 25 June and 2 July. 84 per cent. of calls made to properties via landlines were answered. This includes calls answered by answer phones. 88 per cent. of calls made to mobile phones were answered, including calls answered by the messaging service.

Under FWD, faxes, pagers and emails are also used.

Forestry: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to increase the funding for new woodland creations and new woodland management under the English Woodland Grant Scheme. [152815]

Joan Ruddock: The Forestry Commission published its 2007 Grant Prospectus in May. This includes the allocation of £4.885 million to new Woodland Creation Grant agreements, for payment in financial year 2008-09.

Future funding for woodland creation will be largely determined by the Rural Development Plan for England 2007-13, which is still subject to EU Commission approval. In addition the outcome of CSR 07 and the delivery plan for the recently published Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests, which is being prepared by the Forestry Commission and Natural England may affect funding.

Industrial Wastes

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) on what date he expects the final version of the Quality Protocol for Pulverised Fuel Ash to be published; [151603]

(2) on what date the consultation on the draft Quality Protocol for Pulverised Fuel Ash will end; [151604]

(3) which bodies will be consulted about the draft Quality Protocol for Pulverised Fuel Ash; and if he will make a statement; [151605]

(4) on what date the consultation on the draft Quality Protocol for Pulverised Fuel Ash will begin. [151606]

Joan Ruddock: It is anticipated that a public consultation on the Quality Protocol for Pulverised

Fuel Ash will be launched by 28 September 2007. The consultation period will last 12 weeks in accordance with Cabinet Office guidance and, if released on schedule, will therefore end around 28 December 2007.

A list of consultees has not yet been drafted. However a Technical Advisory Group, which included industry members, drafted the initial Technical Report upon which the Quality Protocol will be based. The Environment Agency intend the consultation to reach widely across industry by direct invite as well as publication through the trade press.

A date for final publication of the Quality Protocol for Pulverised Fuel Ash has not been set, as it will be dependent upon the level and type of responses received from the consultation. It is anticipated that revision of the Quality Protocol, formatting and publication would take around 12 weeks. This would give a notional publication date of around 28 March 2008.

Nature Conservation: Squirrels

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what liaison there is between the Agriculture Department of the Scottish Executive and his Department's officers in England to ensure the maximum level of protection for red squirrels. [151753]

Joan Ruddock: The UK Red Squirrel Group (UKRSG), supported by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), is the main liaison mechanism to support delivery of the red squirrel species action plan.

Membership of the UKRSG includes representatives of the country groups (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland), the UK Government, the devolved Administrations and their relevant conservation agencies, the Forestry Commission, and representatives of the voluntary sector (The Wildlife Trusts).

The red squirrel conservation officers in Northumberland, Cumbria, Dumfries and Galloway and the Scottish Borders meet frequently and seek to co-ordinate grey squirrel control efforts either side of the Scottish border to help protect the red squirrel.

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make funding available for the protection of red squirrels in England and, in selected areas, the eradication of grey squirrels. [151754]

Joan Ruddock: The Forestry Commission's English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) offers support for red squirrel conservation targeted on the 16 designated red squirrel reserves. Over the last 12 months, EWGS has paid out £71,000 in the North-East with another £70,000 available for the 2008-09 period. In addition EWGS can support the control of grey squirrel in areas of 'critical threat' as defined in 'Grey Squirrel and England's Woodlands: Policy and Action', which was published on 22 January 2006. The Forestry Commission is also putting £26,000 a year into the Save our Squirrels project in Northern England. Natural England is also contributing £15,000 a year to this project.

We will keep the policy in this area under review, and assess future funding according to priorities.

Office of Climate Change

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the terms of reference are of the Office of Climate Change; what work it has undertaken; and what further work is planned. [151740]

Mr. Woolas: The Office of Climate Change (OCC) was set up to:

- programme manage existing climate change commitments;
- consolidate analysis and provide co-ordination between Departments;
- run policy projects to tackle the most difficult cross-cutting issues; and,
- be an advocate for climate change issues across Government.

The OCC is a shared resource for Defra, BERR, DFID, FCO, DfT and CLG. It is jointly funded and governed by these Departments.

So far, the OCC has completed work on the following projects:

- an audit of UK action on climate change, and the implications of the Stern Review for the UK;
- drafting of the Climate Change Bill, which has now been passed to Defra for its passage through Parliament;
- work with Defra and DTI to develop a draft Aviation Offsetting standard, which will help consumers have greater confidence in carbon offsetting programmes; and,
- development of a UK position on how the EU emissions trading scheme should work after 2012.

The OCC has ongoing projects in the following areas:

- assessment of the "Global Carbon Finance" flows required to support developing countries in moving towards low carbon economies;
- developing policy options for reducing emissions from heating and cooling of buildings; and
- assessment of UK institutional arrangements and their ability to support our domestic goals.

Office of Climate Change: Finance

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the budget is of the Office of Climate Change for 2007-08; and what budget is planned for future years. [151739]

Mr. Woolas: The Office of Climate Change has total spending plans of £3.5 million for the year 2007-08. The budget for future years has not yet been agreed but it is likely to remain at roughly the same level.

Pest Control: Squirrels

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research is being undertaken by his Department on the control of grey squirrels. [151755]

Joan Ruddock: Methods to control grey squirrels are well known and have been published as Best Practice Guidance by the Forestry Commission (FC). The methods advocated are usually effective in reducing populations

if used at sufficient intensity, and where there is a high level of support for control by landowners and the public. This has been demonstrated by the successful 10 year project to control grey squirrels on Anglesey.

Alternative non-lethal methods to control wild populations of animals are being investigated, such as the use of immuno-contraception vaccines. The FC and DEFRA are collaborating on the application of this method for grey squirrel control with partnership funding from DEFRA, FC and Scottish Natural Heritage. However, it is likely that immuno-contraception will not, at least in the short to medium term, be a viable option for grey squirrels. Even if a suitable vaccine is found, there will still be a challenge to establish how to deliver it to grey squirrels without affecting other wildlife, especially the red squirrel.

Radio: Waste Disposal

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the potential environmental impact of a switch from analogue to digital radio in terms of the *(a)* disposal of analogue radio receivers, *(b)* the (i) manufacture and (ii) energy consumption of digital radio receivers and *(c)* energy consumption of digital radio receivers; and what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on these matters. [150161]

Joan Ruddock: The Government do not currently have any plans to switch off analogue radio transmissions. However, we are aware that there is a growing market for digital radio receivers.

The Government Market Transformation Programme (MTP) works with manufacturers, retailers and other stakeholders to seek to bring forward more sustainable products. We are currently working with retailers to seek voluntary commitments from them to improve the energy efficiency of the consumer electronic products they procure and sell.

The MTP has tested a limited number of digital radio receivers. The average energy needed to operate the radios tested was around 8.5 watts. A typical traditional analogue radio requires 2 watts.

The Government has made no assessment of the environmental impact of the disposal of analogue radios nor of the manufacture of digital radios. However, like most other electrical appliances both will need to be disposed of in compliance with the WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Regulations, which from 1 July require producers (or third parties acting on their behalf) to finance systems to provide for the collection, treatment, recovery and environmentally sound disposal of WEEE.

No discussions have been held with the Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport on these matters.

Radioactive Wastes: Waste Management

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to finalise the appointment of the members of the reconstituted Committee on Radioactive Waste Management. [152286]

Mr. Woolas: It is planned that the reconstituted Committee on Radioactive Waste Management will be in place from autumn 2007.

Sponsor Ministers from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the devolved administrations appointed Professor Robert Pickard as Chair Designate of the reconstituted Committee on Wednesday 18 July.

Professor Pickard's appointment was made in accordance with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA) Code of Practice and he will become full Chair following appointment of up to 14 committee members in the early autumn. As Chair Designate, Professor Pickard will now play a part in the appointment of the members.

Recycling: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the provision of community recycling centres in Coventry. [150786]

Joan Ruddock: *[holding answer 19 July 2007]:* No specific assessment has been made by my Department on the provision of community recycling centres in Coventry.

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 places an obligation on waste disposal authorities to provide places at which residents in the area may deposit their household waste. Provision of such facilities would be a matter for the relevant local authority.

Recycling: Government Departments

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of waste from central Government buildings is recycled. [152450]

Joan Ruddock: The percentage of waste that is recycled from central Government buildings is published in the annual Sustainable Development in Government Reports. The last report, published by the Sustainable Development Commission, was for 2005-06. It reports a recycling rate across the Government estate of 50 per cent. The report is available at:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/sdig2006/

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to increase the percentage of waste from central Government buildings that is recycled by 2010. [152451]

Joan Ruddock: Central Government Departments are required to meet cross-Government sustainable operations targets, launched in June 2006, which include commitments to reduce waste arisings and to increase recycling rates. The report is available at:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/sdig2006/

Recycling: Greater London

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the percentage rate of *(a)* household recycling and *(b)* household composting was in each London borough in the most recent period for which figures are available. [152533]

Joan Ruddock: Household recycling and composting rates achieved by each London borough in 2005-06 are provided in the following table.

Authority	Recycling (BVa)	Composting (BVb)	Percentage Total (BVa+b)
Barking and Dagenham	12.18	4.42	16.6
Barnet	17.98	9.49	27.47
Bexley	21.5	16.21	37.71
Brent	10.89	9.12	20.01
Bromley	22.79	4.46	27.25
Camden	22.24	4.9	27.14
City of London	18.1	0	18.1
City of Westminster	17.79	0.5	18.29
Croydon	12.99	3.18	16.17
Ealing	15.36	3.92	19.28
East London WA	11.21	4.04	15.25
Enfield	16.92	10.37	27.29
Greenwich	18.16	3.5	21.66
Hackney	11.84	4.37	16.21
Hammersmith and Fulham	21	0.49	21.49
Haringey	16.08	3.15	19.23
Harrow	13.66	13.04	26.7
Havering	11.85	5.96	17.81
Hillingdon	16.3	11.4	27.7
Hounslow	15.74	3.51	19.25
Islington	15.7	2.59	18.29
Kensington and Chelsea	19.29	0.65	19.94
Kingston upon Thames	17.41	6.56	23.97
Lambeth	18.96	3.19	22.15
Lewisham	11.96	0.24	12.2
Merton	19.35	3.24	22.59
Newham	8.63	1.5	10.13
North London WA	15.27	5.62	20.89
Redbridge	12.79	4.55	17.34
Richmond upon Thames	21.06	7.53	28.59
Southwark	11.55	3.41	14.96
Sutton	20.21	8.86	29.07
Tower Hamlets	8.85	0	8.85
Waltham Forest	13.44	8.41	21.85
Wandsworth	20.63	0.33	20.96
West London WA	15.91	8.68	24.59
Western Riverside WA	20.2	1.83	22.03

Recycling: Standards

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to increase recycling rates. [151953]

Joan Ruddock: Recycling is strongly promoted by a range of Government policies. Measures to increase the levels of recycling and composting are outlined in the Waste Strategy for England 2007, published by my Department on the 24 May. Copies of the strategy can be found in the Library of the House and on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/strategy/strategy07/pdf/waste07-strategy.pdf

Recycling: Toner Cartridges

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to implement measures which will increase the recycling of printer cartridges. [151954]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA does not have any current plans to introduce measures to specifically increase printer cartridge recycling. A number of businesses and charitable organisations already collect printer cartridges for reuse and recycling. This option is often cheaper than purchasing a new unit.

Recycling: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of waste collected in city of York was recycled in each year since 2003-04; what financial assistance was provided by the Government to York for recycling in that period; and what steps the Government have taken to encourage local authorities to increase recycling rates. [151559]

Joan Ruddock: Recycling and composting of household waste has doubled in the past four years and more than tripled in the past eight years. Government support for, and engagement with, the poorest performing local authorities, challenging national and local targets and the escalating landfill tax are all helping authorities drive forward even higher recycling rates.

The Audit Commission's Best Value Performance Indicators show household waste recycled or composted by York city council was 15.43 per cent. in 2003-04; 17.77 per cent. in 2004-05; and 24.08 per cent. in 2005-06.

The main source of funding for local authorities' waste management services is the environmental, protective and cultural services (EPCS) block of Government grant, distributed each year. It is for the local authorities to decide what proportion of the block to invest in waste management services, including recycling. Specific funding awarded from 2003-04 onwards to York city council, available for it to use on improving its recycling services, is detailed in the following table.

Funding type	Funding amount (£)	Funding description	Start date	End date
Local Authority Support Unit Direct Consultancy Service	36,015	Partnership Development	1 April 2004	31 March 2005
National Waste Minimisation and Recycling Fund (Round 3)	350,000	Household Waste Recycling Centre Development	1 April 2004	31 March 2006

Funding type	Funding amount (£)	Funding description	Start date	End date
Grant to relieve spending pressures on waste	50,735	Share of £20 million to all local authorities in England in recognition of the need to spend on waste management	1 April 2004	31 March 2005
Waste and Performance Efficiency Grant (WPEG)	145,790	Capital: 82,006.62 Revenue: 63,782.92	1 April 2005	31 March 2006
Local Authority Support Unit Direct Consultancy Support	72,182	York and North Yorkshire Waste Management Partnership (YNYWMP) and Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS)—revision and development	1 April 2005	31 March 2006
Household Incentives	23,400	Four incentive pilots for a six month period starting October 2005. All authorities run the first two pilots but can elect to undertake a third and fourth.	1 April 2005	31 March 2006
Local Authority Support Unit Direct Consultancy Support	99,832	Waste Composition Study	1 April 2006	31 March 2008
Waste and Performance Efficiency Grant (WPEG)	387,705	Capital: 193,852 Revenue: 193,852	1 April 2006	31 March 2007
Waste and Performance Efficiency Grant (WPEG)	406,075	Capital: 203,037 Revenue: 203,037	1 April 2007	31 March 2008

York city council also received free guidance and support during this time, including from the Waste and Resources Action Programme's ROTATE programme. ROTATE is a free advisory service which supports local authorities' kerbside collection and local communications and awareness programmes.

Recycling: Yorkshire and Humberside

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of waste was recycled in each local authority in Yorkshire and the Humber in each year since 2004-05. [151560]

Joan Ruddock: The Audit Commission's Best Value Performance Indicators for household recycling and composting rates for 2004-05 and 2005-06 achieved by each local authority in the Yorkshire and Humber region are shown in the following table.

	2004-05	Percentage 2005-06
East Riding of Yorkshire	18.77	24.76
Kingston upon Hull	13.28	18.05
North East Lincolnshire	21.18	23.68
North Lincolnshire	24.09	25.77
York City	17.77	24.08
Selby	14.71	26.73
Scarborough	14.87	18.67
Ryedale	25.40	42.77
Richmondshire	11.99	22.67
Harrogate	15.63	21.92
Hambleton	34.52	39.87
Craven	21.41	27.04
North Yorkshire County	21.98	30.19
Sheffield	17.14	21.17
Rotherham	21.00	22.43
Doncaster	18.24	19.55
Barnsley	17.68	19.9
Leeds	19.56	21.33
Kirklees	16.23	21.06
Wakefield City	21.27	21.99
Bradford City	16.73	18.55
Calderdale	17.05	20.35

Refrigerators: Energy

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the energy efficiency of mini-fridges; and what assessment he has made of the merits of placing restrictions on their sale in the UK. [151742]

Joan Ruddock: The Government Market Transformation Programme (MTP) works with manufacturers and other stakeholders to seek to bring forward more sustainable products and has worked with the domestic refrigeration industry in both the UK and abroad to significantly improve the energy efficiency of these appliances over the past 10 to 15 years.

While no specific assessment has been made of "mini-fridges" we are aware that an increasing number of these appliances are being purchased. However, as a member of the European Single Market the UK, nor any other member state, cannot place restrictions on the sale of appliances on the basis of their energy efficiency alone. Such actions need to be taken by member states acting together.

The Eco-Design for Energy Using Products (EUP) framework directive provides a forum for considering options and priorities for establishing energy efficiency standards for energy using products. Domestic refrigeration products have been identified as priority for action and the Commission expects to bring forward proposals in this area early next year.

Severn Barrage: Flood Control

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made of the potential environmental impact of the proposed Severn Barrage project, with particular reference to flood protection upstream. [151917]

Mr. Woolas: A Severn Barrage scheme could make a major contribution towards the supply of renewable electricity, potentially delivering up to 5 per cent. of the UK's electricity needs.

However, construction of a barrage would have a major impact on the unique hyper-tidal nature of the estuary. Some areas of saltmarsh as well as intertidal mudflats and sandflats at the banks of the Severn would be lost. Wildlife, including waders and wildfowl, and migratory fish stocks such as salmon and sea trout would be affected.

The construction of a barrage would also have an impact on local flood management plans. The precise implications of a barrage scheme would depend on its location, the detail of its operating regimes and, in particular, the extent to which tidal water was permitted to enter the Severn.

A major study on tidal power in the UK, led by the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC), is currently under way. Part of the study is looking at the consequences of building a barrage across the Severn estuary and the social, environmental and economic impacts involved, including the implications for flood management. We will carefully consider the results of this work, which should be available at the end of September, before any decisions are taken.

Water Demand: Showers

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will estimate the impact on per capita demand for water within households of the use of power showers. [151829]

Mr. Woolas: The Government's Market Transformation Programme (MTP) will shortly be setting out, for public consultation, the Government's current evidence and analysis on showers. This consultation is part of a wider annual review and policy development process, supporting delivery of the Government's objectives for energy, water and for sustainable consumption and production.

The paper includes indicative targets and eco-design standards for showers which are sold and used in the UK. The MTP work indicates that if no new policy actions are taken, and current underlying trends continue, water consumption by showers is expected to rise by 48 per cent. by 2020 compared to the 2006 baseline. The policy actions proposed in the document show how this projected increase can be constrained.

Water Demand: Domestic Swimming Pools

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of *(a)* the impact of trends in the numbers of swimming pools, jacuzzis and other water spa pools and decorative water features and ponds within the home and garden on per capita demand for water within individual households over the last 10 years and *(b)* the likely impact of such trends over the next 10 years. [151876]

Mr. Woolas: The Market Transformation Programme (MTP) allows us to assess the impact of a range of products on water use, including toilets, taps, showers and baths. The MTP is also undertaking a scoping study to determine which other products use significant amounts of water. This will include an assessment of the amount of water consumption associated with swimming pools, hot tubs and spa baths. There is currently no evidence to show that ornamental garden water features involve significant levels of water consumption.

Water Supply: Tewkesbury and Gloucestershire

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions he has held with Severn Trent on restoring water supplies to households in the Tewkesbury constituency; and if he will make a statement; [152906]

(2) what discussions he has had with Severn Trent on securing extra supplies of bowsers to provide emergency water supplies to people in Gloucestershire; and if he will make a statement. [152907]

Mr. Woolas: My Department is in close contact with Severn Trent Water about the restoration of piped water supplies, the provision of alternative supplies from bowsers, street based water tanks and the distribution of bottled water. We are helping to ensure the availability of extra bowsers and tanks where necessary. Work is under way at Mythe Water Treatment Works to enable mains water to be restored to 140,000 homes in Tewkesbury, Gloucester and Cheltenham. My officials are closely monitoring the situation.

Water: Conservation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department and its agencies have spent on *(a)* advertising and other promotion, *(b)* grants for households and *(c)* research to promote more efficient use of water in the household since 1997. [151733]

Mr. Woolas: The Water Industry Act 1991 places a duty on water companies in England and Wales to promote the efficient use of water to their customers. This can include the distribution of free water saving devices and publicity and information on the efficient use of water.

Advice to customers is made available on websites and through articles in publications and the Environment Agency's Water Efficiency Awards. Efficient use of hot water also features in the current DEFRA Act on CO_2 campaign.

Since 1997 the Department and the Environment Agency have spent an estimated £2.5 million combined on research directly or indirectly related to the efficient use of water in households.

The DEFRA-led Water Saving Group is formed by the key water industry stakeholders and was established in October 2005 to develop practical ways to promote the efficient use of water in households. Its action plan includes a workstream led by the Consumer Council for Water on 'Understanding and changing customers' perceptions and raising awareness'.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the reasons for recent trends in the per capita demand for water in households. [151734]

Mr. Woolas: Ofwat publish per capita consumption (pcc) figures annually in their security of supply, leakage and water efficiency report, a copy of which is available in the library of the House. It is thought that between 1960 and 1995 pcc rose by about 1 per cent. per year. Since 1995 Ofwat report that pcc has been relatively stable. Variations occur between years, and at regional levels, which reflect influences on consumption such as climate variations, the number of metered customers and restrictions on usage.

DEFRA's Market Transformation Programme (MTP) presents scenario data on future water consumption in the domestic sector. This work includes the production of policy briefs and briefing notes on key products which include water demand forecasting models and related action plans. Actual consumption is influenced by both the standard of products and the water using behaviours of consumers.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* research his Department has undertaken into and *(b)* support his Department has given to the development of water saving products. [151932]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA's Market Transformation Programme (MTP) presents scenario data on future water consumption in the domestic sector. This work includes the production of policy briefs and briefing notes which include water demand forecasting models and related action plans. MTP also undertakes research to support the evidence base for key water using products.

In 2003 the Government launched the Enhanced Capital Allowance (ECA) scheme for water efficient technologies, which provides accelerated tax relief to businesses investing in designated sustainable water technologies. These are listed on the ECA website and provide a list of proven water saving technologies that can be accessed by businesses and the public alike. The ECA scheme provides a financial incentive for businesses to invest in sustainable water technologies and also encourages innovation for the development of more environmentally beneficial technologies.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC: Middle East

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make it his policy to request the BBC to publish the Balen report. [153650]

James Purnell: No. The decision on whether to release the Balen report is a matter for the BBC.

Commonwealth Games: Glasgow

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether there are any plans to transfer the association right if Glasgow wins the right to host the 2014 Commonwealth Games; and if he will make a statement. [152656]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I understand that the Scottish Executive is in discussion with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills about association rights for a Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games, should it win the right to host them. DCMS is not involved in this matter.

Departments: Correspondence

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when his Department plans to answer the letter sent to it by the Federation of Racecourse Bookmakers on 31 May. [153673]

Mr. Sutcliffe: A response has been sent today.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the name is of each special adviser in his Department. [153278]

James Purnell: I have not yet appointed special advisers.

Digital Broadcasting

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guarantees Ofcom has given to major broadcasters on access to the digital interleaved spectrum; and if he will make a statement. [153569]

James Purnell: The matter raised is the responsibility of the Office of Communications (Ofcom), as independent regulator for the communications sector. Accordingly, I have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to reply directly to my right hon. Friend. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Flags: Scotland

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his exhortation to fly the Union flag over public buildings extends to public buildings in Scotland. [150390]

James Purnell: The Prime Minister's suggestion to fly the Union Flag over public buildings extends to Government buildings in Scotland. Flag flying at Scottish Executive and Scottish Parliament buildings is a matter for those bodies.

Football: World Cup

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what budget has been agreed for the new Government ambassador for the 2018 Football World Cup bid; and from which Department's budget it will come; [152653]

(2) what support will be provided from the public purse to the new Government ambassador for the 2018 Football World Cup bid. [152655]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Bidding to host a future World Cup is not a decision for Government but for the relevant football authority. The Department is committed to supporting viable bids to host major events in the UK and has made up to £50,000 available to provide staff support and travel expenses to the Prime Minister's World Cup ambassador until the end of the calendar year; the British Council has provided office space.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions took place with the Football Association prior to the announcement of the new Government ambassador for the 2018 World Cup bid. [152654]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Football Association was given prior notification of the Prime Minister's intention to make this appointment.

Leisure: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on sport and culture in *(a)* Southampton and *(b)* Hampshire since 1997. [151067]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The main body of this answer deals with Exchequer funds routed via DCMS. It does not include funding for cultural or sporting activities delivered via local authorities and funded via other Government Departments. Lottery funds, awarded by Lottery distributing bodies independently of the Department, are included for completeness and addressed separately at the end of this answer.

Sport

Financial support for sport from public sources is primarily channelled through Sport England and UK Sport, the two DCMS sponsored bodies which dispense Exchequer and Lottery funds for sport from DCMS, in line with their own policies and priorities for the development of sport.

Sport England has distributed the following amounts of Exchequer funding to Southampton and Hampshire in the period since 1997 to support and promote sporting activities and projects:

Southampton: £529,600

Hampshire: £983,542

It is not possible for UK Sport to determine an amount of Exchequer funding allocated to Southampton and Hampshire as its funding is not directed to specific counties or regions.

Culture

Arts Council England has made the following awards from Exchequer funding:

£000

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Southampton	995	1,202	1,258	1,100	982
Hampshire	712	915	923	1,294	1,007

Due to a merger between the Arts Council and Regional arts boards in 2002-03, previous figures are not readily available. As Southampton is a unitary authority, funding for the authority is excluded from the Hampshire totals.

Culture: Museums and Libraries

It is not possible to provide a complete financial breakdown at the county or District level for all aspects of expenditure by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. This includes the Renaissance in the Regions programme for museums, which focuses on need and impact at the regional level, where the South East Regional Hub (with Hampshire County Museums Service as lead partner) has received:

£

2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
10,000	260,000	908,000	1,548,000	1,932,000	4,394,000

However to date, museums in Southampton have directly benefited from £207,144 of Renaissance investment in their collections of national significance and similarly museums within the county boundary of Hampshire, including Southampton, have received £1,351,453.

Heritage

The following grants were offered by English Heritage between 1 April 1997 to date:

1. Southampton - total of £2,651,864 offered (53 cases)

2. Hampshire - total of £296,807 offered (five cases).

The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme has made grants totalling £8,075,710.50 to the South East region since 2001, but further disaggregation is not possible without incurring disproportionate cost.

National Lottery funding (non-Exchequer)

The following totals have been provided by National Lottery Distributors, and are not Exchequer funds:

£

Lottery awards (total)

Region	
Southampton	£40,522,308
Hampshire	£60,921,923
Total	£101,444,231

National Lottery: via Sport England

£000

	Southampton	*Hampshire*
1996-97	513	5,780
1997-98	89	2,229
1998-99	295	1,599
1999-2000	17	251
2000-01	329	394
2001-02	6,227	937
2002-03	251	511
2003-04	64	966
2004-05	232	1,451
2005-06	291	1,416
2006-07	143	1,373

National Lottery: via Heritage Lottery Fund

Since 1997, the Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded over £13,563,664 to more than 98 heritage projects in Southampton, and awarded over £43,345,844, to more than 455 heritage projects in the county of Hampshire.

National Lottery: via the UK Film Council

The UKFC Film Council has awarded the following (up to 30 June 2007).

£

(a) Southampton (local authority area):

2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Total*
—	66	9,250	1,967	10,500	2,708	—	24,491

£

(b) Hampshire (county area):

2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Total*
289,242	101,377	98,386	26,329	20,150	34,317	830	570,631

Licensing Act: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many licences issued under the Licensing Act 2003 have since been revoked in each London borough. [153416]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We do not hold this information centrally. The Licensing Act 2003 devolved the administration for licensing to individual licensing authorities who should hold information about licensed premises in their area.

DCMS is currently collecting information about licensed premises and applications under the Licensing Act 2003 for a new National Statistics bulletin. Data are scheduled to be released in October 2007 on the DCMS website.

Broad estimates collated by the Department in November 2006, based on a small sample of licensing authorities, suggested that following review, approximately 100 licences had been revoked across England and Wales in the first year under the new Licensing Act.

Licensing Laws

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many licence applications were *(a)* granted and *(b)* rejected in each local authority area for (i) late night takeaway premises, (ii) public houses and (iii) clubs between 1999 and the commencement of the Licensing Act 2003. [153334]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We do not hold this information centrally.

Information about the number of applications for liquor licenses in England and Wales under the previous licensing regime is available in the Liquor Licensing Statistical Bulletin series. The bulletins published in 2000 and 2004 are available on the DCMS website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Research/statistics_outputs/liquor_licensing_statistics

The 2004 bulletin showed that there were just over 5,000 new applications for on-licences and about 2,950 new applications for off-licences in the year to June 2004. In both cases over 19 of every 20 applications were granted.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many licence applications have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* rejected in each local authority area for (i) late night takeaway premises, (ii) public houses and (iii) clubs since the commencement of the Licensing Act 2003. [153335]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We do not hold this information centrally.

The Licensing Act 2003 devolved the administration for licensing to individual licensing authorities who should hold information about licensed premises in their area.

DCMS is currently collecting information about licensed premises and applications under the Licensing Act 2003 for a new National Statistics bulletin. Data are scheduled to be released in October 2007 on the DCMS website.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what percentage of licence applications have been granted in each local authority area for *(a)* late night takeaway premises, *(b)* public houses and *(c)* clubs against police advice since the commencement of the Licensing Act 2003. [153336]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We do not hold this information centrally.

Lilleshall National Sports Centre

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has for the future of Lilleshall National Sports Centre; and if he will make a statement. [152652]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England is working with key stakeholders to develop proposals for the management of Lilleshall from April 2009, when the current management contract expires, and a strategy that offers a stronger, sustainable long-term future for the site.

Mass Media: Politics and Government

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will hold discussions with the BBC and other media organisations on the potential use of their public interest role to further the debate launched by the Prime Minister on democratic reform; and if he will make a statement. [150908]

James Purnell: The Government are keen to ensure that as many people as possible throughout the United Kingdom are involved in the debate on democratic renewal. Broadcasters and other media organisations are, of course, independent of Government. My right hon. Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice is considering the consultation process.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 15 June 2007, DCMS ref: 72199. [153491]

James Purnell: The hon. Member's letter of 15 June was addressed to my predecessor and I replied on 23 July, reference CMS 72199.

Museums and Galleries: West Midlands and Herefordshire

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) whether funding for Renaissance in the West Midlands is planned to be continued following the Comprehensive Spending Review; [152287]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of Renaissance funding on museums in *(a)* Hereford and *(b)* Leominster. [152291]

James Purnell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Minister for Culture, Creative Industries and Tourism (Margaret Hodge) gave him on 19 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 479W.

Museums in Hereford and Leominster have received support from the Renaissance programme at the regional level in respect of: making grant and lottery applications; training and skills development; conservation and environmental monitoring; audience development work; improvements to facilities; and purchase of equipment.

Future Funding for the Renaissance in the Regions Programme and all other departmental expenditure is under consideration in the context of the spending review.

National Lottery: Play

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what projects have been funded under the Big Lottery Fund children's play initiative. [152091]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The projects listed have been funded under Children's Play.

Children's Play—Projects Awarded

Adur's Local Community Improvement Play Projects for Children and Young People
Play Around Alnwick District
Making Play Matter in Ashfield
Go4Play in Ashford
Promoting Positive Play Opportunities for All
More free play provision in Bath and North East Somerset
Blackburn and Darwen Play—Improving Access and Play Opportunities
Blackpool's Children's Play Portfolio
Bolton's Targeted Approach to Children's Play
OUR SPACE IN POOLE
Our Space in Bournemouth
The Big Brent Play Portfolio
Brighton and Hove City Council BIG Play Programme Portfolio
Bristol City Council—Playing for Real
All To Play For In Broxtowe
bury@play
Canterbury Play Areas and Activities
Charnwood at Play
Communities at Play
Play Well in Cherwell
Chiltern Area Play Portfolio
Able To Play
Bradford's All To Play For
Your Time, Your Space
Play in the City—Bringing Free Play to City Residents
Isles of Scilly Community Play Facility
'Something to do'—Improving Play Opportunities in Coventry
Crewe and Nantwich At Play
Strategic Play Facilities in Ashbourne and Bakewell
Dover District Strategic Play Areas and Skate Park
The Dudley Children's Play Initiative—Just Enjoy
The East Cambridgeshire Better Play Project
East Devon Rural Play
Lots of Play Keeps the Doctor Away (LPD)
Experience Your World
Freedom to Play in Ellesmere Port and Neston
Epsom and Ewell's Big Lottery Portfolio For Play
Exeter—Free Play City
GO APE (Adventure Playground Environments) in Gateshead
Making Play Matter in Gedling
Playful Spaces
Play Enhancements in Gravesham (PEG)
Great Yarmouth—Improving Play Opportunities For All
Make Way for Play
Land, Sea and Tree
Time to Discover, Space to Develop, Free to have Fun
Kettering Borough Council: Big Lottery Children's Play Programme
Improving Adventure Play Provision
'Hull—The Play Friendly City'

Parts of Play
Play In Liverpool
The Bexley Children and Young People's Play and Activity Programme
Play 4 All in Croydon
Additional play opportunities for children experiencing disadvantage in Ealing
Play Is Here To Stay!
Harrow—Improving access to play
Making It Happen For Children and Young People in Lewisham
Unfolding Play Opportunities in Waltham Forest
Macclesfield Borough: Giving Every Child Every Opportunity To Play
Malvern Hills District Play
Enjoy Manchester
Medway Play Improvement Programme
A 'Better' Future For Young People In Mid Sussex
Childs Play Phase One
Milton Keynes Play Lottery Bid
New Forest @ Play
Newark and Sherwood Play Improvements
Support to North Dorset Strategic Play Programme 2007-2010
Community Play Programme
North Lincolnshire PlayAlert
North Norfolk—Increasing access to fun places to play
Improving Play in North Shropshire
North Somerset Play Rangers and Play Pods
Creating Safer Spaces and Places to Play in North Tyneside
North Warwickshire Play Opportunities
Changing Lives through Play in North West Leicestershire
Stepping Out To Play
Oadby and Wigston Inclusive Play Projects
Oxford City Improved Opportunities for Play
Supporting Play in Pendle District
Penwith Play and Freetime Portfolio of Projects 2007
Peterborough Children and Young People's Play Portfolio
Play In Plymouth
Portsmouth Play
Redcar and Cleveland Every Day Better Play
Rochdale Play and Freetime Portfolio
Rossendale Portfolio of Inclusive Play Projects
Rotherham Play
Playing for life in Rushcliffe
Scarborough 'Opportunity for Play'
Sevenoaks District Free Play
SPLISH: Sorting Play in Sheffield
Vibrant and Inclusive Play in Shrewsbury
Playing Out in Solihull
GET PLAYING! in South Derbyshire
South Hams Getting Real About Play
Improving Play in South Shropshire
Play South Somerset
Southampton Play
Better Play
Spelthorne Play Project
Play Out Project
Improved Play in Tameside
Tamworth Play Partnership
Teignbridge Big Play
Telford and Wrekin Council Improving Play Opportunities
Positive about Play in Test Valley
Thanet Play Portfolio for Children and Young People
Our Time, Our Space, Our Choice—Torbay's Play Partnership Strategy
Developing new and better play opportunities in Trafford.
Make Time for Play in Tynedale
Vale Royal's Play Big Time
The Wealden Big Bus
Improving Play in West Berkshire
All to Play For In West Lindsey
West Oxfordshire Play Portfolio
THE GROVE and LOUVIERS ROAD MAGNET SITES
Access All Areas
Wychavon Play Portfolio
From Imagination to Reality

Playful Ideas—Projects Awarded

Art to Start
Somali Play Project
Rural Northumberland Play Project
Let's All Play
Nevada club
Swap Shop Open Air Play Project
Eye Shine in Devon
Jubilee Park Play Equipment
Rural Playrangers Project
Play on Your Doorstep
Big Kidz Playzone
Wakefield Skate
Play on the wild side
Creative Play Project
Puzzle Island: 'play your own way'
Anson Cabin Project
Techno Toys
The PlAy Team
It's Great Outdoors
Home Loan/Respite Play Care
The Honeypot Playbus
Sensory and Play Garden
Play Pods for Primary Schools
Project Buzz

RAF Ibsley

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made on the listing of RAF Ibsley control tower; and if he will make a statement. [150873]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 19 July 2007]:* We are seeking further advice on this case from English Heritage before a final decision can be made.

Recreation Spaces: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect of the recent flooding on public and community sporting facilities; and if he will make a statement. [152879]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England is working closely with those areas badly affected and has made an initial assessment of the recent flooding affecting public and community sporting facilities in the regions of Yorkshire, East Midlands and West Midlands. Initial assessments show that there is not a wide-scale problem affecting sporting facilities in Yorkshire but that some individual facilities in the worst affected areas are badly damaged. It is still too early to assess the extent of damage from flooding in the Midlands but Sport England's regional offices are monitoring the situation and will be able to make a fuller assessment when it becomes possible to do so.

Sport: Schools

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what date his Department agreed a new target of raising the time allocated to school sport from four hours per week to five hours. [153383]

James Purnell: The Prime Minister announced on 13 July £100 million of additional funding to support access to five hours of sport each week for all 5 to 16-year-olds in schools and three hours for all other young people aged 16 to19.

Sports: Yorkshire and Humberside

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assistance the Government has given to *(a)* amateur sports clubs and *(b)* sport in schools in York since 1997. [152187]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is as follows.

Amateur sports clubs

Sport England advise that, since 1997, Government and the national lottery funding bodies have awarded £1,925,000 to amateur sports clubs.

In addition the following clubs in York have been registered as community amateur sports clubs to access the benefits of the scheme;

Acomb Sports Club
Alne Cricket Club
Appleton Roebuck Tennis Club
Bert Keech Bowls Club
Bishopthorpe Bowling Club
Bishopthorpe Tennis Club
Boroughbridge Sports Association
Dringhouses Bowling Club
Easingwold Haxby Robinson Bowling Club
Easingwold Lawn Tennis Club
Easingwold Rifle Club
Easingwold Town Association Football Club
Fulford Tennis Club
Hamilton Panthers Association Football Club
Heworth Amateur Rugby League Club
Heworth Golf Club
Heworth Tennis Club
Huby Bowling Club
Kingston Ice Dance Club
New Earswick and District Bowling Club
Osbaldwick Sports Club
Shipton Bowls Club
Stillington Sports and Social Club
Strensall Bowling Club
White Rose Triathletes
York and District Indoor Bowling Club
York City Rowing Club
York Cricket and Rugby Union Club
York Cricket Club
York Gliding Centre
York Ladies Cricket Club
York Railway Institute
York Squash Rackets Club

School sport

As part of the National School Sport Strategy, all schools in York are part of a School Sport Partnership (a family of schools which work together to increase participation in PE and school sport). Some are part of the York High Partnership, which was established in 2003 and will have received funding of £927,488 in the five years to 2008. The other schools are in the Burnholme Partnership, which was established in 2005 and will have received £631,215 in the three years to 2008.

Lottery funding of £222,526 has been awarded for two Out of School Hours Learning/School Sports Coordinators in York at the York High School Sport Partnership and the Burnholme Community College School Sport Partnership.

Government and the national lottery funding bodies have awarded £1,461,065 for community sports facilities in schools through programmes such as Active England, New Opportunities for PE and Sport and the Community Projects Capital Fund.

Sportsgrounds: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many new sporting facilities have been provided for children in each London borough in each of the last five years. [153566]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We do not hold information centrally about new sports facilities provided for use only by children. However, Sport England collects information through the Active Places database on new sports facilities that have community access, including the public and private sector. The following table provides data taken from database and shows the numbers of sports facilities known to have been built in each London borough since 2002.

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Total by borough*
Barking and Dagenham	3	1	4	3	1	1	13
Barnet	7	7	9	8	3	0	34
Bexley	0	6	1	15	3	0	25
Brent	0	9	3	1	3	0	16
Bromley	3	3	0	0	2	0	8
Camden	8	4	2	2	4	1	21
City of London	6	3	0	2	2	0	13

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total by borough
Westminster	15	7	6	1	2	2	33
Croydon	7	2	9	8	6	0	32
Ealing	5	7	3	5	2	3	25
Enfield	5	2	7	0	5	1	20
Greenwich	4	2	1	2	2	0	11
Hackney	1	3	3	1	4	0	12
Hammersmith	9	5	2	2	3	0	21
Haringey	6	2	3	1	2	1	15
Harrow	2	1	0	0	1	0	4
Havering	0	1	12	6	0	0	19
Hillingdon	3	1	4	4	4	0	16
Hounslow	1	1	2	8	3	2	17
Islington	2	4	2	1	2	0	11
Kensington and Chelsea	5	2	2	0	1	0	10
Kingston	5	4	1	1	2	2	15
Lambeth	1	0	4	1	3	1	10
Lewisham	1	3	7	3	2	4	20
Merton	5	3	6	6	0	0	20
Newham	7	4	1	7	3	0	22
Redbridge	5	1	1	0	2	0	9
Richmond	2	1	5	2	1	0	11
Southwark	4	2	3	7	6	1	23
Sutton	3	5	7	5	3	0	23
Tower Hamlets	2	3	5	2	9	1	22
Waltham Forest	7	0	5	4	6	5	27
Wandsworth	4	2	7	1	0	0	14
Total by year	138	101	127	109	92	25	592

TRANSPORT

Airborne Global System for Mobile Equipment

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the European Aviation Safety Authority granted airworthiness certification for the Airborne Global System for Mobile Equipment; when the House was informed of this decision; what the consultation process was prior to this decision; what the dates were of the consultation; which organisations were consulted; and if she will make a statement. [152012]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This is a technical matter between a European Agency and a private company.

The European Aviation Safety Agency issued Airbus with airworthiness certification for an airborne global system for mobile equipment (GSM) system on 19 June. The certification was issued to enable trials to be carried out on a single aircraft. EASA is the competent authority in the EU with responsibility for the airworthiness certification of all aeronautical products. It did not undertake a consultation process with regards to this particular approval.

Following the outcome of the trials and the product approval granted by EASA, operators of UK airlines would be required to gain an operational approval from the CAA before mobile equipment could be used on their aircraft.

Bus Services: Concessions

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the estimated set-up cost is of the new concessionary bus travel schemes set up under the Concessionary Bus Travel Bill per individual smart card; and how these costs were calculated. [152180]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The cost of introducing smartcards will depend on local circumstance and will vary from authority to authority. The Department commissioned independent Consultants, Deloitte, to produce an estimate of the indicative costs of all stages of introducing a national concessionary bus pass for older and disabled people in England. Their report was received in January 2007, and estimated that the cost, per smart card, would be between £2.64 and £3.59.

The report drew upon a number of sources. Several regional and local authorities have already implemented smart card travel schemes while many more are actively planning to, and members of several such authorities were interviewed. In addition, a number of representatives from key suppliers and from transport operating companies were also approached for information for the report.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will fund the new bus schemes arising from the Concessionary Bus Travel Bill by specific grants direct to local transport authorities. [152244]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Funding for the Concessionary Bus Travel Act will either be distributed via the formula grant system—as is the case for funding of the current statutory minimum concession—or specific grant by formula. A decision on the funding route will be made in due course.

Departments: Air Conditioning

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by the Department and its agencies on the hire of mobile air conditioning units in each of the last five years. [151928]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The requested information is as follows:

	£
2002-03	19,000
2003-04	87,097
2004-05	117,989
2005-06	171,936
2006-07	190,692

Departments: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of people employed by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies are disabled. [153595]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The proportions of staff who declared that they were in the Department and its agencies disabled at 31 March 2007 was 6.1 per cent.

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people in her Department have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for (i) inappropriate use of the internet while at work and (ii) using work telephones to access premium rate telephone numbers in the last 12 months. [149182]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table shows the number of people in the Department and its Agencies that have been disciplined/dismissed for inappropriate use of the internet while at work and using work telephones to access premium rate telephone numbers in the last 12 months.

	Number disciplined	*Number dismissed*
Internet	155	20
Telephone	1	0

Almost all of these relate to one particular instance. This represents 0.84 per cent. of staff employed within the Department for Transport central and its Agencies.

Departments: Flint Bishop Solicitors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have made payments to Flint Bishop solicitors since 1997. [151376]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Since the Department was formed in May 2002 of the Department's agencies, only the Highways Agency has a record of payments being made to Flint Bishop solicitors, as follows:

2002-03—£33,504

2006-07—£1,039

Departments: Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many press officers are employed by her Department. [153216]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The full time equivalent number of staff employed on press officer activities on 1 July 2007 is as follows:

	Press officers
DfT Central	14
DfT Agencies	22

Press office activities in most agencies are not carried out by staff or units solely dedicated to this purpose.

Departments: Ministerial Red Boxes

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many ministerial red boxes her Department bought in each of the last five years; what the cost of each was; who the suppliers were; and what tendering process was used in selecting them. [150416]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Ministerial boxes are used by successive Ministers over many years.

Since the Department was formed in May 2002, it has purchased 13 ministerial red boxes at a total cost of some £8,853.62 (inc VAT). All of the boxes were supplied by Banner Business Supplies (formerly the Stationery Office). Identifying the tendering process at this stage could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Postal Services

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what volume of correspondence her Department sent *(a)* by Royal Mail and *(b)* by other commercial delivery services in each of the last five years; and what the reasons were for the use of other commercial delivery services. [150459]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport is a federated organisation comprising seven Executive Agencies. Data on volume of correspondence sent by Royal Mail and by other commercial service providers is not recorded in all cases.

Where recorded the requested information is as follows:

	Items
(a)	
2002-02	76,720,270
2003-04	80,866,908
2004-05	110,748,308
2005-06	100,662,528
2006-07	102,671,860
(b)	
2002-02	[1]—
2003-04	[1]—
2004-05	3,905
2005-06	4,481
2006-07	7,685

[1] not recorded

Commercial delivery services are only used when it was proven more cost effective to do so, at customer's request, for non-standard sized items or if time critical.

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport to which periodicals her Department subscribes. [153208]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport (Central) receives a library and information service from Communities and Local Government. A list of those periodicals centrally funded has been placed in the Library of the House. Separating those titles solely held for use by the Department for Transport could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The list also includes periodicals subscribed to outside this service by the Department's Executive agencies.

The list excludes information from the Government Car and Despatch Agency and the Driving Standards Agency which could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by her Department on newspapers and magazines in the last 12 months. [153209]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport (Central) receives a library and information service from Communities and Local Government. From 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, the library spent £25,064 on paper-based publications for Department for Transport and for Communities and Local Government. This included the purchase of newspapers, magazines, annuals and books. Separating out spend relating to newspapers and magazines solely held for use by Department for Transport would attract a disproportionate cost.

Expenditure outside this service, by the Department's executive agencies, was some £169,225 in 2006-07. This excludes information from the Government Car and Despatch Agency and the Driving Standards Agency which could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by her Department on staff away days in the last 12 months. [153205]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information is not held in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Travel

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by her Department on *(a)* business class and *(b)* first class flights in the last 12 months. [153211]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Air travel expenditure is not recorded by class of ticket. The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of miles travelled by cars in the Government Car and Despatch Agency in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2001-02; and how many miles were travelled in work conducted for each Government Department. [153368]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend, the then Minister of State for Transport (Dr. Ladyman) on 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1939W.

Driving Offences

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of motor vehicles being used on the road without *(a)* road tax, *(b)* insurance and *(c)* a driving licence. [152154]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 24 July 2007]*: *(a)* The most recent estimates of the number of vehicles evading Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) in Great Britain and Northern Ireland were published in the statistical report Vehicle Excise Duty Evasion 2006. A copy of this report, published on 25 January 2007, was placed in the House of Commons Library and is also available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/162259/162469/VEDEvasionSurveyReport2006

(b) Our latest estimate (2005) for uninsured driving is based on a comparison of the vehicle register, maintained by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) and the Motor Insurance Database. It is that there are about 2.1 million vehicles (about 6.5 per cent. of the UK vehicle fleet) being driven by uninsured drivers.

(c) The most recent estimate of the number of drivers using a vehicle on the road without a valid driving licence was published in a joint DfT/DEFRA/ACPO report, Roads Policing Operation V79—National Driver and Vehicle Compliance Check. It was published on 8 September 2006, was placed in the House of Commons Library and is also available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/vehicles/roadspolicingoperationv79/

The Government are determined to tackle the problem of unlicensed vehicles. It introduced a system of continuous registration (CR) in January 2004 to enforce VED direct from the computer record. In addition, DVLA let a new contract to wheelclamp unlicensed vehicles in May 2006. In the 12 months since then 100,442 vehicles were clamped and impounded.

The Road Safety Act 2006 gives the Government powers to introduce a system of continuous insurance enforcement. The scheme will provide a new fixed penalty for people who ignore official reminders that their insurance has expired. This will apply to vehicles that are not declared as being off the road through a Statutory Off-Road Notification (SORN) and are not insured. Continuing offenders risk having their vehicle seized and destroyed. This is expected to begin in 2008.

Driving Offences: London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many hit and run accidents there were in each London borough in each of the last five years. [153554]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the then Minister of State for Transport (Dr. Stephen Ladyman) of 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 734-5W for data up to 2005. Data for 2006 are given in the table.

Reported personal injury accidents involving one or more hit and run drivers / riders by London borough: 2006

London borough	*2006*
Barking	91
Barnet	142
Bexley	73
Brent	113
Bromley	78

Reported personal injury accidents involving one or more hit and run drivers / riders by London borough: 2006

London borough	*2006*
Camden	107
City of London	53
Croydon	133
Ealing	184
Enfield	126
Greenwich	95
Hackney	162
Hammersmith	108
Haringey	134
Harrow	36
Havering	77
Hillingdon	97
Hounslow	114
Islington	99
Kensington and Chelsea	103
Kingston upon Thames	30
Lambeth	178
Lewisham	124
Merton	49
Newham	216
Redbridge	170
Richmond upon Thames	39
Southwark	177
Sutton	51
Tower Hamlets	179
Waltham Forest	159
Wandsworth	103
Westminster	222

Driving Offences: Mobile Phones

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of people who were stopped for using mobile telephones while driving *(a)* vans and other light goods vehicles and *(b)* heavy goods vehicles in the last period for which information is available. [152759]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No such estimate is made. However, the Department monitors the number of drivers using mobile phones while driving on a regular basis. The survey for 2007 is under way at the moment and the results will be published later this year. The survey differentiates between cars and other vehicles including vans and lorries. The most recent survey published in August 2006 is in TRL Leaflet 2100. That is available on-line at

www.trl.co.uk/store/report_list.asp?pid=211.

Driving: Age

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the merits of increasing the legal driving age to 18 years. [152337]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department most recently considered the case for increasing the legal driving age in the context of its 2002 consultation "A More Structured Approach to Learning to Drive".

At that time, we took the view the way forward was to improve the educational environment to provide access to a more consistent and better standard of training rather than to place restrictions on new drivers which we were concerned would have an impact on significant numbers of young people, especially those in rural areas. We will, however, be considering these issues further in the light of the report published on 19 July 2007 on Novice Drivers by the Transport Select Committee and are planning a further consultation later this year.

Driving: Licensing

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints were received by *(a)* the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), *(b)* her Department and *(c)* other bodies on the process by which licence applications are processed by the DVLA in each year since 2000-01, broken down by nature of the complaint. [151862]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The figures for *(a)* The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency are contained in the following table

Category of Complaint	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Non receipt of driving licence	92	57	86	87	126	108	204
Errors on driving licence	192	199	195	202	174	186	203
Driving licence complaint	139	168	262	310	312	224	263
Driver's Medical complaint	174	129	141	429	200	149	288
Total	597	553	684	1,028	812	667	958

Any complaints received by the Department or other bodies on the licence process are forwarded to DVLA to deal with and would therefore be included in the above figures.

DVLA continuously strives to improve its service to customers and constantly reviews its working processes. DVLA is currently reviewing its forms and literature to ensure that they are clear and user friendly and meet customer needs.

Heathrow Airport

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many level busts where planes landing or taking off at Heathrow lost their vertical separation by deviation of 300 feet or more from the assigned level took place in each year since 2000; and if she will make a statement; [150829]

(2) how many losses of standard separation of planes were recorded by planes landing and departing at Heathrow in each year since 2000; and if she will make a statement. [150830]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 19 July 2007]:* This is an operational matter for NATS, the air navigation services provider. I have asked the Chief Executive of NATS to respond to your questions directly.

Heathrow Airport: Passengers

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many overseas residents on *(a)* leisure and *(b)* business trips transferred or transited at Heathrow airport to (i) an overseas destination and (ii) another destination in the UK in 2006. [152896]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The table shows the estimated number of overseas residents on leisure and business trips who transferred at Heathrow airport to an overseas destination and another destination in the UK in 2006.

Information on the country of residence or the trip purpose of transit passengers is not available.

Transfer passengers at Heathrow (overseas residents), 2006

	Business	Leisure	thousand Total
Transfer to an overseas destination	5,300	12,607	17,908
Transfer to another destination in the UK	432	768	1,200

Source:
Civil Aviation Authority

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* UK residents and *(b)* overseas residents who were transfer or transit passengers through Heathrow were (i) travelling between a UK origin and an overseas destination and (ii) travelling between two UK destinations for (A) business and (B) leisure in the latest period for which figures are available. [152897]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table shows the data for transfer and transit passengers at Heathrow in 2006. The detailed breakdown by destination and trip purpose is not available for transit passengers.

Transfer and transit passengers at Heathrow 2006

	UK residents		Overseas residents		thousand
	Business	Leisure	Business	Leisure	Total passengers
Transfer passengers:					
Between a UK origin and an overseas destination	880	2,713	806	1,317	5,716
of which:					
Domestic to International	491	1,454	374	549	2,868
International to Domestic	389	1,259	432	768	2,848
Between two UK destinations	0	—	—	0	1
Transit passengers	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	189

0 = Zero passengers.
— = Less than 500 passengers.
n/a = Not available.
Source:
Civil Aviation Authority

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* transfer and *(b)* transit passengers used Heathrow airport in (i) 1976, (ii) 1986, (iii) 1996 and (iv) 2006. [152898]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table shows the estimated number of transfer and transit passengers at Heathrow airport in 1978, 1987, 1996 and 2006. Data are not available for 1976 or 1986.

Transfer and transit passengers at Heathrow airport

	Transfer	million Transit
1978	5.7	0.4
1987	7.8	0.4
1996	18.2	0.3
2006	22.9	0.2

Source:
Civil Aviation Authority

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many UK residents on *(a)* leisure and *(b)* business trips transferred or transited at Heathrow airport to (i) an overseas destination and (ii) another destination in the UK in 2006. [152899]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table shows the estimated number of UK residents on leisure and business trips who transferred at Heathrow airport to an overseas destination and another destination in the UK in 2006. Information on the country of residence or the trip purpose of transit passengers is not available.

Transfer passengers at Heathrow (UK residents), 2006

	Transfer to an overseas destination	thousand Transfer to another destination in the UK
Business	554	390
Leisure	1,582	1,260
Total	2,137	1,650

Source:
Civil Aviation Authority

Heathrow Airport: Security

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will meet London First to discuss the impact of security arrangements at Heathrow Airport on business travellers. [152148]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 24 July 2007]:* The Department is very aware of the issues facing business and leisure travellers, resulting from the necessary current security regulations. My right hon. Friend last week hosted an Aviation Security Summit with senior aviation industry figures, to review industry's preparedness for this summer's peak traffic season, and to explore the scope for steps which might be taken to further ease the burden on passengers whilst continuing to ensure effective security. My right hon. Friend will be meeting with London First shortly.

Highways Agency: Weather

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the Highways Agency was notified by

the Meteorological Office of the warning of severe weather on and around 20 July; and what information was provided. [153698]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency was first notified by the Meteorological Office of a heavy rain warning at 10.12 am on Wednesday 18 July. The warning stated that a prolonged period of heavy and thundery rain was expected to affect parts of England and Wales on Friday and into Saturday. The warning stated that there was doubt about where the highest rainfall would occur but that southern and eastern areas were most at risk and that the heavy rain could lead to flooding in some areas and cause disruption to outdoor events and transport networks.

This warning was updated at 10.39 am on Thursday 19 July to a prolonged period of heavy and thundery rain affecting southern parts of England and Wales on Friday, then moving into more northern areas overnight and into Saturday.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Highways Agency took in response to the recent bad weather warning and information provided by the Meteorological Office; when these were taken; and whether the Highways Agency took any steps to inform the public of possible problems with travelling because of the adverse weather conditions. [153699]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency issued at 4.37 pm on Thursday 19 July a Press Notice warning of severe weather.

The Highways Agency had patrols of Traffic Officers and Incident Support Units operating along key routes throughout Friday to identify any problems and deal with events where possible. Updates on road conditions were regularly issued through the media, on the Agency's website and through its Information Line. The Agency issued a further 10 Press Notices and updates between Friday 20 July and Tuesday 24 July.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the policy is of the Highways Agency on acting upon warnings received from the Meteorological Office on adverse weather conditions. [153700]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency's Regional Control Centres for the regions affected implement operational plans depending on the type of warning. The Agency's National Traffic Control Centre responds at a strategic level depending on the nature and duration of the weather event and co-ordinates dissemination of information to the public, press and on strategic motorway signs.

In the most serious events the Agency has contingency plans at local, regional and national level, and these plans would provide the operational response to disruption caused by the weather.

In all cases contingency plans utilise both the Highways Agency Traffic Officer Service, and the Agency's service providers, to ensure there is both a response in the Agency's new role as a network operator, and the traditional role as the maintainer to the strategic roads network.

The contingency plans are regularly rehearsed and tested, and following all incidents there is a debrief and lesson learning process. The Agency also has a 'Severe Weather—Lessons Learnt' group which meets monthly throughout the year.

The Agency has special arrangements with the Met Office for weather forecasting, with a Met Office forecaster 'embedded' in the National Traffic Control centre from October to April, and there is a bureau arrangement with the Met Office for the remainder of the year.

For the future the Agency is working with the freight transport industry to set up a warning system, to advise transport drivers of severe weather conditions, and in particular to prevent high sided vehicles being blown over in high winds. This should be in place prior to the winter 2007-08.

Lorries: EU Law

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government are taking to prepare for the introduction of mandatory retro-reflective markings on all newly registered heavy goods vehicles by 10 October 2009 under European Union Directive 76/756/EEC. [152812]

Jim Fitzpatrick: UNECE Regulation 48 permits contracting parties to refuse registration of heavy goods vehicles not fitted with retro-reflective conspicuity markings from 10 October 2009 and Department officials are currently drafting the necessary amendments to the Road Vehicle Lighting Regulations to introduce requirements from this date.

However, Directive 76/756/EEC requires that we must continue to register vehicles type approved before 10 July 2008 without retro-reflective markings fitted until 10 July 2011 and derogations will be necessary for such vehicles.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government are taking to prepare for the introduction of mandatory retro-reflective markings on all new types of heavy goods vehicles by 10 October 2007 under European Union Directive 76/756/EEC. [152813]

Jim Fitzpatrick: New types of heavy goods vehicles which are approved to UNECE Regulation 48 from 10 October 2007 must be fitted with retro-reflective markings.

However, type approval of heavy goods vehicles is currently optional in the UK and retro-reflective markings on all new types of heavy goods vehicles will become mandatory with the introduction of European Community Whole Vehicle Type Approval (ECWVTA) for heavy trucks and trailers which implements Directive 76/756/EEC.

We will implement the requirements of ECWVTA into national legislation in accordance with the specified timetable. It is anticipated that all complete new types of heavy goods vehicle will have to be type approved from October 2010, which will include provisions relating to retro-reflective markings.

Lorries: Health Hazards

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of *(a)* the effects on human health of increased levels of heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic and *(b)* the level of HGV movements per day on a public highway at which there would be an increased risk to people living (i) a quarter of a mile, (ii) half a mile, (iii) three-quarters of a mile and (iv) one mile from a public highway. [152703]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport does not have health expertise but relies on the advice of the Department for Health's Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP). COMEAP estimated that in 1996[1] airborne particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide (the two main road traffic pollutants) resulted in 19,200 hospital admissions. More recently concentrations of particulate matter in 2005 were estimated to reduce average life expectancy by eight months.

It is not possible to separate the health impacts of specific vehicle types from other sources. However, in 2001 road traffic accounted for 55-60 per cent. of particulate matter and 85-90 per cent. of nitrogen dioxide at roadside, and 20-25 per cent. of particulate matter and 65-70 per cent. of nitrogen dioxide at background locations, in London (the worst case location). In this same year heavy goods vehicles were responsible for 13 per cent. and 17 per cent. of urban road traffic emissions of particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide respectively.

The Department is committed to reducing road transport emissions. The most effective mechanism for this is via new vehicle emissions standards, often known as 'Euro' standards. These have already brought about substantial reductions in emissions, however further reductions are required if we are to meet our air quality objectives. I am pleased to report that new standards ('Euro 5' and 'Euro 6') which will give major reductions in light duty vehicle emissions were adopted by the European Council in May 2007. We are also expecting a proposal from the European Commission late this year to further tighten heavy goods vehicle emissions requirements.

For particulate matter, there is no known threshold below which there are no effects on health, this makes it impossible to identify a number of vehicle movements below which there are no health impacts. However, maps showing ambient concentrations of pollutants[2] on a one kilometre square basis relative to Air Quality targets are available from national emissions modelling. In addition the Highways Agency routinely assesses the impacts of trunk road projects on emissions and exceedences of air quality objectives.

[1] http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/comeap/statementsreports/airpol7.htm

[2] http://www.naei.org.uk/mapping/mapping_2004.php

Luggage: Airports

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many bags were reported by passengers *(a)* lost, *(b)* damaged and *(c)* delayed using Scotland's airports in each of the last five years. [153620]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not held by this Department. Information on baggage may be held by individual airlines/airport operators.

Office of the Rail Regulator: Consultants

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will list the *(a)* technical and financial contracts, *(b)* technical consultants used on a call-off basis and *(c)* financial consultants used on a call-off basis by the Office of the Rail Regulator since November 2005; what the nature was of the assignment for each consultant; and what the value was of work done by each consultant. [151828]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* A table has been placed in the House Libraries detailing contracts which have been let since November 2005 relating to ORR's economic and technical directorates. Two contracts are on a call off basis. The values shown are the total amount estimated at the time the contract was let.

Official Cars: Ministers

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 674W, on official cars: Ministers, which Minister was referred to in the answer. [153740]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Lord Sainsbury of Turville, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Industry until November 2006 was not provided with an official car and driver by the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

Railway Stations: Security

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what proportion of railway stations in each region were accredited under the Secure Stations Scheme in each year since 1998. [151864]

Mr. Tom Harris: Stations are awarded Secure Station status for a two year period once they have met the required Scheme accreditation standards on station design, station management, crime management and passenger perceptions. After this two year period, stations can seek reaccreditation under the Scheme.

The figures requested are provided in the following table. The England figures cover overground, London Underground and Docklands Light Rail stations.

The yearly accreditation figures represent stations that have received their accreditation or reaccreditation in that year. The figures do not include those stations in the second year of their accreditation period. For example, by totalling all new accreditations with those currently in the second year of their accreditation there are at present a total of 516 accredited stations in England, Scotland and Wales. This represents 18.4 per cent. of the total stations in GB.

Currently, over 90 per cent. of all overground rail journeys, and 74 per cent. of London Underground journeys involve passengers starting or finishing their journey at a Secure Station.

	England		Scotland		Wales	
	Accreditations	Percentage	Accreditations	Percentage	Accreditations	Percentage
1998	5	0.2	—	—	—	—
1999	22	1.0	1	0.3	—	—
2000	49	2.2	1	0.3	—	—
2001	60	2.7	2	0.3	—	—
2002	75	3.3	1	0.3	1	0.5
2003	62	2.8	1	0.3	1	0.5
2004	92	4.1	2	0.3	—	—
2005	97	4.3	1	0.3	1	0.5
2006	293	13.0	2	0.6	6	2.8
2007	128	5.7	—	—	4	1.9

Railways: Tees Valley

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the case for expansion and modernisation of the local rail network that serves Tees Valley from Darlington. [153376]

Mr. Tom Harris: Network Rail has developed a programme of Route Utilisation Strategies which examine detailed options for developing the railway and producing business cases to support the options. They are currently consulting on the strategy for the East Coast Main Line and other related lines including those through Darlington and the Tees Valley. I understand that the local authorities and regional bodies in that area have been working closely with Network Rail on the development of the strategy and will be responding to the consultation exercise.

River Dart

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she will reply to the emails from the Secretary of the River Dart Non Beneficiary Group of 26 June, 1 July and 9 July inviting an official from the ports division to attend the meeting on Wednesday 12 September at Dittisham Parish Hall. [152808]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Officials from the Department responded on 18 July to the invitation that had been sent to them.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road accidents including fatal accidents there were in Coventry in each year since 1995. [152339]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of reported personal injury road accidents, including fatal accidents, in Coventry for each year since 1995 are given in the following table.

	Number of accidents	
	Fatal	Total[1]
1995	8	913
1996	8	919
1997	10	1,100
1998	10	1,146
1999	2	1,103
2000	12	1,208
2001	8	1,142
2002	4	1,163
2003	8	1,057
2004	7	934
2005	14	932
2006	10	927

[1] Includes fatal, serious and slight accidents.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road fatalities have occurred in *(a)* each police authority and *(b)* each operational command unit in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight in the last 12 months, broken down by age. [152799]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of fatalities in reported personal injury road accidents in each police authority in 2006, by fatality age band, is given in the table.

	Number of fatalities									
Police authority	0-15	16-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+	Total[1]
Avon and Somerset	3	12	17	18	8	9	5	4	6	82
Bedfordshire	1	8	10	2	4	1	2	2	2	32
Cambridgeshire	1	6	10	13	12	8	4	5	2	62
Cheshire	0	6	11	13	10	8	4	7	4	64
City of London	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cleveland	1	5	5	2	1	0	1	3	1	19
Cumbria	3	13	10	11	7	4	2	5	4	59
Derbyshire	3	7	13	10	3	3	2	6	0	47

Police authority	0-15	16-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+	Number of fatalities Total[1]
Devon and Cornwall	3	16	13	13	16	6	5	7	10	93
Dorset	5	4	6	3	3	4	3	4	6	38
Durham	2	3	11	6	4	0	1	1	1	29
Essex	5	13	30	17	12	8	1	7	7	100
Gloucestershire	1	8	16	4	3	2	2	1	1	38
Greater Manchester	6	8	26	15	9	5	3	9	9	90
Hampshire	2	12	20	9	8	4	4	5	8	72
Hertfordshire	3	6	8	9	3	3	4	5	2	43
Humberside	0	6	15	4	10	8	2	4	2	51
Kent	5	10	19	18	11	14	3	6	3	91
Lancashire	6	7	18	7	8	3	7	3	4	63
Leicestershire	4	13	14	10	17	5	4	4	2	73
Lincolnshire	5	11	8	13	12	7	4	1	5	66
Merseyside	5	9	8	3	4	4	2	3	7	45
Metropolitan Police	16	19	55	34	28	21	15	15	26	230
Norfolk	3	8	9	7	4	7	9	11	8	66
North Yorkshire	4	9	14	8	9	6	3	10	6	69
Northamptonshire	1	11	15	19	11	11	4	1	1	74
Northumbria	1	10	14	8	9	2	7	6	4	61
Nottinghamshire	3	8	14	14	8	8	4	5	3	67
South Yorkshire	8	4	18	10	7	9	3	4	8	71
Staffordshire	4	12	22	9	8	9	5	5	7	81
Suffolk	1	6	12	5	7	4	2	6	4	47
Surrey	1	4	9	9	6	4	3	6	10	52
Sussex	3	9	15	18	14	11	12	6	11	99
Thames Valley	5	17	39	25	16	17	6	8	10	143
Warwickshire	1	7	15	7	7	2	4	2	2	47
West Mercia	2	17	10	8	11	8	4	4	10	74
West Midlands	9	4	28	17	16	5	9	5	9	102
West Yorkshire	7	17	34	10	11	8	6	7	13	113
Wiltshire	1	3	13	6	3	2	5	3	5	41
Dyfed-Powys	4	10	7	12	7	10	5	1	0	56
Gwent	1	1	4	1	2	5	2	1	2	17
North Wales	3	9	10	6	4	2	4	3	4	45
South Wales	2	3	13	9	3	4	1	3	7	45
Central	3	2	5	4	3	1	1	0	0	19
Dumfries and Galloway	0	3	5	7	5	0	4	1	0	25
Fife	2	2	4	3	3	3	1	0	1	19
Grampian	3	10	15	13	6	4	1	6	4	62
Lothian and Borders	3	3	6	8	5	7	3	3	4	42
Northern	3	3	7	6	5	0	4	1	1	30
Strathclyde	10	4	19	13	12	9	7	13	9	96
Tayside	1	0	7	3	3	0	3	2	2	21
Great Britain	169	398	726	500	398	283	202	230	257	3,172

[1] Includes cases where the age of the fatality was not recorded.

2006 is the most recent year for which this information is available.

The information is not available by operational command units in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many traffic accidents involved drivers aged *(a)* 17 to 21 and *(b)* over 60 years old in each London borough in each of the last 10 years. [153552]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one driver/rider aged *(a)* 17 to 21 and *(b)* over 60 years old in each London borough in each of the last 10 years is given in the tables.

Reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one driver/rider aged 17 to 21 by London borough: 2006

Number of accidents

London borough	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Barking	143	138	151	154	124	95	87	92	97	98
Barnet	285	296	237	275	212	243	204	187	152	153
Bexley	158	152	147	142	155	155	113	121	113	122
Brent	201	178	190	169	165	161	164	99	103	96
Bromley	262	219	212	197	194	189	177	157	154	153
Camden	149	127	136	137	135	91	82	66	53	58
City of London	31	26	22	21	22	19	14	14	17	16
Croydon	272	265	253	268	239	251	176	191	183	167
Ealing	238	207	253	213	201	201	148	144	120	136
Enfield	291	296	265	267	251	243	223	186	149	112
Greenwich	156	152	160	153	170	158	144	111	90	98
Hackney	121	116	150	132	112	94	93	67	61	58
Hammersmith	107	97	93	94	89	69	65	54	58	48
Haringey	135	125	120	167	141	116	127	90	78	73
Harrow	133	121	137	101	127	106	96	95	74	96
Havering	266	226	222	189	195	191	184	152	147	159
Hillingdon	278	226	238	219	232	227	195	182	171	137
Hounslow	219	198	190	203	200	162	149	133	113	94
Islington	110	143	115	125	124	109	86	65	64	44
Kensington and Chelsea	94	82	85	88	82	49	45	37	52	40
Kingston upon Thames	115	113	101	104	66	100	90	73	72	46
Lambeth	187	157	192	161	134	149	132	87	102	83
Lewisham	176	139	172	179	158	152	147	131	109	86
Merton	100	112	96	105	80	95	93	52	60	62
Newham	157	160	164	164	174	137	101	79	112	103
Redbridge	205	216	213	222	226	191	171	156	149	102
Richmond upon Thames	123	102	87	100	83	80	70	74	63	68
Southwark	144	162	168	176	172	142	139	103	95	86
Sutton	147	126	128	115	141	125	105	97	112	111
Tower Hamlets	123	138	165	156	184	103	101	85	86	76
Waltham Forest	143	145	145	169	162	120	101	112	84	98
Wandsworth	148	130	132	135	121	107	82	110	83	83
Westminster	190	190	207	204	143	141	121	80	90	87

Reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one driver/rider aged 60 or more by London borough: 2006

Number of accidents

London borough	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Barking	76	80	68	75	76	56	58	52	42	50
Barnet	182	198	205	186	186	174	160	154	131	159
Bexley	76	94	80	85	92	99	60	62	65	72
Brent	119	86	112	140	92	86	94	70	89	68
Bromley	169	174	161	140	143	162	131	139	137	133
Camden	87	97	111	102	102	98	92	99	71	56
City of London	20	28	30	8	24	24	19	17	20	20
Croydon	141	160	133	138	143	131	128	126	122	120
Ealing	134	112	129	141	110	105	114	85	95	67
Enfield	161	158	157	146	139	146	130	118	114	83
Greenwich	84	80	87	84	91	76	77	68	71	74
Hackney	77	60	68	62	68	63	58	38	52	50
Hammersmith	48	71	72	66	62	55	64	54	49	53
Haringey	71	66	75	89	93	76	77	58	38	62
Harrow	89	91	83	75	89	64	76	71	59	55
Havering	123	141	128	119	137	126	120	97	119	123
Hillingdon	183	156	135	144	133	141	119	123	140	105
Hounslow	123	114	118	104	94	101	94	73	88	68
Islington	73	82	70	62	71	63	64	45	46	52
Kensington and Chelsea	74	84	87	72	58	52	49	53	68	51

Reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one driver/rider aged 60 or more by London borough: 2006

Number of accidents

London borough	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Kingston upon Thames	68	74	72	56	61	72	64	40	48	43
Lambeth	123	107	115	116	108	85	110	79	79	71
Lewisham	109	107	115	100	105	95	83	76	72	74
Merton	70	57	91	63	63	61	74	62	59	50
Newham	60	74	55	55	66	47	45	46	48	56
Redbridge	147	124	128	132	121	118	117	96	86	77
Richmond upon Thames	71	78	69	76	83	82	61	66	69	58
Southwark	77	78	87	95	94	90	88	74	84	64
Sutton	82	87	90	85	90	72	82	54	64	64
Tower Hamlets	69	58	71	54	63	49	30	49	47	33
Waltham Forest	83	92	66	66	86	67	70	52	66	50
Wandsworth	84	97	88	86	89	86	89	96	61	68
Westminster	184	198	180	175	177	165	173	173	131	129

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents occurred on or near pedestrian crossings in each London borough in each of the last five years; and how many involved the *(a)* death *and (b)* injury of pedestrians. [153555]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of reported personal injury road accidents that occurred on or near pedestrian crossings in each London borough in each of the last five years; and how many involved the *(a)* death and injury of pedestrians is given in the following tables.

Reported personal injury road accidents on or near a pedestrian crossing by London boroughs: 2002-06

Number of accidents

London borough	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Barking	176	200	176	100	96
Barnet	331	303	299	225	251
Bexley	100	72	97	89	87
Brent	242	241	192	190	191
Bromley	171	114	116	128	138
Camden	467	475	448	405	405
City of London	183	141	162	149	160
Croydon	390	410	338	278	241
Ealing	371	375	260	180	128
Enfield	281	246	226	187	185
Greenwich	355	248	182	172	188
Hackney	379	413	348	247	197
Hammersmith	371	300	236	219	196
Haringey	306	377	284	179	233
Harrow	121	104	139	88	74
Havering	224	202	180	101	136
Hillingdon	264	224	225	130	137
Hounslow	199	265	247	164	132
Islington	383	364	311	323	286
Kensington and Chelsea	368	377	283	271	259
Kingston upon Thames	100	90	92	89	58
Lambeth	705	697	477	433	414
Lewisham	417	439	327	264	252

Reported personal injury road accidents on or near a pedestrian crossing by London boroughs: 2002-06

Number of accidents

London borough	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Merton	153	174	118	119	83
Newham	373	324	258	184	218
Redbridge	264	165	160	118	107
Richmond upon Thames	140	136	126	98	83
Southwark	676	572	397	360	398
Sutton	155	148	116	83	104
Tower Hamlets	343	325	327	230	221
Waltham Forest	208	209	191	130	138
Wandsworth	509	404	388	238	189
Westminster	936	787	562	666	683

Reported personal injury road accidents on or near a pedestrian crossing involving at least one pedestrian injury[1], by London boroughs: 2002-06

Number of accidents

London borough	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Barking	45	34	39	22	17
Barnet	82	70	71	51	65
Bexley	25	23	31	16	27
Brent	81	84	61	48	59
Bromley	53	27	31	33	38
Camden	169	175	172	132	148
City of London	61	38	53	48	42
Croydon	109	116	87	94	68
Ealing	105	119	84	59	51
Enfield	53	56	52	28	35
Greenwich	83	59	51	52	50
Hackney	85	115	79	71	49
Hammersmith	101	81	82	73	78
Haringey	93	124	84	61	67
Harrow	23	29	45	20	23
Havering	48	51	34	18	28
Hillingdon	64	46	68	25	26
Hounslow	45	51	41	40	45
Islington	121	116	76	82	81

Reported personal injury road accidents on or near a pedestrian crossing involving at least one pedestrian injury[1], by London boroughs: 2002-06

Number of accidents

London borough	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Kensington and Chelsea	106	107	87	99	95
Kingston upon Thames	30	23	30	25	24
Lambeth	162	169	118	123	108
Lewisham	116	119	78	67	70
Merton	49	57	33	45	37
Newham	105	103	87	60	63
Redbridge	48	35	40	26	34
Richmond upon Thames	39	29	33	29	25
Southwark	143	136	109	102	90
Sutton	31	34	31	17	26
Tower Hamlets	90	81	87	63	65
Waltham Forest	58	58	61	43	37
Wandsworth	130	97	106	76	86
Westminster	307	304	220	271	242

[1] Includes serious and slight injuries

Reported personal injury road accidents on or near a pedestrian crossing involving at least one pedestrian fatality, by London boroughs: 2002-06

Number of accidents

London borough	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Barking	0	2	2	1	0
Barnet	1	4	4	2	1
Bexley	0	0	0	1	0
Brent	1	1	1	1	3
Bromley	0	0	0	1	2
Camden	1	3	1	0	5
City of London	0	0	1	0	1
Croydon	2	3	2	1	0
Ealing	5	3	2	1	2
Enfield	1	1	0	2	3
Greenwich	3	1	2	2	2
Hackney	0	1	3	1	1
Hammersmith	0	3	3	1	3
Haringey	3	6	1	2	1
Harrow	0	1	0	0	0
Havering	1	2	0	1	0
Hillingdon	2	1	0	0	1
Hounslow	0	0	1	3	5
Islington	2	1	1	1	1
Kensington and Chelsea	1	5	0	0	0
Kingston upon Thames	0	0	0	0	0
Lambeth	2	3	1	4	0
Lewisham	3	3	1	2	1
Merton	0	2	0	0	0
Newham	0	1	0	0	1
Redbridge	1	1	0	1	1

Reported personal injury road accidents on or near a pedestrian crossing involving at least one pedestrian fatality, by London boroughs: 2002-06

Number of accidents

London borough	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Richmond upon Thames	0	1	2	0	0
Southwark	1	2	1	2	2
Sutton	2	1	1	1	0
Tower Hamlets	1	3	1	4	1
Waltham Forest	1	0	0	2	0
Wandsworth	0	2	2	0	1
Westminster	6	3	5	2	6

Roads: Capital Investment

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the scheduled date for *(a)* start and *(b)* completion of construction is for each scheme in the Highways Agency's Targeted Programme for Improvements. [148147]

Mr. Tom Harris: The following table shows the current forecasted start and completion date for construction for each scheme in the Highways Agency Major Roads Programme, subject to satisfactory completion of statutory processes and availability of funding.

Scheme name	Start of works	Open for traffic	Scheme status
A2 Bean—Cobham Phase 2 Pepperhill-Cobham Improvement	September 2006	December 2008	Construction
A2/A282 Dartford Improvement	August 2006	May 2008	Construction
A11 Fiveways—Thetford Improvement	March 2013	March 2015	Development
M6 Carlisle to Guardsmill Extension	July 2006	December 2008	Construction
A14 Haughley New St—Stowmarket Improvement	June 2007	July 2008	Construction
A3 Hindhead Improvement	January 2007	August 2011	Construction
A38 Dobwalls Bypass	November 2006	September 2008	Construction
A595 Parfon—Lillyhall Improvement	January 2007	October 2008	Construction
A1 Peterborough—Blyth Grade Separated Junction	September 2006	October 2008	Construction
M62 Junction 6 Improvement	April 2007	November 2008	Construction
A46 Newark—Widmerpool Improvement	April 2012	September 2016	Development
A30 Bodmin Indian Queens Improvement	July 2005	July 2007	Construction
A5117/A550 Deeside Park Junctions Improvement	October 2006	October 2008	Construction
A419 Blunsdon Bypass	September 2006	December 2008	Construction
A66 Temple Sowerby and Imp at Winderwath	February 2006	October 2007	Construction
A1 Dishforth to Leeming (A1 Dishforth to Barton) Improvement	March 2008	June 2011	Development
A1 Bramham—Wetherby (Including Wetherby BP) Bypass	April 2007	June 2009	Construction

Scheme name	Start of works	Open for traffic	Scheme status
A1 Leeming to Barton (At Dishforth to Barton) Improvement	March 2008	June 2009	Development
A47 Blofield to North Burlingham Dualling	April 2011	October 2012	Development
A66 Greta Bridge to Stephen Bank Improvement	March 2006	July 2007	Construction
A66 Carkin Moor to Scotch Corner Improvement	March 2006	July 2007	Construction
A66 Long Newton Junction improvement	February 2007	May 2008	Construction
A69 Haydon Bridge Bypass	January 2007	October 2008	Construction
M1 J19/M6 Improvement	February 2009	February 2012	Development
A14 Ellington—Fen Ditton Improvement	January 2010	January 2014	Options
A57/A628 Mottram in Longdendale, Hollingworth and Tintwistle Bypass	August 2012	December 2015	Development
A45/A46 Tollbar End Improvement	July 2009	June 2012	Development
M1 Junction 6a to 10 Widening	March 2006	December 2008	Construction
M1 Junction 10 to 13 Widening	December 2008	December 2011	Development
A1/A19/A1068 Seaton Burn Junction Improvement	April 2011	April 2013	Options
A19/A184 Testos Grade Separated Junction improvement	November 2009	May 2011	Options
A505 Dunstable Northern Bypass (A5 to M1 Link)	July 2013	February 2015	Development
A421 Bedford to M1 Junction 13 Improvement	October 2008	December 2010	Development
A21 Tonbridge to Pembury Improvement	October 2010	October 2012	Development
M40 Junction 15 (Longbridge Roundabout) Improvement	March 2008	September 2010	Development
A590 High and Low Newton Bypass	August 2006	May 2008	Construction
M20 Junction 10A Improvement	April 2010	March 2012	Options
A27 Southerham to Beddingham Improvement	October 2006	June 2008	Construction
M1 J21-30 (Phase 1) Widening	January 2008	March 2011	Development
M1 J21-30 (Phase 2) Widening	October 2010	October 2014	Options
M25 J1b-3 Widening (Section 3)	June 2007	March 2009	Construction
M25 J5-7 Widening (Section 2)	October 2012	September 2014	Development
M25 J 16-23 Widening (Section 1)	January 2009	June 2012	Development
M25 J23-27 Widening (Section 5)	October 2012	June 2015	Development
M25 J27-30 Widening (Section 4)	January 2010	December 2011	Development
A21 Kippings Cross to Lamberhurst Bypass	May 2011	April 2013	Development
A23 Handcross to Warninglid Widening	September 2009	March 2012	Development
A453 Widening (M1 J24 to A52 Nottingham)	July 2009	November 2011	Development
M25 Junction 28/A12 Brook Street Junction Improvement	May 2007	February 2008	Construction
M27 J1 1-J12 Climbing Lanes	January 2008	October 2008	Development
M27J3 To J4 Widening'	January 2008	March 2009	Development
M1 J30 to J31 Widening (SWYMBUS)	July 2011	June 2014	Options
M1 J31 to J32 Widening (SWYMBUS)	January 2007	November 2007	Construction
M1 J32 to J 34 Widening (SWYMBUS)	April 2011	September 2013	Options
M1 J34N to J37 Widening (SWYMBUS)	January 2011	December 2014	Options
M1 J37 to J39 Widening (SWYMBUS)	October 2012	December 2015	Options
M1 J39 to J42 Widening (SWYMBUS)	September 2009	July 2013	Options
M1 J31-32 N/B Collector/ Distributor Widening ISWYMBUS)	July 2014	March 2016	Options
M62 J25 to J27 Widening (SWYMBUS)	June 2009	June 2014	Options
M62 J27 to Jet 28 Widening (SWYMBUS)	June 2009	June 2014	Options

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Government are on track to achieve its target of delivering *(a)* 100 new bypasses on trunk and local roads and *(b)* 130 major local road schemes by 2010; and what the (i) construction costs, (ii) scheduled date for start of construction, (iii) expected completion date and (iv) current status as at 1 April 2007 was for each existing scheme. [148149]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The 10 Year Plan published in July 2000 set out very broad indicative figures for the number of bypasses that might be delivered on the trunk and local road network over the 10 year period.

As at 1 April 2007, the Highways Agency had completed 45 major trunk road schemes, 21 of these were bypass schemes. Local highway authorities had completed 43 local major road schemes, 20 of which are bypasses.

I have placed in the Library of the House two tables which provide information on (i) construction costs, (ii) scheduled date for start of construction, (iii) expected completion date and (iv) current status of both Highways Agency and local authority major road schemes which are currently at various stages within the approval process.

Roads: Safety

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research she plans to undertake into the under-reporting identified in Road Safety Research Report 69; and if she will make a statement on the inclusion of insurance status in the Stats 19 form. [150757]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department and the Office for National Statistics are currently undertaking a project to match individual records from STATS19 with records from hospital admissions resulting from road accidents. The resulting matched database should allow for further investigation into levels of reporting.

Additionally, questions on road accidents were added to the National Travel Survey (NTS) in January 2007. In future, this will provide an independent, non-administrative source, which will help track broad trends. The first data will be available summer 2008.

Changes to the information collected on the STATS 19 personal injury road accident reporting form, including insurance status, will be considered in the next review of STATS19. The findings of the next review will be implemented in 2011.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment her Department has made of road safety in the Coventry area. [152338]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No separate assessment of Coventry has been undertaken but Coventry is a partner in the West Midlands Local Transport Plan (LTP), along with each of the metropolitan authorities and Centro. For the period of the first LTP (2001-06) performance for road safety was assessed as "strong". The strategy for road safety for the second LTP (2006-11) was assessed as "excellent". Both assessments were completed in December 2006.

Shipping

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to *(a)* increase the numbers of (i) British registered merchant ships and (ii) merchant navy officers and *(b)* to increase the size of the UK maritime skills base; and if she will make a statement. [152365]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A new campaign to re-invigorate the UK Register was launched in February 2006 when the then Minister for Shipping (the hon. Member for South Thanet) held a reception for shipowners/operators at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich with the theme of "Safety through partnership". In addition, a review of the MCA's Marketing Strategy was undertaken during the second half of 2006 and the recommendations from this are now being implemented.

A measure of the success of this campaign is that at the end of March 2007 the number of merchant vessels on the UK Ship Register was 1,459, of which the gross tonnage was in excess of 13 million for the first time in 10 years. (If we include all sea-going vessels over 100 gross tonnes, as in the Department for Transport's published statistics, the number of vessels is over 1,900 and the gross tonnage over 14 million).

The Government are currently engaged with social partners, considering joint proposals from the Chamber of Shipping, RMT and Nautilus UK for stimulating UK and EEA rating and officer training and employment.

Although recruitment is a matter for the shipping companies themselves, a dedicated industry body, the Merchant Navy Training Board (which includes representatives from industry, trade unions and the Government), actively promotes officer training, and the Department for Transport gives financial assistance to training providers through the Support for Maritime Training Scheme (SMarT), for the training of officers and ratings. The support available under SMarT at present amounts to roughly half of the cost of training provided by maritime colleges.

Seafarer training is also a key element of the UK tonnage tax which imposes a minimum training obligation (MTO) on companies entering the scheme. This is to train one officer trainee per year for every 15 officer posts in the company's effective officer complement. The MTO is cumulative and covers each trainee for up to three years.

South West Trains: Fares

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with South West Trains on the 20 per cent. fare increase for mid-morning passengers to London from *(a)* Southampton, *(b)* Winchester and *(c)* Dorset. [153630]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Secretary of State has had no discussions with South West Trains regarding the 20 per cent. fare increase for mid-morning passengers to London as these fares are unregulated.

Traffic Accidents

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many road traffic accidents involved commercial coaches in London in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement; [153550]

(2) how many traffic accidents there were involving *(a)* buses, *(b)* pedestrians and *(c)* cyclists in each London borough in each of the last five years. [153553]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of reported personal injury accidents involving buses/coaches, pedestrians and cyclists in each London borough since 2002 are given in the following table.

Commercial coaches are not separately identifiable.

Number of accidents

Road user type	*London borough*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Pedestrians	Barking and Dagenham	120	95	112	96	92
	Barnet	255	244	230	204	219
	Bexley	131	106	96	93	99
	Brent	277	243	229	200	188
	Bromley	197	153	143	119	128
	Camden	348	344	313	265	244
	City of London	112	78	100	86	109
	Croydon	262	275	240	250	201
	Ealing	304	302	241	246	195
	Enfield	228	204	168	172	147
	Greenwich	207	180	165	182	165
	Hackney	248	249	211	240	158
	Hammersmith and Fulham	194	180	175	178	160
	Haringey	291	268	242	198	190
	Harrow	99	118	117	110	100
	Havering	123	142	97	107	96
	Hillingdon	178	125	154	138	128
	Hounslow	160	162	141	109	124
	Islington	299	254	181	193	160
	Kensington and Chelsea	198	185	157	204	191
	Kingston-upon-Thames	98	88	65	59	66
	Lambeth	351	343	288	309	229

Road user type	London borough	Number of accidents 2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	Lewisham	269	268	227	206	200
	Merton	103	138	92	100	93
	Newham	242	241	215	188	198
	Redbridge	163	150	137	130	133
	Richmond-upon-Thames	116	97	106	84	66
	Southwark	298	318	268	233	217
	Sutton	84	111	101	87	78
	Tower Hamlets	209	186	186	180	170
	Waltham Forest	193	178	179	173	145
	Wandsworth	253	221	214	166	197
	Westminster	628	654	616	547	504
Cyclists	Barking and Dagenham	37	27	41	38	39
	Barnet	64	73	53	57	51
	Bexley	37	29	28	28	30
	Brent	75	64	65	74	59
	Bromley	59	68	60	48	37
	Camden	171	194	189	190	169
	City of London	82	68	85	105	123
	Croydon	67	69	97	72	79
	Ealing	109	115	90	73	84
	Enfield	74	59	51	51	39
	Greenwich	50	52	55	55	49
	Hackney	125	143	134	136	141
	Hammersmith and Fulham	132	138	143	143	122
	Haringey	80	52	77	60	73
	Harrow	32	28	39	36	37
	Havering	38	31	32	26	25
	Hillingdon	64	68	62	64	58
	Hounslow	87	101	66	84	70
	Islington	187	186	167	166	161
	Kensington and Chelsea	118	110	99	156	144
	Kingston-upon-Thames	46	49	51	50	47
	Lambeth	193	195	202	163	201
	Lewisham	77	88	86	86	101
	Merton	69	55	68	59	51
	Newham	65	65	63	56	69
	Redbridge	40	45	38	40	31
	Richmond-upon-Thames	81	102	78	80	75
	Southwark	202	202	157	165	212
	Sutton	51	33	40	40	54
	Tower Hamlets	90	80	108	104	115
	Waltham Forest	60	61	54	63	58
	Wandsworth	175	156	169	154	157
	Westminster	268	319	274	257	275
Bus/ Coaches	Barking and Dagenham	41	39	30	28	31
	Barnet	95	104	87	78	68
	Bexley	64	41	53	50	56
	Brent	91	91	76	92	63
	Bromley	113	76	98	78	63
	Camden	128	161	146	123	101
	City of London	44	40	49	53	45
	Croydon	88	99	89	117	90
	Ealing	98	106	107	115	88
	Enfield	83	82	88	57	64
	Greenwich	98	113	101	94	93
	Hackney	95	130	113	98	84
	Hammersmith and Fulham	53	82	66	67	49
	Haringey	90	96	107	76	83
	Harrow	28	38	31	32	23
	Havering	63	49	77	45	53
	Hillingdon	52	57	73	59	49
	Hounslow	60	59	60	61	61
	Islington	98	107	123	89	63
	Kensington and Chelsea	62	79	62	71	43
	Kingston-upon-Thames	34	42	26	38	28
	Lambeth	165	170	152	149	106
	Lewisham	132	127	132	122	108
	Merton	52	47	41	45	26
	Newham	79	80	72	70	80
	Redbridge	57	55	51	42	45
	Richmond-upon-Thames	42	49	41	43	31
	Southwark	158	178	148	135	156
	Sutton	33	41	38	44	33
	Tower Hamlets	51	54	44	55	53
	Waltham Forest	54	62	65	56	60
	Wandsworth	93	109	110	87	58
	Westminster	370	434	383	291	290

Transport: Capital Investment

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which local authority major transport schemes have departmental approval; whether each scheme has *(a)* full and *(b)* provisional approval; what the scheduled date for (i) start and (ii) completion of construction is, and what the capital cost of each such scheme is estimated to be. [148146]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have placed a table setting out the information requested for local transport major schemes, costing over £5 million, in the House Library.

Transport: Radioactive Materials

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the *(a)* safety and *(b)* security of (i) trains, (ii) aircraft and

(iii) road freight transporting radioactive material; and with whom responsibility lies for conducting the risk assessment for such trains. [151925]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is as follows.

(a) The safety of the transport of radioactive material is ensured by the use of appropriate packaging and is not dependent on the mode(s) of transport employed. The transport of radioactive material by all modes of transport is governed by the stringent internationally-agreed standards recommended by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), an agency appointed by the United Nations to oversee all aspects of the peaceful uses of atomic energy worldwide. During the period of over 40 years that the IAEA regulations have been in existence, there has been no instance of death or serious injury to persons, nor significant damage to the environment, from radiological effects caused during the transport of radioactive material worldwide by all modes of transport when properly packaged and transported in conformity with these regulations.

The Radiation Protection Division of the Health Protection Agency, acting under contract to the Department for Transport, carries out periodic assessments of the radiological impact of the transport of radioactive material under normal and abnormal conditions. A list of recent reports can be found on the Department's website at the following location:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/freight/dgt1/publications/notes/theradiologicalimpactofthetrl178

(b) The security of the transport of radioactive material by road or rail is governed by the security measures introduced by The Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment (Amendment) Regulations 2005. These security requirements are based on international agreements. Measures include the need for operators to develop and have in place a detailed security plan which includes a written risk assessment of their operations where radioactive materials are stored in transit. All freight carried by air from UK airports is subject to the requirements of the DFT's National Aviation Security Programme to ensure that it is not being used to commit an act of violence against a civil aviation target, for example by containing an improvised explosive device. Freight on incoming flights remains the responsibility of the country where that aircraft departed from and is similarly covered by a mixture of international regulation and best practice.

The transport of material connected with the civil nuclear fuel cycle (nuclear material) is carried out in accordance with stringent security regulations—the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003 (as amended). These regulations are administered and enforced by the Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS), which regulates the security of nuclear material in transit, by road, rail and sea (including globally, when nuclear material is carried on a UK flagged vessel).

The security of the transport of nuclear material was thoroughly reviewed following the events of September 11 2001, and is regularly reviewed in light of the prevailing threat. OCNS is satisfied that the measures in place to prevent theft or sabotage are adequately robust, and that in the event that a credible threat were detected, appropriate action would be taken.

Under health and safety legislation it is the responsibility of the organisation carrying out any activity to carry out a risk assessment. In the specific case of activities involving radioactive material this is a requirement of the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 (1999 No. 3232).

Transport: Sunderland

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she received the application for funding the Sunderland Strategic Transport Corridor; how much funding was requested; and when she will make a decision on the application. [152801]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Sunderland city council's major scheme business case for the Sunderland Strategic Transport Corridor, LTP major road scheme, was submitted to the Department in July 2005.

The total estimated cost of the scheme in July 2005 was £69.455 million. The business case has raised a number of issues, including modelling, appraisal and costs which require further clarification. My officials are working closely with the council and once these outstanding issues have been resolved we hope to be in a position to make a decision on whether to grant programme entry for the proposed scheme.

Travel: Pollution Control

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the changes have been in her Department's carbon footprint policy in the last three years as a result of *(a)* the fall in the relative price of motoring and *(b)* the increase in travelling by public transport; and if she will make a statement. [153442]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Since undertaking joint responsibility for the Government's public service agreement on climate change in 2004, the Department for Transport has continued to develop policy to reduce the climate change impact of transport. Policies in this area can be summarised as action to:

- improve the fuels that we in the UK consume (eg by reducing their fossil carbon content),
- improve the vehicles we use, for example increasing their efficiency,
- improve the way we travel and the choices we all make, for example encouraging use of more sustainable modes and smarter driving techniques, and
- reduce the Department's own carbon footprint from its operations (as set out in our Sustainable Development Action Plan)

Changes to the relative cost of private motoring compared to public transport costs are taken into account in the Department's transport modelling. Increases in public transport patronage are also forecast and policy decisions are made in the light of factors such as these.

More information about Government policies and the associated evidence are set out in greater detail in various publications, including but not limited to:

Future of Transport White Paper
http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/whitepapers/fot

Climate Change: The UK Programme 2006
http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/ukccp/index.htm

The Eddington Transport Study
http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/eddingtonstudy/

Putting Passengers First and Draft Local Transport Bill
http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/buses/secputtingpassengersfirst and
http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/localtransportbill/

Meeting the Energy Challenge: A White Paper on Energy
http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/whitepaper/page39534.html

Low Carbon Transport Innovation Strategy
http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/scienceresearch/technology/lctis/

The Department's Sustainable Development Action Plan
http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/how/sda/

Delivering a Sustainable Railway—White Paper
http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/whitepapers/whitepapercm7176/

Vehicles: Pollution Control

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding was allocated to promoting the use of low emission vehicles in each of the last five years. [153548]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Until 2006, funding for the promotion of low emission vehicles was provided to the Energy Saving Trust as part of the TransportEnergy programme, which promoted and provided grants. Funding allocated for the TransportEnergy programme was: 2002-03 £16.446 million, 2003-04 £26.221 million, 2004-05 £20.943 million, 2005-06 £22 million.

In 2005 these funds were reviewed and re-focused. In 2006-07 £9 million was allocated to the Energy Saving Trust transport programmes. £5 million was allocated to the transport elements of the new Act On CO_2 consumer communications campaign, which promotes lower CO_2 cars and driving behaviours. £3.5 million was allocated to the Freight Best Practice and Safe and Fuel Efficient Driving programmes which promote fuel efficient logistics, vehicles and driving behaviour in the haulage industry. Funds were also allocated to support the development of the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation and feasibility studies, into new programmes such as a green transport accreditation programme for UK businesses.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department has taken to promote the use of low emission vehicles in London. [153549]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport is working closely with Transport for London to support the implementation of the Mayor's London Low Emission Zone. The Department also liaises with local authorities via the Low Emissions Strategy forum, which shares knowledge and best practice to help local authorities to improve air quality, including low emission zones.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* low emission cars and *(b)* cars were owned in London in each of the last five years. [153551]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of licensed cars, registered to keepers residing in London, in each CO_2 emissions band over the last five years were as follows:

Number of licensed cars at year end

CO_2 emissions	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Up to 100g/km	24	30	31	34	26
101-120g/km	3,317	6,299	9,796	14,424	20,997
121-150g/km	72,457	110,644	151,909	193,982	239,528
151-165g/km	76,170	110,562	144,931	182,458	213,926
166-185g/km	70,269	96,435	131,080	164,303	201,450
Over 185 g/km	146,948	214,626	282,909	349,273	407,673
Unavailable[1]	2,104,246	1,941,312	1,802,235	1,657,175	1,485,794
Total	2,473,431	2,479,908	2,522,891	2,561,649	2,569,394

Note:
[1] CO_2 emissions data were not collected for cars registered before 1 March 2001. In addition, emissions data are not available for a small number of cars registered after this date.

Written Answers to Questions

The following answers were received between Friday 27 July and Friday 31 August 2007

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bangladesh: Politicians

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations against the arrest of opposition leader Sheikh Hasina in Bangladesh; and if he will make a statement. [152606]

Dr. Howells: We are aware that following her recent arrest, former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been formally charged with extortion by police in Dhaka, and that she remains in detention in a "sub-jail". The case is now within the judicial system of Bangladesh. We trust that, consistent with Bangladesh's international human rights obligations, legal proceedings against Sheikh Hasina will respect the full range of her human rights.

Burma: Human Rights

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has examined on Burma's human rights record; and if he will make a statement. [153362]

Dr. Howells: We receive regular reports about human rights abuses in Burma, including the statement issued on 29 June by the International Committee of the Red Cross drawing attention to the Burmese regime's persistent violations of international humanitarian law.

We agree that the human rights situation in Burma remains grave. Serious abuses continue to be committed, particularly in areas of armed conflict. The Burmese people do not enjoy the most basic of human rights, including the right to the freedom of speech and association, democracy, good governance and the rule of law.

We continue to work with our European and international partners, as well as through the UN and International Labour Organisation, to press the regime to end the human rights violations and to engage in a genuine process of national reconciliation involving all relevant parties and groups in Burma. On 27 July my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Meg Munn), discussed the situation with UN Special Adviser Ibrahim Gambari, within the context of the UN Secretary-General's good offices mandate on Burma.

We take every opportunity to raise human rights issues with the regime and remind them of their obligations to adhere to international human rights law, most recently when our ambassador in Rangoon met the Burmese Deputy Foreign Minister and the Ministers of Planning and Health on 12-13 June.

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by his Department on newspapers and magazines in the last 12 months. [153046]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The total amount spent on publications for the last financial year, ending March 2007, was £1,410,027.68. This covers expenditure on newspapers, magazines and journals and also includes expenditure on press cuttings. Although it is not possible to identify the expenditure on newspapers and magazines alone without incurring disproportionate cost, the amount spent on publications has fallen significantly over the past 10 years. In the financial years 1997-2001 the average yearly spend on publications was £2,327,661.

Departments: Redundancy Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by his Department on redundancy payments in the last 12 months. [153051]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office did not make any compulsory redundancy payments in the last 12 months. It is our policy to do all we can to avoid compulsory redundancies.

Departments: Taxis

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by his Department on taxis in the last 12 months. [153042]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has two contracts with taxi/minicab firms to provide a 24-hour taxi service for staff in London, and to provide a taxi service between Milton Keynes and Hanslope Park, and taxi services for Hanslope Park-based staff for airport journeys.

The out of hours use of the London taxi contract is primarily for those staff called out for emergency work in the crisis centre or other 'on call' operational activities.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

The amount spent on taxis for financial year 2006-07 is as follows:

	£
Hanslope Park taxi contract	161,708.19
London taxi contract	443,372.48

Ethiopia: Human Rights

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the Ethiopian government on the imprisonment of Professor Me[illegible] Woldermariam. [152716]

Dr. Howells: We have made numerous representations to the Government of Ethiopia over the imprisonment of all opposition political leaders, including Mesfin Woldermariam, including at ministerial level and with EU partners. We urged the Ethiopian government to ensure that the trial for those detained was swift, transparent and fair, and that their individual human rights were respected.

I am delighted that Mesfin Woldermariam was one of those pardoned by the President of Ethiopia and released on 20 July.

Israel: Asylum

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made on behalf of the Eritrean refugees residing in Israel's Al Ramleh Detention Centre who are threatened with expulsion. [152962]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has made no such representations. As long as Israel acts within its obligations under international refugee law, this matter is for the Israeli Government.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations on behalf of the Eritrean refugees threatened with forcible return from Khartoum. [152963]

Dr. Howells: We have no plans to make representations to the Government of Sudan on behalf of the Eritrean refugees threatened with forcible return from Khartoum.

However, we want refugees to be afforded protection and treated equitably in their countries of refuge according to International Human Rights law. We work towards this objective through our substantial support to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Lebanon: Peace Keeping Operations

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received from the UN monitoring mission in Lebanon on the extent of *(a)* military incursions into Israel from the Lebanese side of the Lebanon/Israel border, *(b)* military manoeuvres by Hezbollah or other armed groups along Lebanon's border with Israel and *(c)* Hezbollah or other Lebanese military activity in the Sheba'a Farms area in the last six months. [153684]

Dr. Howells: The UN Secretary-General reports to the Security Council on a quarterly basis on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1701. The last two reports, produced in March and June, cover the period of the last six months. The UK continues to support full implementation of UNSCR 1701.

These reports describe several incidents along the Blue Line separating Israel and Lebanon. On 17 June several Katuysha Rockets were fired from Lebanon towards northern Israel, in violation of UNSCR 1701. Two of these rockets landed in the Israeli town of Kiryat Shemona. It is not known who was responsible for this attack.

The Secretary-General's reports also note the activities of militant groups in south Lebanon. Most significantly six Spanish soldiers serving with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) were killed by a roadside bomb on 24 June. It is not known who was responsible for this attack. The Secretary-General's report also confirms that there is no evidence of Hezbollah military activity in the UNIFIL area of operations.

We have received no reports from the UN of Hezbollah or Lebanese army activity in the Sheba'a Farms in the last six months.

I have arranged for copies of both of the most recent Secretary-General's reports on UNSCR 1701 to be placed in the Library of the House.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received from the UN monitoring mission in Lebanon on the extent of *(a)* Israeli military overflights across Lebanon's border with Israel, *(b)* other Israeli military manoeuvres along the Lebanon/Israel border and *(c)* Israeli military activity in the Sheba'a Farms area in the last six months. [153685]

Dr. Howells: The UN Secretary-General reports to the Security Council on a quarterly basis on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1701. The last two reports, produced in March and June, cover the period of the last six months. The UK continues to support full implementation of UNSCR 1701 and is working with the Governments of Lebanon and Israel towards this.

In these reports the Secretary-General reported that Israel has continued regular overflights of Lebanese territory with both manned and unmanned aircraft. The number of these overflights reduced in early 2007, but has risen again recently. These flights occur on an almost daily basis with up to 32 overflights occurring on some days.

The Secretary-General also reported several breaches of the Blue Line that separates Israel and Lebanon. The most serious of these occurred in February when Israeli and Lebanese forces exchanged fire across the Blue Line during an Israeli incursion into Lebanon. Another incursion occurred on 28 May when Israeli vehicles also moved 60 metres into Lebanon. The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) claim that this incursion was unintentional. Nevertheless there has been some progress on co-operation between the IDF, the UN Interim Force in Lebanon and the Lebanese army through the tripartite mechanism. This co-operation is aimed at minimising breaches of the Blue Line.

The reports do not record in detail instances of IDF activity in the Sheba'a farms area. The IDF did arrest some hunters who had strayed into this area, although they were subsequently released.

I have arranged for copies of the both of the most recent Secretary-General's reports on UNSCR 1701 to be placed in the Library of the House.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made with the non-proliferation proposals made

by his predecessor to the Carnegie International Conference in Washington DC on 25 June. [153358]

Dr. Howells: The Government are committed to making farther progress on the non-proliferation proposals set out by my right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary (Margaret Beckett) in her speech in Washington on 25 June. Over the past two months British diplomatic missions have brought these proposals to the attention of a wide range of senior contacts and opinion-formers inside and outside government around the world and encouraged media coverage. Planning and preparatory work on a practical delivery strategy through to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty 2010 Review Conference is being taken forward by officials.

My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Meg Munn) spoke on these issues in the House on 24 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 196-201WH.

Russia: Extradition

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* Russian nationals and *(b)* Russian born citizens given British nationality, resident in the United Kingdom, are currently subject to requests for extradition by the Russian Federation; and what responses have been given in each case. [152276]

Meg Hillier: I have been asked to reply.

As a matter of longstanding policy and practice the UK will neither confirm nor deny the existence of any extradition request made or received by this country ahead of arrest pursuant to the extradition request.

Two Russian citizens have been arrested whose extradition has been requested by the Russian Federation and their cases are currently under consideration. Neither of the subjects of the requests has British citizenship. Because the applications are under consideration, no responses have yet been given.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implementation of the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement security protocols. [150942]

Meg Munn: We welcome the stability brought by the East Sudan Peace Agreement (ESPA) of 14 October 2006 between the Government of Sudan and the Eastern Front. We urge both sides to speed up implementation to ensure lasting peace and security in eastern Sudan.

Although some of the deadlines in Appendix A of the ESP A have been missed, implementation is now progressing. The Government of Sudan has appointed Eastern Front representatives as Assistant to the President, Presidential Adviser and Minister of State, who should take up their positions shortly. In June 2006, eight government members of the National Parliament resigned to make way for the Eastern Front Members of Parliament. Eastern Front representatives have also been appointed to state government.

The State of Emergency in eastern Sudan has been lifted and the cease-fire holds. About 3,500 Eritrea-based Eastern Front troops have returned to eastern Sudan since June and registration to integrate 1,200-1,500 Eastern Front troops into the Sudanese armed forces and police is well under way. The UN Development Programme is working closely on this with the Government of Sudan on the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of all other Eastern Front troops.

The UK provides funding to the National Multi Donor Trust Fund for Sudan, which funds development activities in eastern Sudan, one of the poorest parts of the country.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departments: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of people employed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are disabled. [153597]

Mr. Malik: Declaration of a disability is voluntary.

At the end of June 2007 there were 1,772 Home Civil Service staff employed in DFID. Of these 52 have declared a disability. This represents 2.9 per cent. of the total. Information on disability is published in DFID's Annual Diversity Report 2006-07.

DFID is responsible for 21 appointments to two non departmental public bodies: the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission and the Crown Agents Holding and Realisation Board. None of the appointees consider themselves to have a disability.

Departments: Dismissal

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1246W, on departments: dismissal, what the reasons were for the summary dismissal of the three members of staff without allegations of misconduct or written warnings; and what procedures were followed in those dismissals. [152078]

Mr. Thomas: All three dismissals were on the grounds of poor performance, following the DFID performance appraisal process at that time and in line with the terms of their contracts. In all cases, DFID sought legal advice before the decision to dismiss.

Since 1 October 2004, all our employees are governed by the statutory dismissal, discipline and grievance procedures introduced under the Employment Act (Dispute Resolution) Regulations 2004.

Departments: Flint Bishop Solicitors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have made payments to Flint Bishop Solicitors since 1997. [151400]

Mr. Thomas: Since 1997, DFID has no record of having made any payments to Flint Bishop Solicitors.

Departments: Flowers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent by his Department on flowers in the last 12 months. [153118]

Mr. Thomas: Occasionally DFID may incur expenditure on flowers as part of our fees for a conference or event however we cannot disaggregate these costs from total spend without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departments: Ministerial Red Boxes

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many ministerial red boxes the Department bought in each of the last five years; what the cost of each was; who the suppliers were; and what tendering process was used in selecting them. [150296]

Mr. Malik: Ministerial boxes are used by successive Ministers over many years. Information requested by the hon. Member is available for the year 2006. Two ministerial boxes were purchased directly from Barrow and Gale in 2006. There is no current long term contract in place.

Details of costs are as follows:

	2006
Number of ministerial boxes	2
Total cost	£1,346.55

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent by his Department on newspapers and magazines in the last 12 months. [153115]

Mr. Thomas: During the period July 2006 to July 2007 DFID recorded spend of £64,367 on newspapers and magazines. This includes the costs of subscriptions centrally funded in our Headquarters offices. Within DFID, individual departments and overseas offices may on occasion subscribe to relevant publications. To identify all non-centrally funded costs within our current systems would incur disproportionate cost.

Departments: Publications

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department's departmental magazine, Developments, is distributed in biodegradable packaging. [153382]

Mr. Thomas: The current stocks of 'polybags' used for posting out individual copies of Developments magazine are not biodegradable. These polybags are ordered in bulk and, at the time of ordering, a biodegradable alternative was ruled out due to high cost and short shelf-life.

The current stock will be used until it runs out and is expected to cover the next one and a half mailings. The next order of 'polybags' will be made with a new supplier who can provide a suitable biodegradable alternative. These will be used to complete the mailing of Developments magazine due out at the end of this year and for all subsequent issues.

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent by his Department on staff away days in the last 12 months. [153111]

Mr. Malik: Individual departments within DFID plan and manage development away days and team building exercises for their staff in accordance with their specific needs in the context of business planning, continual professional development and performance improvement. Costs are usually met through delegated divisional or departmental training budgets.

DFID does not separately record its expenditure on staff away days, and therefore is unable to provide the breakdown requested without incurring disproportionate costs.

Mr. Howard Horsley

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations his Department received from Mr. Howard Horsley, former Education Field Office Manager in Ghana, before his dismissal in January 2000 on corruption and misconduct. [152076]

Mr. Thomas: DFID's records show that Mr. Horsley made representations on attempted corruption in a letter of 7 July 1999. Separately, but within the same letter, he raised unrelated concerns on the conduct of a colleague. He later made further non corruption related representations calling for that colleague to be the subject of a disciplinary investigation in correspondence on 14 October and 12 November 1999.

DFID maintained a dialogue with Mr. Horsley throughout the period he was employed in Ghana. In the years since his dismissal Mr. Horsley has put forward a series of concerns which have been reviewed by DFID and independently by Cabinet Secretaries and the National Audit Office. All parties across Whitehall have been satisfied that DFID acted correctly in relation to Mr. Horsley's dismissal and found no evidence of financial impropriety and DFID's position has been upheld.

Republic of Congo: Oil

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what assessment he has made of the management of oil revenues by public officials in the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville); [149798]

(2) what representations he has received on the management of oil revenues in the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville); [149799]

(3) what representations he has received on the involvement of Denis Christel Sassou-Nguesso in the management of oil revenues in the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville); [149800]

(4) what assessment he has made of the extent of corruption within the Congolese (Brazzaville) oil sector; [149801]

(5) what recent discussions he has had with (*a*) the International Monetary Fund, (*b*) his counterparts at the EU and (*c*) the government of the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville) about management of oil revenues. [149802]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has not made its own assessments of the management of oil revenues or the extent of corruption within the oil sector. It relies on the assessment of the IMF and World Bank, for reasons of efficiency and the avoidance of duplication. Their latest assessment of progress in improving oil sector governance and reducing corruption indicates progress on increasing transparency has been slow. The World Bank is providing technical assistance to ensure that there are no capacity constraints preventing the Congolese authorities from implementing the necessary transparency reforms.

The UK discusses governance issues and the need for increased transparency in the oil sector with the Congolese government in conjunction with European partners and through the World Bank and IMF. The IMF missions to Brazzaville (October 2006 and May 2007) met with the President, Prime Minister, Planning and Finance Ministers, Central Bank Director and other senior officials, representatives of the donor community and civil society. We continue to urge for greater political support for improvements in accountability, and have argued strongly that oil revenue windfalls should be directed to activities which support poverty reduction.

DFID has not received any recent representations on the management of oil revenues in the Republic of Congo, nor of Mr. Sassou-Nguesso's involvement.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Offices: Closures

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will publish the names of the 2,500 post offices likely to be closed under the closure programme. [140703]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

On 17 May my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced the Government's response to public consultation on the Post Office network.

Now that the Government have announced their decisions it will be for Post Office Ltd. to strategically develop the network through 50 to 60 local area implementation plans over the next 18 months.

Following initial input from sub-postmasters, Postwatch and local authorities these plans will include closure proposals which will then be put to local consultations ahead of final decisions.

Stuffed Shirt Company: Insolvency

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will set up an inquiry into the accounts of the Stuffed Shirt Company following its liquidation. [148617]

Mr. McFadden: The only company that has been registered at Companies House with the name The Stuffed Shirt Company Limited was placed in creditors' voluntary liquidation in 1998. In 2001 the company was dissolved which means that it lies outside the scope of the investigation powers exercised by my Department's Companies Investigations Branch. If the hon. Member is referring to a more recent company, I would invite him to write to me so that I can consider his request more fully.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Depleted Uranium: Iraq

Nick Harvey: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Government are (*a*) conducting and (*b*) contributing to studies into the effects of depleted uranium ammunition on the population of Iraq as referred to in the answer of 20 October 2004, *Official Report*, column 714W. [152214]

Derek Twigg: I have been asked to reply.

Research into the effects of depleted uranium (DU) specifically on the population of Iraq is primarily the responsibility of the Government of Iraq. However, the scientific literature already contains a substantial number of reports which indicate that DU has not had, and is very unlikely to have, any significant impact on the population.

As announced in the House on 20 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1755W, and 23 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 1713W, we will provide help and advice to assist the Government of Iraq and other authorities such as the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) in any further research they may undertake. MOD has provided information on its use of DU munitions and on its monitoring in Iraq in 2003. MOD officials attended a UNEP seminar at which DU matters, including environmental monitoring and sampling techniques, were discussed with Iraqi scientists. More recently, MOD provided Iraqi scientists with protective equipment to carry out DU contamination surveys and with information on the composition of the DU used in UK munitions.

Olympic Games: Firearms

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what representations she has received from the International Shooting Sport Federation on the ability of Woolwich to accommodate the Olympic shooting events; and if she will make a statement. [149499]

Tessa Jowell: Representations about venues will be received by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG).

The Royal Artillery Barracks at Woolwich was agreed as the venue for shooting events after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) gave feedback on the accessibility, athlete experience and proximity to the Olympic park on the venue portfolio submitted by London 2012 as an applicant city in 2004. The International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) supported the choice of venue.

Woolwich was chosen as it offers a venue close to the Olympic park and provides good accessibility.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many spectators are expected to be able *(a)* to walk the course and *(b)* to spectate at the equestrian events in Greenwich Park at the 2012 Olympics. [151696]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is responsible for each of the 2012 games venues during games time. As part of their preparation, they are currently developing detailed 'overlay' plans for each venue.

The Candidate File identifies capacity at Greenwich park as 23,000 for the main arena. LOCOG have now appointed a course designer and further detailed work is being undertaken to identify the optimum layout of Greenwich park as a whole, and the siting of the arena and competition courses. This work also takes into consideration health and safety, security, operational requirements and the ecology of Greenwich Park. Until this work is complete, exact spectator numbers, including people walking the course, cannot be given.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1292-93W, on the Olympic games: Greater London, whether civil servants in her Department compiled the information given by KPMG at the cost review group meetings into a report or presentation document. [153562]

Tessa Jowell: Departmental officials took the minutes of the cost review group meetings. However, they did not compile the information given by KPMG at these meetings into a report or presentation document.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1292W, on the Olympic games: Greater London, in what form the cost review group presented to her Department the savings it identified in different areas of the budget. [153563]

Tessa Jowell: The cost review group presented the savings they identified in the form of oral presentation and updates to financial estimates.

The savings identified were incorporated into the Olympic park masterplan announced on 7 June 2006, and continuing work on the development of the funding package which I announced to the House on 15 March.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1292W, on the Olympic games: Greater London, on what date the cost review reached its conclusions. [153564]

Tessa Jowell: The cost review culminated in the statement I made to the House on 15 March 2007.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 43W, on the Olympic games: Greater London, who the other members of the team within the then Interim Olympic Delivery Authority were. [153619]

Tessa Jowell: In October 2005 the Department commissioned KPMG to provide advice on the cost of the Olympic games.

KPMG also provided advice under contract to the then interim Olympic Delivery Authority and later the Olympic Delivery Authority. KPMG provided advice on venues in partnership with Davis Langdon LLP, and on infrastructure in partnership with Faithful and Gould. Further details are set out in paragraphs 40-41 of the National Audit Office's report 'The budget for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games' published on 20 July 2007.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

British Film Institute: National Film Theatre

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his policy is on the future of the *(a)* British Film Institute and *(b)* National Film Theatre; and if he will make a statement. [150093]

Margaret Hodge: The British Film Institute will continue to support and enhance film culture and education across the UK. In 2007-08, they will receive £16 million of grant in aid funding. Since 1998, they have received £162 million.

The recently redeveloped BFI Southbank, which houses the National Film Theatre, is a focal point for this work. It provides a platform for the BFI to show a diverse range of films to a wide audience; to offer pioneering access to the BFI National Archive; and to engage new audiences with an expanded programme of education and learning.

Buckingham Palace: Repairs and Maintenance

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when the exterior of Buckingham Palace is due to be cleaned; if the Government will ensure such work has priority over work to other royal premises; and if he will make a statement. [152608]

Margaret Hodge: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport provides the Royal Household with an annual £15 million grant for property maintenance

of the Occupied Royal Palaces in England. It is the responsibility of the Royal Household to decide how these funds are allocated.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent requests have been received from the Royal Household for refurbishment or building work to Royal premises; and what such work has been agreed to. [152609]

Margaret Hodge: The Department has not received any specific requests from the Royal Household for refurbishment or building work to Royal premises, as the Royal Household are responsible for prioritising projects and deciding how the annual £15 million grant is allocated.

Departments: Air Conditioning

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on the hire of mobile air conditioning units in each of the last five years. [151976]

Margaret Hodge: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Royal Parks Agency have not incurred any expenditure on the hire of mobile air conditioning units in the last five years.

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* first class and *(b)* business class flights in the last 12 months. [153275]

James Purnell: The departmental expenditure on first class flights was £65,404 and £201,110 for business class flights in the last financial year as recorded by the Department's contracted travel agent. This amount excludes occasional travel booked directly which can be identified only at disproportionate cost.

Regarding Ministers' visits overseas, since 1999 the Government have published, on an annual basis, a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the libraries of the House. Information for 2006-07 was published on 25 July 2007.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code, the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

Departments: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of people employed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are disabled. [153580]

Margaret Hodge: DCMS is a very small Department with 527 staff. As a Department we do monitor across the equality strands and 3 per cent. of staff have declared a disability.

DCMS's agency Royal Parks Agency employ just fewer than 100 staff, with 1 per cent. of their staff having declared a disability.

DCMS is committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all and as a Department we endeavour to offer employment appointments to disabled people. In recognition of this, we have been accredited with the "Positive About Disabled People—Two Ticks Symbol" following an assessment made by Jobcentre Plus.

As part of our on-going commitment, we ensure that we monitor and evaluate our recruitment and retention procedures, by consulting staff on a range of disability issues, and by ensuring reasonable adjustments to our working environment are made.

Departments: Flowers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by his Department on flowers in the last 12 months. [153270]

Margaret Hodge: In the 12 months up to 26 July 2007 the Department for Culture, Media and Sport spent £4,675 on flowers.

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which pieces of legislation enacted in each of the last 10 years for which his Department is responsible have yet to be brought into force. [147197]

Margaret Hodge: All of the Acts introduced by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in the last 10 years have been brought into force. However, not all of the enactments contained in those Acts have been brought into force. These are as follows:

The Communications Act 2003—sections 272 to 275 ("must offer" obligations affecting public service television) and sections 299 to 302 (sporting and other events of national interest).

The Licensing Act 2003—two consequential amendments in schedule 6—paragraphs 98 and 99(c), which by reason of the drafting do not achieve the intended effect.

The Horserace Betting and Olympic Lottery Act 2004—various enactments are not in force mainly relating to the sale of the Tote and the Horserace Betting Levy system.

The Gambling Act 2005—a substantial number of the enactments have been brought into force and the intention is to bring into force the vast majority of the remaining provisions on 1 September 2007.

The National Lottery Act 2006—section 5 which concerns annual fees and some provisions relating to the Channel Islands.

The London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Act 2006—sections 13 to 16 which relate to the regulation of transport during the games and section 39(1) and paragraph 13 of schedule 3 which amend legislation repealed since the passing of the Act.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which Bills introduced by his Department in the last five years contained sunset clauses; and what plans he has for the future use of such clauses. [151837]

Margaret Hodge: Section 180 of the Gambling Act 2005 is a sunset clause and provides that the section which concerns pool betting on dog races shall cease to have effect on 31 December 2012.

Sections 10 to 18 of the London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Act 2006 will cease to have effect at the end of the "London Olympic period", that is after the fifth day after the closing ceremony of the Paralympic games 2012. Those sections relate to transport, and among other things, they provide for the making and implementation of the Olympic Transport Plan. Section 33 and schedule 4 of the same Act will cease to have effect after 31 December 2012. Those provisions create the London Olympics and Paralympics association rights—intellectual property rights that prevent unauthorised associations with the London games.

The appropriateness of a sunset clause for the whole or part of any proposed legislation is considered on a case-by-case basis. It is also addressed when a regulatory impact assessment relating to legislation is being prepared.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people have been appointed to his Department outside civil service grades in the last 30 days. [153277]

Margaret Hodge: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not appointed anyone outside civil service grades in the last 30 days.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press officers are employed by his Department. [153279]

Margaret Hodge: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport employs 13 press officers.

Departments: Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at her Department and its agencies in each year between 1997 and 2006; and what the total cost of those bonuses was. [146422]

Margaret Hodge: Such information as is available is shown in the following table and includes the percentage of the total pay bill for each year:

	Number of bonuses	*Total cost (£)*	*Percentage of total pay bill*
2003-04	28	79,372	0.42
2004-05	27	81,950	0.41
2005-06	37	122,816	0.55
2006-07	27	139,750	0.59

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport and its agency the Royal Parks makes bonus payments to its staff for two purposes: *(a)* special bonuses to reward outstanding contributions in particularly demanding tasks or situations, and *(b)* performance bonuses to reward highly successful performance over a whole year.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last three years; and at what total cost. [146992]

Margaret Hodge: The Department makes bonus payments to its staff for two purposes:

(a) special bonuses to reward outstanding contributions in particularly demanding tasks or situations; and

(b) performance bonuses to reward highly successful performance over a whole year.

The table shows the total of all bonuses paid and the percentage of the overall pay bill that these amounts represent.

	Number of bonuses paid	*Total bonus cost (£)*	*Percentage of total pay bill*
2003-04	215	206,643	0.90
2004-05	172	215,285	0.94
2005-06	240	347,241	1.29

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by his Department on newspapers and magazines in the last 12 months. [153268]

Margaret Hodge: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport spent £57,531 on newspapers and magazines in the last 12 months.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to which periodicals his Department subscribes. [153276]

Margaret Hodge: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport subscribes to the following periodicals:

A-N magazine
Accountancy
AI: Arts Industry
AJ specification
AJ the architects' journal
Antiques trade gazette
Apollo: the international magazine of the arts
Architectural review
Ariel
Art antiquity and law
Art loss review
Art monthly
Art newspaper: international edition
Art Quarterly
Art Review
Arts professional
Arts research digest
Athletics weekly
Attractions management
Audience: for the international contemporary live music industry
Billboard
Blueprint
Bookseller
British archaeology

The British art journal
British journal of photography
Broadcast
Building design
Building
Burlington magazine
The Business
Cable and satellite Europe
Campaign
Caterer and hotelkeeper
Champs-Elysees (French language magazine and audio CD)
The channel
Children now
Cinema business
Civic focus
Club mirror
Coaching at work
Coin slot international
Complaints report/Press Complaints Commission
Conservation Bulletin
Construction news
Contemporary visual arts
Cordis Focus
Country life
Countryside focus: the newspaper for the Countryside Agency
Crafts: the decorative and applied arts magazine
Creative review
Cultural trends
Current archaeology
Current world archaeology
Drapers
Eastern eye
The econometrics journal
The economic journal: the journal of the Royal
The Economist
EIPASCOPE bulletin
Emergency services times
Employment law bulletin
En passant
Equal opportunities review
European voice: an independent view of the Union
External funding bulletin
Forbes
Frieze
Gaming law review
Georgian Group journal
The Georgian: the magazine of the Georgian Group
Gig
Government computing
Green futures: the magazine of Forum for the Future
Hackney gazette
The hospitality review
Hotel report
The House magazine
House of Commons weekly information bulletin
Icon
IGWB: International gaming and wagering business magazine
Information world review
Inside housing
Insights
International gambling studies
International journal of arts management
International journal of cultural property
International journal of nautical archaeology
Interpretation: journal of the Association for Heritage
Investors chronicle
IRS employment review
Jazz UK
JC: Jewish chronicle
Journal of cultural economics
Journal of gambling studies
Journal of sports economics
Judicial review
La Fleur's magazine
Leisure management
Leisure opportunities
LGC: local government chronicle
Literacy today
LGE: local government executive
Local government first
Local transport today
Mailout
Managing information
Marketing week
MCV: the magazine for the interactive entertainment
Media week
The MJ: the management journal for local authority business
Mojo
Morning advertiser
Museum practice
Museums journal
Music Teacher
Music week
The National Trust magazine
New law journal
New media age
New media markets
New nation
New statesman
Newham recorder
OAG executive flight guide: Europe, Africa, Middle East
OAG flight guide supplement: worldwide
OAG rail guide
Parliamentary monitor
Planning (incorporating Planning week)
Portfolio
PR week
Press gazette
Printmaking today
Private eye
Prospect
Public finance
Public law
Public servant
The Publican newspaper
Public
Quarterly building price and cost indices: public sector construction works

Radio magazine
Radio times
Regeneration and renewal
Revolution
RFID journal
School sport
SCONUL focus
Screen digest
Screen finance
Screen international
The searcher
Sight and sound
The Spectator
Sport business international: the international magazine for the business of sport
The Stage
The Stationery Office (TSO) weekly list
Tate: the art magazine
TBI Television Business International
Television
TES: the Times educational supplement
Theatres: the magazine of the Theatres Trust
Third sector
Time out
The Times higher education supplement
TJ: training journal
Travel GBI
Travel weekly
Treasure hunting
Tribune
TTG UK (Travel trade gazette UK)
TV international: newsletter of the worldwide television, cable and satellite industry
TV sports markets
UK Youth
VAN briefing: the voice of the voluntary arts
VAN update: the voice of the voluntary arts
Variety
The Victorian
Vogue
The voice
The Week: all you need to know about everything that
The weekly law reports
What satellite and digital TV
When Saturday comes
Which?
Whitehall and Westminster world
Wired
World online gambling law report
Yorkshire Post

Departments: Recruitment

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department paid in fees to recruitment agencies for *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent staff in each year since 1997. [151679]

Margaret Hodge: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has paid the following amounts to recruitment agencies in each year since 1997:

£

	For temporary staff	*For permanent staff*
1997-98	276,618.91	—
1998-99	482,465.39	—
1999-2000	456,230.03	—
2000-01	386,498.94	—
2001-02	409,743.71	—
2002-03	512,869.85	—
2003-04	451,750.43	—
2004-05	496,585.32	—
2005-06	1,147,515.64	25,525.51
2006-07	1,671,993.81	222,865.61

The amounts paid to agencies for temporary staff are inclusive of their service charges and the salary costs of the staff supplied.

The significant increase in the level of fees paid to agencies in the last two years is largely attributed to the need to bring in additional resources quickly to staff up the Department's team working on the Olympics 2012 programme following London's successful bid. Now that permanent staff have been recruited or transferred into the team, agencies fees are expected to fall back to levels paid previously in the years prior to 2005-06.

Departments: Redundancy Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by his Department on redundancy payments in the last 12 months. [153272]

Margaret Hodge: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has spent £100,475 in the last 12 months on redundancy payments.

Departments: Taxis

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by his Department on taxis in the last 12 months. [153271]

James Purnell: All official travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules contained in the Department's staff handbook, and consistent with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code. For the financial year 2006-07 £33,907.44 is the recorded spend on taxi fares. It represents expenditure on taxis provided by the Department's contract agent, black cabs and taxis in London and elsewhere.

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by his Department on staff away days in the last 12 months. [153273]

Margaret Hodge: No separate record is held of the amount spent on staff away days in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in the last 12 months. The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* staff and *(b)* communication training in the last 12 months. [153274]

Margaret Hodge: In the Department for Culture, Media and Sport we spent £601,689 on staff training during the last 12 months. We are unable to provide information on communications training as we do not categories information on spend in a way which would enable us to identify expenditure on communications training.

Departments: Tribunals

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by his Department on industrial tribunals in the last 12 months. [153267]

Margaret Hodge: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not spent anything on industrial tribunals in the last 12 months.

Flags: Local Authorities

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance has been given to local authorities to encourage them to fly the Union flag from municipal buildings. [153720]

Margaret Hodge: Local authorities are already able to fly the Union flag on a daily basis from municipal buildings; it is a matter for them to decide. However, as some choose to follow Government guidance, we have updated the flag flying section of the DCMS website (www.culture.gov.uk/flagflying) and informed the Local Government Association. This follows the announcement by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport allowing all UK Government Departments to have the freedom to fly the Union flag when they wish while the Department carry out a consultation on altering the flag flying guidance.

Hotels: Cornwall

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many hotels there are in Cornwall; and how many there were in 1997. [152096]

Margaret Hodge: Statistics on the number of hotels by region are not collected centrally.

South West Tourism's figures show that there were 354 hotels in Cornwall in 1998—the nearest year to 1997 for which for figures are available. However, there were 1,316 businesses classified as serviced visitor accommodation. Businesses are so defined when they provide food and other services to their guests. As such, the total of 1,316 includes guest houses and bed and breakfasts, but excludes self-catering establishments and holiday parks. South West Tourism defined a "hotel" as a business which offers certain services to guests (including a restaurant offering full meals) which are not offered by guest houses and similar establishments.

There were 290 hotels in Cornwall in 2006 out of a total of 1,190 serviced visitor accommodation businesses, deferred on the same basis.

Museums and Galleries

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 19 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 479W, on museums and galleries: West Midlands, what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Renaissance funding within the context of the comprehensive spending review in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* England; and if he will make a statement. [153333]

Margaret Hodge: Future funding for the Renaissance in the Regions Programme and all other departmental expenditure is under consideration in the context of the comprehensive spending review.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1178W, on the Olympic Games, if she will place in the Library copies of the *(a)* agenda and *(b)* minutes of each meeting of the cost review group on the dates listed. [146540]

Tessa Jowell: I have been asked to reply as Minister for the Olympics.

Agendas were drawn up for two of the meetings on the dates listed in my previous response and I am arranging for these to be placed in the House Library.

The meeting scheduled for 9 March 2006 did not take place. The minutes for the other meetings will not be placed in the House Library as they are being used to inform the development of our ongoing policy for managing the Olympic project.

Tourism: Yorkshire and Humberside

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was granted to the Yorkshire Tourism Board in each year since 1996. [152199]

Margaret Hodge: The regional development agency for Yorkshire and the Humber, Yorkshire Forward, provided the Yorkshire Tourist Board with approximately £3 million per annum between 2005-06 and 2007-08.

In addition, Yorkshire Forward has provided the York Tourism Bureau with financial support through the York and North Yorkshire sub-regional investment plan process. This equates to a one third share of £2 million for the period up to 2008-09.

For the figures for previous years, I refer my hon. Friend to the answers given to him on 21 October 2004, *Official Report*, column 823W, and 5 April 2005, *Official Report*, column 1328W, by my right hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Central (Mr. Caborn).

VisitBritain: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much grant in aid VisitBritain received in each year since 1997 at current prices; and if he will make a statement. [153474]

Margaret Hodge: The annual grant in aid paid by DCMS to VisitBritain at current prices was as follows:

	£ million
1997-98	44.7
1998-99	45.7
1999-2000	47.8
2000-01	48.0
2001-02	45.1
2002-03	47.1
2003-04	47.9
2004-05	48.4
2005-06	49.05
2006-07	50.05
2007-08 (projected)	50.05

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peace Keeping Operations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* impact and *(b)* effectiveness of the use of thermobaric weapons by British forces in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [152212]

Des Browne: The term "thermobaric" has no agreed definition and is not used by the MOD. As with all military deployments, we keep our force levels and equipment requirements in Afghanistan under constant review.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent assessment is of the capability of the Taliban and insurgency forces in Helmand Province. [153323]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 16 July 2007, *Official Report,* column 17, to the hon. Member for Clwyd, West (Mr. Jones).

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effects on Lynx helicopters of high air temperatures in Afghanistan. [153378]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my predecessor on 26 March 2007, *Official Report,* column 1353W.

Air Force: Horses

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent by the Royal Air Force on purchasing, maintaining and transporting horses and ponies for polo in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [152625]

Derek Twigg: The Royal Air Force has not spent any funds on purchasing or, maintaining horses and ponies for polo in the last 12 months. However, service personnel are entitled to payment from public funds for towing a horse box containing their own horses and ponies for authorised official fixtures in accordance with Tri Service Regulations for Allowances. Information on costs relating to such activities is not separately identifiable.

Alison Croft

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what measures he has taken in response to each of the recommendations of the Board of Inquiry into the Death of Private Alison Croft in October 2002; and what further measures he plans to undertake following the comments of HM Coroner at the conclusion of the inquest into her death on 17 July. [153380]

Derek Twigg: The Board of Inquiry into the death of Private Croft made nine recommendations to reduce the likelihood of such an incident occurring in the future, namely:

better communication between key personnel in the welfare chain and guidance on when to break the "in confidence" barrier;

provide continuous medical cover at Dalton Barracks to replace ad hoc services;

employment of a military Practice Manager, if a doctor cannot work on a full time basis;

increase the minimum number of padres employed at Dalton Barracks to two;

provide better guidance and training on At Risk Registers;

"flagging" personnel joining units from Phase 1 and 2 training with significant medical histories to the medical and military chain of command;

issue regular guidance to units on dealing with harassment, bullying or intimidation;

improve induction procedures to ensure new arrivals have clear understanding of welfare support available to them;

provide better training on the prevention of suicide at unit and sub unit level.

All the recommendations have been implemented.

The Ministry of Defence always gives careful consideration to the comments made by the Coroner following the conclusion of an Inquest involving Service personnel. In the case of Private Croft, the Coroner did not make any specific comments on further action required.

Armed Forces: Defence Equipment

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to ensure that 16 Air Assault Brigade is issued with the equipment which it needs *(a)* for training purposes and *(b)* to fulfil engagements; and if he will make a statement. [152924]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Our priority is to ensure that the armed forces are well-equipped for operations and operational commanders may request additional equipment through the chain of command at any time.

Outside operations, priority is given to equipping units for pre-Deployment Training. Other training and

activities are given lower priority. In some cases the training requirement will exceed the number of items available at a given point in time. These shortfalls in equipment are addressed by the implementation of a range of measures, including the acceleration of the deep maintenance programme and the transfer of equipment between units, to ensure that the priority needs, such as pre-deployment training are met.

Armed Forces: Doctors

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what mechanisms are in place to ensure the professional conduct of doctors serving with the military in examining military prisoners; and if he will make a statement. [153737]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I have assumed that the Member is referring to "military prisoners" in the widest sense, i.e. all persons detained by the UK armed forces, rather than simply Service personnel detained in the Military Corrective Training Centre at Colchester or by their unit. The same principles apply to medical examinations regardless of the specific status and location of the detainee.

Military doctors charged with the medical care of prisoners and detainees are required to follow MOD policy directives based on medical ethics as advised by the General Medical Council, UK law and, where relevant, United Nations declarations and international law, including the Geneva Conventions. Initial military training courses for Service doctors cover the medical support to be provided to persons detained by UK forces whilst deployed on operations.

Any failure to comply can result in various sanctions depending upon the nature of the offence, ranging from internal disciplinary measures to investigation by the GMC or criminal prosecution.

We review our policy and training in this area when appropriate.

Armed Forces: Explosives

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether requests have been made by troops in the field for enhanced blast devices. [150029]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: For reasons of operational security I will not disclose whether there have or have not been requests for specific capabilities. All requirements are kept under constant review. We regularly receive and action requests for a wide range of equipment capabilities from operational theatres. Some of these we can address through existing resources; other emerging requirements are met through the urgent operational requirement process.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what average time a military patient spends on each stage of the patient cure pathway. [149312]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Every patient is treated on an individual basis. The phrase "patient care pathway" is used by Defence Medical Services to refer to the totality of treatment any injured or sick individual receives, from point of injury or presenting for treatment to discharge from medical care and will clearly vary enormously depending on the injury or illness. Some ailments will be treated almost immediately, while others, such as a serious wounding, can take many months before the patient is fully recovered or an operational medical outcome is achieved. Any attempt to provide an "average" time spent on the "care pathway" would be meaningless.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service family accommodation properties in *(a)* Cyprus, *(b)* Gibraltar and *(c)* Germany are at standard (i) 1, (ii) 2, (iii) 3 and (iv) 4. [148238]

Derek Twigg: Service Families Accommodation (SFA) in Cyprus, Gibraltar and Germany is assessed by Grade for Charge rather than Standard for Condition.

Grade for charge is broken down by amenities and location with Grade 1 close to all amenities. Standard for Condition relates to the physical condition of the property.

The total number of SFA by Grade is as follows:

	Grade 1	*Grade 2*	*Grade 3*	*Grade 4*	*Total*
Cyprus	286	345	134	1,427	2,192
Gibraltar	107	32	82	280	501
Germany	2,101	5,376	4,707	982	13,166

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many single living accommodation properties for service personnel in *(a)* Cyprus, *(b)* Gibraltar and *(c)* Germany are of standard (i) 1, (ii) 2, (iii) 3 and (iv) 4. [148239]

Derek Twigg: Single Living Accommodation (SLA) in Cyprus and Gibraltar and Germany is assessed by Grade for Charge rather than Standard for Condition.

Grade for charge is broken down by amenities and location with Grade 1 close to all amenities. Standard for Condition relates to the physical condition of the property.

As at April 2007, the total number of SLA in each location at each grade is as follows:

	Grade 1	*Grade 2*	*Grade 3*	*Grade 4*	*Total*
Cyprus	60	0	423	2,789	3,272
Gibraltar	6	90	0	462	558
Germany	1,643	1,307	3,445	9,751	16,146

For SLA in Cyprus proposed improvements programme will provide 650 bed spaces after 2008. The remaining SLA in Cyprus is transit accommodation for operational deployments.

111 bed spaces are to be upgraded in Gibraltar.

Germany SLA, 374 bed spaces are to be upgraded.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many eviction orders were served on occupants of service married quarters in each year since 1997. [150127]

Derek Twigg: Records for eviction orders are only available from November 2000.

Applications for eviction orders in England and Wales, are shown as follows.

	Number of eviction orders
2000 (from November)	11
2001	143
2002	105
2003	76
2004	110
2005	102
2006	62
2007 (to 16 July)	45

Service personnel who lose their entitlement to Service Families Accommodation (SFA) can be served eviction orders and are included in these figures. Personnel can lose entitlement due to leaving the services or following a breakdown of the marriage. Few eviction orders actually lead to the occupant having to be forcibly evicted from their SFA.

Records of evictions from Scotland, Northern Ireland and overseas SFA are not held centrally and will take time to collate. I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many reports were made of faulty cookers in service families accommodation in each year since 2005; and what the *(a)* average and *(b)* longest time taken to make repairs to such cookers was in each year. [151759]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally and therefore could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the *(a)* average and *(b)* longest time taken between ordering and installing made to order parts for boilers in Service Families and Single Living Accommodation was in each year since 2005; [151761]

(2) how much was spent on *(a)* the purchase of made to order parts for boilers in Service Families and Single Living Accommodation and *(b)* the installation of made to order parts for such boilers in each year since 2005. [151762]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally and therefore could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of providing housing for members of the Army in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by rank. [152702]

Derek Twigg: Service Families Accommodation in Great Britain is provided on a Tri-Service basis and it is not possible to identify costs relating solely to the Army or to provide a breakdown by rank. Of the £81 million spent on service housing in 2006-07, it is estimated that about 50 per cent. would relate to Army personnel.

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the progress of negotiations with the Metrix Consortium on Package 2 for the Defence Training Review. [153317]

Derek Twigg: In January this year the Metrix Consortium were declared the Preferred Bidder for Package 1 of the DTR Programme, but in view of significant remaining affordability challenges, only provisional Preferred Bidder for Package 2. Since then we have been exploring with the Bidder possible synergies and economies of scale across the whole programme.

Significant work has been completed, but has not yet been concluded. Once it is, I expect to make a statement later this year.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what training British military personnel receive in the handling of detainees taken on operations. [153327]

Des Browne: All members of Her Majesty's armed forces must comply with the Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC), including in the handling and treatment of detainees. The United Kingdom is required by international law to ensure that instruction on LOAC is included in training programmes for the armed forces.

Instruction on LOAC takes place during Phase 1 and Phase 2 training for all Service personnel. Thereafter, Service personnel receive further training at a level and frequency appropriate for their rank, responsibility and force readiness status.

Mandatory LOAC training is included in pre-deployment training for all Service personnel. In addition, Service personnel who deploy receive a presentation on theatre-specific guidance and instruction as part on their initial orientation package and a subsequent practical test.

For those units who have been detailed to provide a guard service at the Divisional Internment Facility in Iraq, additional specialist training is provided by staff from the Military Corrective Training Centre and HQ Provost Marshall (Army).

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on the Future Rapid Effects System project. [148550]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 10 July 2007]:* The Assessment Phase of the Future Rapid Effect System programme was approved in April 2004. Expenditure on this phase up to 31 March 2007 was £101 million (including value added tax).

This covers the Technology Demonstrator Programmes, which examined candidate technologies (see following table). Additionally it covers the cost of the supporting programme of analysis and technical expertise provided by the Atkins Defence in the Systems House role and Defence Science and Technology Laboratories. It also covers the cost of specialist support to the MOD.

A total of nine TDP contracts have been placed. They are:

	Title	Contractor
1	Stowage and Capacity	Dstl
2	Hard Kill Defensive Aid System	Akers Krutbruk
3	Chassis Concept TDP (AHED)	General Dynamics UK Ltd.
4	Chassis Concept TDP2 (SEP)	BAES Land Systems
5	Electronic Architecture TDP 1	Lockheed Martin UK Ltd.
6	Electronic Architecture TDP 2	Thales UK Ltd.
7	Electric Armour	Lockheed Martin UK INSYS Ltd.
8	Integrated Survivability	Thales UK Ltd.
9	Gap Crossing	BAES Land Systems (Bridging) Ltd.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the out-of-service dates are for each armoured vehicle type in the army. [153320]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The out-of-service (OSD) dates for armoured vehicles are detailed as follows:

Vehicle	Out-of-service date	Remarks
Challenger 2	2035	
CVR(T)	2016	
FV430 Mk2	2002	
FV430 Bulldog	n/a	OSD yet to be confirmed
Mastiff	n/a	No planned OSD at present
Saxon GWR	2018	Being taken out of service by 2008
Saxon Patrol	2023	
Titan	2040	
Trojan	2040	
Vector	2019	
Warrior	2025	

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armoured vehicles of each type were in service in the Army in 1997. [153325]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of armoured vehicles of each type that were in service (total fleet) in the Army in 1997 is shown in the following table:

Vehicle type	Number in service in 1997
Stormer	135
Rapier	67
Saxon (all variants)	634
FV430 Series	1,850
Centurion	40
Warrior	794
CVR(T)	1,671
CVR(W)	2
Chieftain	250
CR1	429
CR2	39
Repair and recovery vehicles	93
AS90	179
MLRS	61
CET	138
Fuchs NBC	11

Armoured Fighting Vehicles: Expenditure

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total expenditure was on the procurement and maintenance of armoured vehicles in each year since 1997. [148235]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The figures in the table detail expenditure, rounded to the nearest £10 million, on the procurement and maintenance of armoured vehicles: Challenger 2, CVR(T), FV430 Mk 2, FV430 Bulldog, Saxon GWR, Saxon Patrol, Warrior, Vector, Mastiff, Trojan and Titan. The complete financial records for maintenance prior to financial year 2003-04 are not held in one central location and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

		£ million
Financial year	Procurement	Maintenance
1997-98	350	n/a
1998-99	330	n/a
1999-2000	190	n/a
2000-01	70	n/a
2001-02	70	n/a
2002-03	30	n/a
2003-04	60	160
2004-05	50	140
2005-06	70	130
2006-07	110	120

n/a = not available.

Maintenance expenditure includes repairs, upgrade and upkeep programmes, post design services and purchase of spares.

Procurement expenditure includes development, production, training, support equipment and initial spares.

Arms Trade

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what mechanisms are in place to prevent arms owned by the armed forces or deemed surplus to requirements becoming available on the black market. [153670]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Weapons owned by the armed forces are subject to the most stringent security procedures. In service weapons are always stored in secure armouries when not in use and access to these buildings is strictly controlled. Armoury stores are checked each day for quantity and each week for individual serial number, with random spot checks in addition. The process of issuing of weapons is also tightly controlled. Ammunition is subject to the same stringent checks and is stored in a secure compound separate from the weapons.

Any weapons deemed surplus to requirements are returned to a secure storage facility, escorted either by unit personnel or moved via secure MOD approved hauliers. On arrival at the unit, a full check of NATO stock number, quantity and serial number will be undertaken, in addition to a full safety check.

Serviceable weapons that are no longer required by the armed forces are disposed of under Government Authority. Weapons classified as beyond repair are reduced to scrap and disposed of.

Army Base Repair Organisation: Manpower

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which posts are open to indirect employees as described in KT4 (Efficiency) in the Army Base Repair Organisation key targets of financial year 2007-08. [152994]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The posts that are open to employees that are defined as indirect, as described in ABRO's Key Target 4 for 2007-08, include all management, supervisory and support roles, including planning and logistics.

Army Board

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 752W, on the Army Board, if he will provide a breakdown of the internal flights taken by the Chief of the General Staff in 2006; and what the purpose was of each flight. [143451]

Derek Twigg: I am withholding information about the details of the individual flights as its disclosure would or would be likely to endanger the safety of an individual.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 752W, on Army Board, if he will provide a breakdown of the internal flights taken by the Adjutant General in 2006; and what the purpose was of each flight. [143452]

Derek Twigg: On closer examination of the records my officials have discovered that the total number of flights undertaken by the Adjutant-General in 2006 given in answer on 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 752W was overstated. The Adjutant-General took a total of 49 internal flights in 2006; 10 by RAF rotary and fixed wing aircraft, 34 by Army Rotary Wing aircraft and five commercial flights. I am withholding the details of the individual flights as its disclosure would or would be likely to be prejudicial to his personal security.

Army Board: Housing

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 953-4W, on the Army Board: housing, what the reasons are for the increase in the running costs of the housing provided by his Department for members of the Army Board since 1999-2000. [152866]

Derek Twigg: The changes in the running costs of accommodation associated with the posts of Chief of the General Staff, Commander in Chief Land, Adjutant-General and General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland are due to a combination of factors including:

- The use of different houses by subsequent appointment holders.
- Scheduled property maintenance.
- Periodic reassessment of departmental charging rates, scaling and entitlements for service accommodation.
- Differing staff levels (numbers and rank structure) and associated personnel costs.
- Price variations for utilities—electricity, gas etc.
- General price inflation.

More detailed information on the specific contributions (negative or positive) of individual factors could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

Army: Horses

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent by the British Army on purchasing, maintaining and transporting horses and ponies for polo in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [152627]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave to the hon. Member for North Durham (Mr. Jones) on 10 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 348W and the hon. Member for Stratford-on-Avon (Mr. Maples) on 1 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1539W.

Army: Uniforms

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether bearskin caps used by the British Army are sourced from bears killed specifically for the purpose of supplying the British Army. [153298]

Des Browne: To our knowledge, no pelts for use by the Guards have come from bears killed specifically for the purpose of supplying the British Army.

Since 2001 it has been MOD policy to refurbish rather than replace bearskin caps, wherever possible. As a result no pelts have been purchased in recent years by the contractors who make the caps for the Department. Previously, when pelts have been purchased, they have been bought from regulated fur traders operating under the jurisdiction of the Canadian authorities.

AWE Aldermaston: Floods

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what flood protection measures were taken in respect of AWE Aldermaston during the recent heavy rainfall; what assessment he has made of the robustness of these protection measures; and if he will make a statement. [153484]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: AWE Aldermaston has flood protection systems in place that have been agreed with the Environment Agency. These include a series of small reservoirs that were installed in the early 1990s to

allow run-off water from the site to be collected and assessed prior to a managed discharge. Water flowing from areas of the site such as roads and car parks are diverted to local watercourses.

I can confirm that these protection arrangements worked well and performed as designed.

Ballistic Missile Defence

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Space Based Infra Red System at RAF Menwith Hill will be in operation. [153744]

Des Browne: On current plans, facilities at RAF Menwith Hill for routing satellite data will be ready for operation early in 2008. The operational date for the Space Based Infra Red System is a matter for the US.

Bombs: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many CRV-7 rockets fitted with cluster munition warheads UK armed forces have used in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq since October 2001. [147523]

Des Browne: No CRV-7 rockets fitted with sub-munition warheads have been used by UK armed forces against operational targets in either Afghanistan or Iraq. However, a number of CRV-7 M261 high explosive multi-purpose sub-munition rockets have been fired on a range in Afghanistan as part of routine training.

The UK does not consider the CRV-7 multi-purpose sub-munition to be a cluster munition because of its direct fire capability and small number of sub-munitions.

Defence Equipment: Spare Parts

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many instances there were of spare parts lost in transit during financial year 2006-07; and what the value was of each loss. [148229]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The reported value of recorded losses in transit for financial year 2006-07 was £2.9 million, consisting of 2,058 items. Data is not held in such a way that enables the separate identification of "spare parts".

Defence Medical Services: ICT

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason the launch of the Defence Medical Information Capability Programme medical IT system has been postponed; and if he will make a statement. [149657]

Derek Twigg: The launch of the Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) has not been postponed; the system was rolled out at the first Army pilot site in February 2007 and is currently in service at 12 sites. The roll out is proceeding to schedule, and the system is expected to be in service in all medical and dental centres in the UK and Germany and certain other fixed sites overseas by the middle of 2008.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Defence Medical Information Capability Programme will be connected to the National Care Records Service. [149660]

Derek Twigg: The Defence Medical Information Capability Programme is due to be connected to the National Care Records Service by December 2010.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what provisions have been made for service personnel to opt out of the Defence Medical Information Capability Programme. [149661]

Derek Twigg: In agreement with the General Medical Council (GMC), the Defence Medical Services (DMS) can decide to hold every individual medical record in electronic, rather than paper format.

Service personnel cannot opt out of this system. They may, however, ask that their record can only be seen by a clinician who is directly involved in their health care. Robust provisions have been made to ensure that individual records can be locked down so that their existence in the system is not apparent to those not entitled to see them. In addition, individuals will be able to opt out of allowing their record to be shared on the NHS National Care Record Service, and to place certain other restrictions on access to their records.

All those whose records may be held in Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) are being alerted to these facts before DMICP is rolled out at their medical centre. Medical staff have been briefed on the procedures and will advise their patients on the risks of restricting access to their records.

Departments: BAE Systems

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1132W, on Department: BAE Systems, how many and what percentage of applicants were *(a)* granted permission to join BAE and *(b)* took up posts with BAE in each of the last 10 years; how many were of those granted permission (i) civilian and (ii) military staff; what ranks each held; and how many were from the Defence Export Services Organisation. [149676]

Des Browne *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* Applications received and approved to join BAE Systems in the 10 years since 1997 are as follows:

	Number of applications to join BAE Systems	*Number approved or approved with conditions*	*Number not approved (2-year waiting time imposed)*	*Of those approved, military*	*Of those approved, civilian*
1997	24	21	3	16	5
1998	15	14	1	13	1
1999	8	8	0	4	4
2000	14	14	0	0	14
2001	26	25	1	17	8
2002	21	21	0	15	6
2003	14	14	0	9	5
2004	7	6	1	6	0
2005	14	14	0	10	4

	Number of applications to join BAE Systems	Number approved or approved with conditions	Number not approved (2-year waiting time imposed)	Of those approved, military	Of those approved, civilian
2006	21	21	0	13	8
Total	165	158	6	103	55

Of the applicants given approval, four have been from the Defence Exports Services Organisation: one in 2002, two in 2006 and one in 2007. It is not possible to determine how many applicants actually took up the posts for which they sought approval. Of the total applications, 79.9 per cent. were granted permission without condition, 16.4 per cent. were granted permission subject to behavioural conditions or waiting periods and 3.7 per cent. were required to wait for the maximum period of two years. Of the 158 applications approved, the grades or ranks were as follows:

Grade/Rank	Number of applications approved
4-Star and above (PUS, Admiral, General, Air Chief Marshal)	1
3 -Star (DUS, Vice Admiral, Lieutenant General, Air Marshal)	7
2-Star (AUS, Rear Admiral, Major General, Air Vice Marshal)	8
1-Star (Pay Band 1, Commodore, Brigadier, Air Commodore)	17
Grade B, Captain, Colonel, Group Captain.	27
Grade C, Commander/Lieutenant Commander, Lieutenant Colonel/Major, Wing Commander/Squadron Leader	78
Grade D or below, Lieutenant/Sub Lieutenant RN, Captain, Lieutenant, Flight Lieutenant, Pilot Officer	20

Departments: Charities

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much Defence Estate (Aldershot) billed in liability charges for charity events held on his Department's property since April 2005 to 2007. [152355]

Derek Twigg: The information requested will need to be collated and this will take a little time. I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of my letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 939W, on Departments: consultants, on which consultancy firms the £47.2 million spent on external consultancy services was spent; which projects each worked on; and what the total cost in consultancy fees was for each private finance initiative project. [153608]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence uses external consultants to provide specialist commercial, financial and legal services to Integrated Project Teams to assist in the delivery of services (both PFI and non PFI). In addition, ad-hoc specialist technical consultants are engaged in particular areas where in-house expertise is not available.

The Department requires that expenditure on consultants is pre-approved and allocated by budget to specific projects. Centrally the Department collates a global total of all consultancy fees but does not record other details centrally and therefore the information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of people employed by (*a*) his Department and (*b*) its agencies are disabled. [153579]

Derek Twigg: The following table gives details of civilian disabled personnel employed by the Ministry of Defence.

Ministry of Defence Declared disabled[1] 1 April 2007

	Percentage
Ministry of Defence (excluding agencies)	5.8
Agencies:	
Service Personnel and Veterans Agency	11.3
Defence Analytical Services Agency	4.4
Defence Medical and Education Training Agency	7.7
Defence Storage and Distribution Agency	8.8
Defence Vetting Agency	4.4
Ministry of Defence Police	3.4
People Pay and Pensions Agency	4.5
Service Children's Education	0.5
Ministry of Defence[2]: Total	5.5

[1] Disability self-certification was introduced in 2001.
[2] This includes civilian staff employed by the Ministry of Defence and Trading Funds, but excludes Royal Fleet Auxiliaries and Locally Engaged Staff. Disability data for Royal Fleet Auxiliaries and Locally Engaged Staff are unavailable.
Note:
Percentages are calculated from known response.
Source:
DASA (Civilian).

Departments: Flowers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent by his Department on flowers in the last 12 months. [153108]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Frontier Medical

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department's contract with Frontier Medical was signed; what tendering process was used for the contract; and if he will make a statement. [153318]

Derek Twigg: The MOD signed a contract with Frontier Medical Service Ltd. on 13 March 2007 to provide suitably qualified medical personnel to

operational theatres. The contract was awarded following a fair competition conducted by the MOD in accordance with EU regulations and MOD policies.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many press officers are employed by his Department. [153074]

Derek Twigg: On 27 July 2007 there were 22 press officers employed in the Ministry of Defence's central press office in London, and seven press officers employed in Regional Press Offices.

This answer does not include those employed as press officers in Defence Agencies, the Permanent Joint Headquarters, single Service Commands or at unit level, some of whom have a press officer task in addition to their main role. An audit is being conducted by MOD of overall numbers and roles of personnel involved in communications in order to assist with implementation of the Defence Communications Strategy. When this audit concludes, key findings will be made available through the MOD's website and I will write to you.

Departments: Meetings

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many meetings he has had with external bodies and representative organisations since 27 June 2007. [152288]

Des Browne: The Secretary of State for Defence and the Minister for the armed forces did not hold any such meetings during the period. The Minister for Defence Equipment and Support held meetings with BAES, EADS, Lockheed Martin, CSEU, GMB Union, MBDA and T&G Union. The Under-Secretary of State held meetings with the Three Faith Forum, Electoral Commission, CVQO and the Armed Forces Pensions Group.

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to which periodicals his Department subscribes. [153104]

Derek Twigg: I have placed lists of the current periodicals, newspapers and copyrate magazines in the Library of the House.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent by his Department on newspapers and magazines in the last 12 months. [153105]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence holds a contract with a supplier to provide newspapers and copyrate magazines to units in the London area. This contract came into force on 1 March 2002. Expenditure under the contract for financial year 2006-07 was £65,324.

MOD units outside London may purchase newspapers under local arrangements. Information on expenditure under such local arrangements is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Redundancy Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent by his Department on redundancy payments in the last 12 months. [153150]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

We hold information centrally on a Department-wide voluntary early release scheme which was launched in March 2005, in connection with the civil service-wide reductions required under the 2004 Spending Review. The in-year cost to the Department of individuals who left over the 12-month period of Financial Year 2006-07 on voluntary terms under the MOD Early Release Scheme is £17 million.

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much was spent by his Department on staff training in the last 12 months; [153101]

(2) how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* staff and *(b)* communication training in the last 12 months. [153102]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent by his Department on staff away days in the last 12 months. [153151]

Des Browne: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Travel Expenses

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much was spent by his Department on first class train tickets in the last 12 months; [153106]

(2) how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* first class and *(b)* business flights in the last 12 months; [153107]

(3) how much was spent by his Department on taxis in the last 12 months. [153109]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Tribunals

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent by his Department on industrial tribunals in the last 12 months. [153103]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will assess the merits of moving additional military and Ministry of Defence civilian staff to York. [150283]

Derek Twigg: As my right hon. Friend the Defence Secretary told the House on 26 July 2007, a newly established Divisional Headquarters, HQ 6 Div, is to be based in York. This will involve approximately 55 additional military personnel and six civilians being based in York.

Depleted Uranium

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the health implications of embedded uranium shrapnel to serving and retired personnel; and if he will make a statement. [151765]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence maintains a watching brief on the published scientific literature relating to the health implications of embedded uranium shrapnel. On this basis, our current view is that, although ongoing surveillance of veterans with embedded shrapnel is prudent, there is currently no indication of uranium-related health effects in any of the veterans studied.

As part of this ongoing surveillance, we recently offered follow-up monitoring to the small group of UK veterans found to have depleted uranium in their urine. The current scientific assessment is that there will be no health implications for these veterans.

EU Defence Policy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made towards meeting the EU Headline Goal 2010; and if he will make a statement. [153321]

Des Browne: Good progress is being made towards the Headline Goal 2010. In March 2006 all EU member states responded to the Headline Goal Questionnaire, detailing those forces which potentially could be made available for use on EU led operations. These are currently being assessed against the requirement in terms of both quantity and quality. The Progress Catalogue, due to be published in November, will make clear whether the offered forces are sufficient to meet the requirement and, if there are any deficiencies, will provide an assessment of the military risks associated with them, and the potential impact on the EU's ability to achieve its level of ambition.

European Fighter Aircraft: Saudi Arabia

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the source code software will be included in the sale of Eurofighters to Saudi Arabia; and if he will make a statement. [152622]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The current negotiations on the sale of Eurofighters to Saudi Arabia are confidential between the two Governments. I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice international relations and harm the interests of the United Kingdom.

Future Surface Combatant

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether task specifications for the Future Surface Combatant have been drawn up; and if he will make a statement. [152060]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 25 July 2007]:* Requirements for Defence equipment projects are formalised at Initial Gate and approved at Main Gate. The Future Surface Combatant project is still in the Concept Phase and an Initial Gate date has not yet been set.

Galileo Project

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2007, *Official Report,* column 955W, on Galileo project, whether representatives of his Department have attended meetings on the Galileo project within the last six months apart from the meetings attended by experts from the Defence Scientific and Technology Laboratory. [148695]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Yes.

Helicopters

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current percentage shortfall is of required spares for each helicopter type in the *(a)* Army Air Corps, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force. [148379]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In providing logistic support to UK military helicopters, the focus is moving from spares availability to guaranteed aircraft availability. Merlin, Sea King and Chinook spares support is already contracting through availability contracts with industry.

The percentage of spares demands satisfied direct from MOD stocks in June 2007 have been listed in the table.

Spare parts availability for all of these aircraft has been sufficient to meet operational commitments.

Aircraft platform	*Owner service*	*Spares satisfaction rates (percentage)*
Attack Helicopter	Army	77
RTM322 engine	—	94
Chinook	RAF	94
T55 engine	—	96
Gazelle	Army	96
Astazou 3N2 engine	—	99
LynxMk3/Mk8	RN	92
LynxMk7/Mk9	Army	92
Gem engine	—	99

Aircraft platform	Owner service	Spares satisfaction rates (percentage)
Merlin Mk1	RN	[1]80
Merlin Mk3	RAF	[1]80
RTM322 engine	—	94
Puma	RAF	96
Turmo engine	—	92
Sea King Mk3	RAF	[1]92
Sea King Mks4, 6, 6c and 7	RN	[1]92
Gnome engine	—	95

[1] Across this aircraft type.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many helicopters there were in the *(a)* Army Air Corps, *(b)* Navy, *(c)* RAF and *(d)* Armed Forces in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2007. [153315]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is shown as follows:

	1997 (as at 1 April)	2007 (as at 30 June)
Army Air Corps	295	289
Royal Navy	225	232
Royal Air Force	142	132
Armed Forces Total	662	653

The figures for 2007 do not include the six RAF Merlin helicopters recently acquired from Denmark or the eight RAF Chinook Mark 3 helicopters that are being converted to a Battlefield Support role, as announced by the Secretary of State on 30 March 2007.

HMS Birmingham

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current status is of HMS Birmingham. [153330]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: HMS Birmingham was decommissioned in 1999, sold in 2000 and was then dismantled in Spain.

HMS Illustrious

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many days *(a)* HMS Illustrious and *(b)* HMS Ark Royal were at sea in each year since 1997. [153329]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of days spent at sea each year since 1997 by HMS Illustrious and HMS Ark Royal are detailed in the following table.

	Number of days at sea	
	HMS Illustrious	HMS Ark Royal
1998	85.25	0
1999	102.50	4.75
2000	124.25	0
2001	165.25	67.50
2002	66.00	120.25
2003	0	133.00
2004	30.25	17.00
2005	123.25	3.75
2006	123.75	33.00
Up to 25 July 2007	80.00	68.00

HMS Illustrious was in refit from November 2002 to November 2004.

HMS Ark Royal was at low readiness in 1998 and entered refit in June 1999 until March 2001. She was at low readiness from May 2004 and entered refit October 2005 until September 2006.

Iraq: Bombs

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what evidence has been provided by Royal Military Police forensic teams from DNA samples found on bomb *(a)* parts and *(b)* fragments in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan which match UK nationals recorded on the UK National Database. [149129]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD shares forensic information with the police derived from operations overseas with a view to enhancing the protection of UK armed forces from threats overseas, the investigation of criminal activity in the UK, and the identification of any connection between the two. I am withholding details of the information requested as its release would, or would be likely to prejudice the capacity, effectiveness or security of our armed forces and the prevention or detection of crime.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on operations in Iraq from *(a)* its annual Delegated Expenditure Limits for resource spending, *(b)* its annual Delegated Expenditure Limits for capital spending and *(c)* by drawing down expenditure from HM Treasury's unallocated special reserve in each financial year since 2002-03. [148894]

Des Browne: The net additional costs of operations in Iraq are met from the Treasury's Reserves and not the Department's Expenditure Limits.

The total of the annual audited figures for the costs of operations in Iraq for the years 2002-03 to 2005-06 are as follows:

	Cost of operations (£ million)
2002-03	
Resource Expenditure	629
Capital Expenditure	218
Total	847
2003-04	
Resource Expenditure	1,051
Capital Expenditure	260
Total	1,311

	Cost of operations (£ million)
2004-05	
Resource Expenditure	747
Capital Expenditure	163
Total	910
2005-06	
Resource Expenditure	798
Capital Expenditure	160
Total	958

A total estimated cost of £1,002 million for 2006-07 was included in the Spring Supplementary Estimates published in February. Final figures will be published in the MOD's Annual Report and Accounts for 2006-07.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many detainees were in British custody in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each year since 2001, broken down by nationality. [153326]

Des Browne: The MOD publishes monthly internee figures on its website

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInIraqKeyFactsFigures.htm

As at 26 July 2007 there were 88 internees in British custody in Iraq. Since 1 January 2004 records show that the total number of people interned in Iraq by UK forces is 1,536. The number of internees held at any one time varies significantly: since 2004, the number held has generally ranged between 20 and 140. Readily accessible records indicate that there is one dual Iraqi/British national in British custody, and that the remainder are all Iraqi nationals. These records do not include those released or passed to Iraqi custody within eight hours of initial detention.

We do not operate a policy of internment in Afghanistan. However, UK troops occasionally detain suspected criminals for brief periods before passing them on to the Government of Afghanistan. Our records indicate that the number of detainees that have passed through British custody in Afghanistan are:

	Number
2001	2
2002	1
2003	4
2004	0
2005	0
2006	33
2007 (As of 30 July)	64

Readily accessible records indicate that the majority of these are Afghan nationals, but have included a small number of third country nationals.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British military engineers were deployed to *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each year since 2001; and what their primary mission was in each case. [153332]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We deploy British military engineers on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan to conduct close engineer support (such as mobility support, counter mobility support, explosive ordnance disposal, boat support, and search) and general engineer support (such as infrastructure development, construction, geographic support, and civil-military cooperation). We cannot provide the total number of engineering personnel deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan for each year since 2001 as these records are not held centrally and cannot be provided without disproportionate cost. We can, however, provide the details of the main engineering units deployed to Iraq since 2003 and Afghanistan since 2006. In addition to these units, there are also Royal Navy/Royal Marine, Army and Royal Air Force Engineers deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan undertaking maintenance tasks in support of both rotary and fixed wing aircraft and vehicle squadrons.

Engineering units deployed to Iraq

2003

Headquarters Royal Engineers 1st (United Kingdom) Armoured Division

Elements of Headquarters 12 Engineer Brigade (Air Support)

32 Engineer Regiment

28 Engineer Regiment

36 Engineer Regiment

23 Engineer Regiment

33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal)

42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic Support)

64 Works Group Royal Engineers

59 Independent Commando Squadron Royal Engineers

Elements of 131 Independent Commando Squadron Royal Engineers (Volunteers)

38 Engineer Regiment Group

Elements of 62 Works Group Royal Engineers

35 Engineer Regiment Group

2004

22 Engineer Regiment Group

21 Engineer Regiment Group

Elements of 63 Works Group Royal Engineers

2005

26 Engineer Regiment Group

32 Engineer Regiment Group

Elements of 64 Works Group Royal Engineers

2006

35 Engineer Regiment Group

38 Engineer Regiment Group

Elements of 63 Works Group Royal Engineers

2007

22 Engineer Regiment Group

Elements of 64 Works Group Royal Engineers

21 Engineer Regiment Group

Elements of 62 Works Group Royal Engineers.

Engineering units deployed to Afghanistan

2006

51 Parachute Squadron Royal Engineers

Elements of 49 Field Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal)

Elements of 63 Works Group Royal Engineers

28 Engineer Regiment Group

59 Independent Commando Squadron Royal Engineers

2007

26 Engineer Regiment Group

Elements of 64 Works Group Royal Engineers

Elements of 62 Works Group Royal Engineers.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what risk assessments have been carried out on *(a)* RAF and *(b)* Army accommodation in Basra with particular reference to (i) overhead protection and (ii) protection from shrapnel; what action (A) was taken and (B) is planned as a result; and if he will make a statement. [153460]

Des Browne: There is no distinction made in an operational theatre on the standard of accommodation, or protection afforded to it, on the basis of service.

Commanders in theatre keep all force protection measures including that of accommodation under constant review, against an ever-evolving threat and a number of measures are being developed to further improve protection.

Force protection arrangements in Basra employ multiple layers of defence. This is in addition to operations to disrupt attacks against UK forces and other protective equipment, tactics, techniques and procedures designed to minimise the chance of a successful attack. Details of these measures cannot be released as disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of the armed forces.

Iraq-Kuwait Conflict: Depleted Uranium

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the number of UK service personnel who served in the 1990-91 Gulf conflict and as a result of injuries sustained there have embedded uranium shrapnel. [151763]

Derek Twigg: We are not aware of any incidents involving injury to UK service personnel in the 1990-91 Gulf conflict resulting in embedded depleted uranium shrapnel injuries. This is supported by the recent findings of the Depleted Uranium Oversight Board (DUOB) which was established in 2001 to oversee a screening programme for veterans of the 1990-91 Gulf conflict and subsequent Balkans operations concerned about possible exposure to depleted uranium. I announced the publication of the final report of the DUOB on 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 64WS.

Military Aircraft

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current percentage shortfall is of required spares for *(a)* C17A Globemaster, *(b)* Hercules C-130K, *(c)* Hercules C-130J, *(d)* Tristar, *(e)* VC-10 and *(f)* Nimrod MR2. [148380]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Aircraft spares for the C-17A Globemaster and the Hercules C-130 are provided under aircraft availability contracts with industry and spares stock levels are not measured.

Aircraft spares for the TriStar, VC-10 and Nimrod MR2 are also partly provided direct from industry. However, spares demands satisfied from MOD stocks in June 2007, expressed as a percentage, were 74 per cent. for the TriStar, 78 per cent. for the VC-10 and 81 per cent. for the Nimrod MR2.

Spare parts availability for all of these aircraft has been sufficient to meet operational commitments.

Minesweepers

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many minehunters were *(a)* on active service and *(b)* in reserve in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2007; what plans he has to change the numbers; and if he will make a statement. [153441]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In 1997 there were 18 Mine Counter-Measure Vessels (MCMVs) in service and capable of mine-hunting operations. There are currently 16 MCMVs in service. There were no such vessels in reserve either in 1997 or 2007.

There are currently no plans to change the number of MCMVs.

Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency: USA

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 29 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 903W, on Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency: USA, if he will place in the Library the results of the negotiations being held with the US authorities concerning the Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency and the US authorities. [153745]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The revised Memorandum of Agreement will be made available in the Library of the House once the revised Agreement between the Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency and the US authorities has been finalised, and all parties, including the US, have been consulted.

Navy: Fisheries

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answers of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 175W, on Navy: fisheries, when he expects to collate and make available the information requested; and if he will make a statement. [150570]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The collation of the information has now been completed. I wrote to the hon. Member on 25 August.

Navy: Frigates

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to commence the industrial procurement process for the Future Surface Combatant. [147862]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Until an investment decision has been taken, as part of the current planning round which is due to complete in early 2008, the timeline for the Future Surface Combatant project cannot be determined.

Nuclear Weapons

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidelines his Department follows on the proximity of storage of nuclear weapons to *(a)* residential properties and *(b)* other nuclear weapons. [153671]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: UK nuclear weapons, in common with all MOD conventional weapons, are stored according to their conventional explosives content in explosives facilities which are assessed and licensed in accordance with the requirements of the Manufacture and Storage of Explosives Regulations (MSER) 2005. The MOD applies these regulations through Joint Services Publication 482—MOD Explosives Regulations. JSP 482 stipulates specific safety separation distances to be maintained between explosives and residential properties and public roads and between adjacent explosives storage and processing facilities.

Nuclear warheads are stored safely in accordance with arrangements prescribed by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate. Specific regulations are covered by the Ionising Radiation Regulations 1999.

RAF Brize Norton: Charities

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the reasons were for the decision of Defence Estate officials to waive the liability charge for the Sgt Biddiss Charity event held at RAF Brize Norton. [152353]

Derek Twigg: Defence Estates officials reviewed in detail the background to the event. Based on that review they concluded that the event justified the waiving of the small marginal cost. This action was acceptable within their delegation.

Sierra Leone: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British armed forces personnel were wounded during operations in *(a)* Sierra Leone, *(b)* Bosnia and *(c)* Kosovo in each year since 1997. [153328]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my predecessor on 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 763W, to the hon. Member for Forest of Dean (Mr. Harper).

Territorial Army: Deployment

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Territorial Army sub-units had members mobilised on operational service in the last three years; and which have members currently on operational service. [152660]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 26 July 2007]:* All major Territorial Army (TA) units have mobilised personnel on operational service over the last three years in various proportions. To identify the sub-units within these units from which each mobilised member of the TA has originated would incur disproportionate cost.

There are currently 571 members of the TA in overseas operational theatres (as at 3 July 2007).

Territorial Army: Resignations

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average length of service was for each rank of the Territorial Army on resigning for the latest period for which figures are available. [152638]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Trident Missiles

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, *(b)* the Atomic Weapons Establishment Burghfield and *(c)* others on the safety of the Trident warhead assembly/disassembly plant at Burghfield, with particular reference to (i) working practices and (ii) facilities. [152499]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The safety of the assembly/disassembly facilities at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) is not in question. The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate maintains a continuous dialogue with the nuclear site licensee (AWE plc) and with the MOD on all aspects of the safety of facilities and operations at AWE, where safety is paramount to all stakeholders.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date his Department received the first communication from the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate on the safety of the warhead assembly/disassembly facility at Atomic Weapons Establishment Burghfield. [152503]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate maintains, and has since first licensing, a continuous dialogue with the nuclear site licensee at Atomic Weapons Establishment Burghfield, and with the MOD on all aspects of the safety of facilities and operations, including the warhead assembly/disassembly facility.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to replace the warhead assembly/disassembly facility at Atomic Weapons Establishment Burghfield. [152505]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A number of options remain under consideration. Final decisions have yet to be taken.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the merits of using (i) probabilistic risk assessments and (ii) deterministic risk assessments for assessing risk at Atomic Weapons Establishment Burghfield; and if he will make a statement. [152506]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No specific research has been commissioned into these techniques and none is needed. The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate licence conditions for the Atomic Weapons Establishment demand that appropriate safety cases are generated as a matter of routine in the evaluation of risk. Deterministic and probabilistic risk assessments are tools employed in defining and ranking the postulated hazards. The use of such risk assessment techniques is considered best practice within the nuclear industry. Their use by AWE plc is regularly benchmarked against—and compares favourably with—other nuclear operators.

Type 45 Destroyers

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of Type-45 Destroyers needed on station to provide adequate air defence for a carrier battlegroup. [151256]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 25 July 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave on 10 May 2006, *Official Report,* column 290W.

Warships

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the out-of-service dates are for each *(a)* submarine, *(b)* frigate, *(c)* destroyer and *(e)* minehunter vessel in the Royal Navy. [153324]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Our present planning assumptions, which are routinely updated as required, are as follows:

Submarines

Vanguard Class

It is not possible to give precise out of service dates for the four Vanguard Class submarines. As indicated in the December 2006 White Paper on the future of the United Kingdom's nuclear deterrent we believe that we can extend the original design life by around five years and that accordingly the first Vanguard class submarine would go out of service around 2022 and the second around 2024 and work is ongoing to determine the optimum out of service dates for the remaining two.

Swiftsure Class

Name	*Out of service date*
HMS Superb	2008
HMS Sceptre	2010

Trafalgar Class

Name	*Out of service date*
HMS Trafalgar	2009
HMS Turbulent	2011
HMS Tireless	2013
HMS Torbay	2015
HMS Trenchant	2017
HMS Talent	2019
HMS Triumph	2022

Frigates

Type 22 Class

Name	*Out of service date*
HMS Cornwall	2015
HMS Campbeltown	2017
HMS Cumberland	2017
HMS Chatham	2018

Type 23 Class

Name	*Out of service date*
HMS Argyll	2019
HMS Lancaster	2019
HMS Iron Duke	2020
HMS Monmouth	2021
HMS Montrose	2021
HMS Westminster	2021
HMS Northumberland	2022
HMS Richmond	2022
HMS Somerset	2023
HMS Sutherland	2025
HMS Kent	2028
HMS Portland	2028
HMS St. Albans	2029

Destroyers

Type 42 Class

Name	*Out of service date*
HMS Southampton	2009
HMS Exeter	2009
HMS Liverpool	2010
HMS Manchester	2011
HMS Gloucester	2011
HMS Nottingham	2012
HMS York	2012
HMS Edinburgh	2013

Minehunter Vessels

Hunt Class

Name	*Out of service date*
HMS Ledbury	2019
HMS Cattistock	2020
HMS Brocklesbury	2020
HMS Chiddingfold	2020
HMS Middleton	2020
HMS Hurworth	2022
HMS Atherstone	2022
HMS Quorn	2023

Sandown Class

Name	*Out of service date*
HMS Walney	2017
HMS Penzance	2023
HMS Pembroke	2023
HMS Grimsby	2024
HMS Bangor	2024
HMS Ramsey	2025
HMS Blyth	2026
HMS Shoreham	2026

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aerials: Planning Permission

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many letters her Department has received from residents of Southend, West constituency *(a)* in favour of and *(b)* opposed to the erection of mobile telephone masts in the last 12 months; what response she gave; and if she will make a statement. [152861]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information is not available in the format requested.

The Department has no record of any letters from the hon. Member enclosing correspondence from his constituents regarding the erection of mobile telephone masts in the last 12 months. The Department has no record of any letters from residents with postcodes covered by Southend-on-Sea borough council regarding mobile telephone masts in the last 12 months.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many mobile telephone masts there were in Southend, West constituency in each of the last five years. [152862]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information is not available centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Local planning authorities are not required to notify the Department where a mast has been installed following a prior approval application. However, every autumn the mobile phone operators share their annual roll out plans with local planning authorities and list all the existing sites in the local authority area as well as proposed sites. The hon. Member may wish to discuss these plans with his local planning authority.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has issued to local authorities on defining close proximity to residential areas and schools when considering planning applications for mobile telephone masts; what recent representations she has received on the issue of mobile telephone masts; what responses she has given; and if she will make a statement. [152774]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government's planning policy on telecommunications is set out in planning policy guidance note 8 (PPG 8) on Telecommunications which states that

> "In addition to any statutory consultation, authorities are strongly encouraged to undertake any additional publicity that they consider necessary to give people likely to be affected by the proposed development an opportunity to make their views known to the authority. Where a mast is to be installed on or near a school or college the local planning authority should consult the relevant body of the school or college concerned and should take into account any relevant views expressed."

No guidance to local authorities has been issued which defines close proximity to residential areas and schools.

We have received a number of parliamentary questions, letters from hon. Members, other organisations and members of the public recently covering a wide variety of issues in relation to mobile telephone masts. In addition, officials have dealt with a range of correspondence, emails and telephone calls on the issue of mobile telephone masts.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the planning process is for applications for new *(a)* pico cell, *(b)* micro cell and *(c)* macro cell mobile telephone masts; and how that process differs from that which applied in 2004. [152775]

Mr. Iain Wright: The planning process that applies to pico cells, micro cells and macro cell mobile telephone masts will depend on the nature of the proposed development and the law may be interpreted and applied differently by individual local authorities.

Some minor operations or changes of use of land which are de minimis may not constitute development and may therefore not require planning permission.

Certain telecommunications development undertaken by electronic communications code operators is granted planning permission by part 24 of schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 without the need for an application for planning permission. Such development must comply with the conditions provided by part 24, which in some cases, includes being required to follow a prior approval process.

Other forms of telecommunications development will require an application for planning permission.

The most recent changes to part 24 of schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 were introduced by the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (England) Order 2001 (S.I. 2001/2718) and by the Communications Act 2003 (Consequential Amendments) Order 2003 (S.I. 2003/2155). Neither the relevant legislation nor planning policy guidance note 8: Telecommunications has been amended since 2004.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the meetings *(a)* her Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* officials from her Department have had with mobile telephone mast operators or their representatives since 1 January 2006; who attended; what was discussed; how long the meetings lasted; if she will place in the Library the note made by her officials of each meeting; and if she will make a statement. [152776]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Ministers from Communities and Local Government along with those from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department of Health meet with representatives of the mobile telephone industry every six months to discuss issues of mutual interest.

In addition, officials from Communities and Local Government have had several meetings with mobile telephone operators or their representatives including meetings of the Electronic Communications Working Group.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what restrictions there are on the erection of mobile telephone masts; what legislation regulates such restrictions; and if she will make a statement. [152777]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 is the principal Act which regulates the erection of mobile telephone masts. This provides that development as defined requires planning permission. Part 24 of Schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 grants planning permission, without the need for an application, for certain forms of telecommunications development carried out by electronic communications code operators. This includes the installation of ground-based masts below 15 metres in height on land (other than on protected land such as national parks).

Planning permission granted under Part 24 is subject to certain conditions including a prior approval process for masts. Under Part 24, where development is proposed on land which is not in, on, over or under land controlled by the electronic communications code operator it must be carried out in accordance with The Electronic Communications Code, operated by the industry regulator.

Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received since November 2006 from *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* Members of the House of Lords, *(c)* organisations and *(d)* members of the public on the incidence of anti-Semitism in England and Wales; and if she will make a statement. [151006]

Mr. Dhanda: The Government published their response to the All Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Anti-Semitism in March 2007. On 20 June officials from Communities and Local Government and other Departments met Jewish stakeholders to consider progress made with implementation of the Government's response and further meetings will take place quarterly.

An Adjournment debate around anti-Semitism on 19 July provided Members of Parliament with the opportunity to make representations to Government.

The Secretary of State has not received any representations from Members of the House of Lords.

Arms Length Management Organisations

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has issued on the minimum threshold of support among *(a)* tenants, *(b)* leaseholders and *(c)* all residents for a local authority to proceed with transferring management of properties to an arm's length management organisation. [153565]

Mr. Iain Wright: None. The Department does not specify a minimum threshold of support. It is up to each local authority to demonstrate that it has consulted its tenants and leaseholders and to provide evidence of support for its arm's length management organisation proposals when it applies for the Secretary of State's consent to delegate its housing management functions. Consent will not be granted unless the Secretary of State is satisfied with the evidence provided.

Audit Commission

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government why the Audit Commission decided to change the indicators used to assess comprehensive performance assessments prior to their replacement with comprehensive area assessments. [152951]

Mr. Iain Wright: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to you directly.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 26 July 2007:

I am writing in response to your parliamentary question asking why the Audit Commission decided to change the indicators used to assess comprehensive performance assessments prior to their replacement with comprehensive area assessments.

The Commission published a consultation document on the framework for CPA 2007 in April this year. In this document a small number of changes were proposed to the performance indicators used in the Audit Commission service assessments for housing, environment and culture, to ensure that CPA remained relevant and continued to drive improvements in public services. The proposals included supplementing the existing set of indicators with four newly available indicators that measure outcomes recognisable by local residents or vulnerable people. It was also proposed to remove four indicators (where there are issues with data availability, data quality or national consistency) and replace three indicators with more meaningful measures of performance. These represent only a small proportion of the total number of indicators; in 2006 there were 31 indicators included in the environment service assessment, 20 in housing and 18 in culture.

The majority of consultation responses expressed a strong desire for stability in the CPA framework and the Commission considered these at its meeting this morning. We will be publishing a document within the next few weeks setting out our final decisions and explaining the reasons for them. I am able to confirm at this stage, however, that a number of the changes proposed in our consultation document will not now go ahead.

It is worth noting that the Commission is also considering the framework and transitional arrangements that it puts in place for 2008, as this is the last year they will carry out assessments under the CPA methodology. The new CAA framework is due to be in place from April 2008.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Bellwin Scheme

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated cost to the public purse is of the changes to the Bellwin scheme outlined in her statement of 9 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1189, on flooding (England). [152890]

John Healey: It is too early to estimate the level of costs to local authorities arising out of the recent floods which might be eligible for Bellwin funding. Under the special arrangements for this scheme, authorities are able to claim for eligible costs incurred up to six months after the flooding.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the changes to the Bellwin scheme outlined in her statement of 9 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1189, on flooding (England), will only apply to claims made in relation to the recent flooding incidents. [152891]

John Healey: Yes.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have notified her Department of their intention to apply for Bellwin scheme funding following the recent floods. [153497]

John Healey: The following authorities had notified an intention to claim for the flooding events in June by the closing date of 31 July:

Amber Valley Borough Council
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Bassetlaw District Council
Bolsover District Council
Bridgnorth District Council
Chesterfield Borough Council
Derbyshire County Council
Derbyshire Combined Fire Authority
Derbyshire Dales District Council
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
East Lindsey District Council
Erewash Borough Council
Gedling Borough Council
Gloucestershire County Council
Harrogate Borough Council
Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue
High Peak Borough Council
Humberside Fire and Rescue Service
Humberside Police Authority
Kingston upon Hull City Council
Leeds City Council
Lichfield District Council
Lincoln City Council
Lincolnshire County Council
Newark and Sherwood District Council
North East Derbyshire District Council
North East Lincolnshire Council
North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority
Pendle BC
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Scarborough Borough Council
Sheffield City Council
Shropshire County Council
South Shropshire District Council
South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority
South Yorkshire Police Authority
Stafford Borough Council
Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Authority
Warwick District Council
Warwickshire County Council
Wakefield City Council
West Mercia Police Authority
West Lindsey District Council
West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority
Worcestershire County Council
Wyre Forest District Council

Authorities have until the end of August to notify incidents occurring in July. To date the following authorities have done so:

Bridgnorth District Council
Cheltenham Borough Council
Cotswold District Council
Derbyshire Combined Fire Authority
Gloucestershire County Council
Hereford and Worcester Combined Fire Authority
Lichfield District Council
Scarborough Borough Council
Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council
South Shropshire District Council
Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Tewkesbury Borough Council
Warwick District Council
Warwickshire County Council
West Mercia Police Authority
West Oxfordshire District Council
Wokingham District Council
Worcestershire County Council
Wychavon District Council

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether expenditure by a local authority on a local council tax discount under the Local Government Act 2003 for victims of flooding is eligible for funding under the Bellwin scheme. [153504]

John Healey: The statutory power for Bellwin grant is section 155 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. This section only permits the Secretary of State to provide financial assistance in respect of expenditure incurred by a local authority. Reductions in income arising out of council tax foregone are therefore not eligible for Bellwin grant.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes have been made to the operation of the Bellwin Scheme since May 1997. [153508]

John Healey: On 7 July the Prime Minister announced special changes to the Bellwin scheme for the June floods to make it easier for local councils to claim back additional costs. These changes allow local authorities to reclaim 100 per cent. of their costs above threshold (up from 85 per cent.) and to claim costs incurred in the six months following the incident (up from two months). We have also invited local authorities to make interim claims before the expiry of the six months qualifying expenditure period.

A further Bellwin scheme has been activated in respect of the July floods, incorporating the same special changes.

Commission on Integration and Cohesion

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for her Department to publish a formal response to the report of the Commission on Integration and Cohesion. [153515]

Mr. Dhanda: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has said that she will publish a formal response to the report on the Commission on Integration and Cohesion in the autumn.

Community Development: Bedfordshire

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding was provided by *(a)* the Government, *(b)* Bedfordshire local authorities and *(c)* others to the Bedfordshire Citizen Service Partnership. [149431]

John Healey: The amount of funds received by Bedfordshire Citizen Service Partnership from the Government was £1.78 million from the Local e-Government Programme and £1.24 million from the Invest to Save budget.

Details of funding provided by Bedfordshire local authorities and/or received from others should be available from the Bedfordshire authorities.

Community Development: Thames Gateway

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to ensure that adequate funding is made available for statutory agencies to *(a)* deliver the social infrastructure required to meet the needs of the new Thames Gateway communities and *(b)* ensure that they are fully sustainable. [149778]

Yvette Cooper: The Government are investing heavily in infrastructure and services for people in the Thames Gateway, with billions spent on education, health and transport. Since 2003, growth area funding also supports parks and green spaces in the Thames Gateway, and the Thames Gateway Draft Strategic Framework set out the need to involve existing communities in the development of the Gateway. We will be in a position to announce future spending in the Thames Gateway following the Comprehensive Spending Review.

We know that achieving our ambitions in the Thames Gateway is about more than just housing and jobs. With this in mind, we have established a cross Government senior level Board to ensure that policy and spending is joined up and will deliver the types of sustainable communities that people will choose to live in both now and in the future.

Council Housing: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which stock option each local authority with council housing has chosen to meet the decent homes standard; whether tenants have supported or rejected the strategy in each case; and what the performance rating is of the housing service (number of stars and expectations of future performance) in the case of retaining authorities and those that plan to set up an arms length management organisation. [151901]

Yvette Cooper: A table showing the information requested, with explanatory notes, has been placed in the Library of the House. We do not have up to date housing performance information for all local authorities and this is reflected in the table.

All delivery options have received tenant support as part of the Options Appraisal process, or as part of the application process for an individual programme where the application predated 2003.

Council Tax: Pensioners

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the annual cost of an automatic 50 per cent. discount on council tax for pensioners in England. [150628]

John Healey: The Department has made no such estimate.

Council Tax: Second Homes

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of how local authorities make use of the additional income raised through the discretionary council tax levy they can raise from second homes; and what proportion of resources are deployed to contribute to meeting local housing need. [150937]

John Healey: Since April 2004 local authorities have had discretionary powers to set the council tax discount offered on second homes at any point between 10 per cent. and 50 per cent. and on long term empty homes at any point between 0 per cent. and 50 per cent. It is up to local authorities to decide how to use this power and what they do with the additional income generated.

Communities and Local Government have made no assessment of how local authorities make use of the income generated through reducing the discount.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much her Department paid to local authorities to compensate them for the income foregone through the 50 per cent. council tax discount available for second home owners in each year for which records are available since 2000; [150938]

(2) how much subsidy has been paid to local authorities to compensate them for the 50 per cent. council tax discount available for second home owners since the council tax system was introduced. [150940]

John Healey: The distribution of formula grant to local authorities in England takes account of the circumstances of each authority's area and its relative ability to pay council tax, expressed in terms of the council tax base. The calculation of a council's tax base

takes into account the Band D-equivalent number of second homes and has done so since council tax was introduced in 1993. Since 1 April 2004, although billing authorities have been able to reduce the council discount for second homes in their area (to between 10 and 50 per cent.), a discount of 50 per cent. has continued to be assumed for all authorities in calculating the tax base for the purposes of distributing formula grant.

Other things being equal, the smaller the council tax base of a council's area, the larger its formula grant. This effect has, however, been modified in recent years by the application of grant 'floors', which guarantee a minimum percentage increase in grant each year on a like-for-like basis.

For this reason, and because formula grant is not hypothecated—i.e. it can be used for any purpose—it is not possible to calculate an amount of formula grant payable for second homes.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many and which council tax collecting authorities which include domestic properties entitled to a council tax discount for second homes have not decided to use their discretionary powers to levy an additional 40 per cent. charge; [150939]

(2) which council tax collecting authorities took advantage of the opportunity to levy *(a)* part and *(b)* all of the discretionary additional charge from those domestic council tax payers who are entitled to the 50 per cent. second home discount in each year for which records are available; and which political party controlled each authority at the time of collection. [150951]

John Healey: I have placed in the Library of the House tables showing which local authorities have levied either (a) all, (b) part, and (c) none of the discretionary additional charge in each year since 2004.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of all properties for which council tax is payable in each local authority were entitled to a second home discount in each year since 2000. [150941]

John Healey: I have placed in the Library of the House the information requested for the number of properties classed as second homes and entitled to discount in each local authority in England for 2002 to 2006. Data prior to this are not considered sufficiently robust.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) of 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1856W, on council tax: valuation, what use is being made by the Valuation Office Agency of data from Rightmove now that the council tax revaluation in England has been postponed. [152423]

John Healey: Information accessible under the terms of the arrangement with Rightmove is being used to ensure that the data held by the Valuation Office Agency are accurate.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 152W, on council tax: valuation, what each *(a)* product and *(b)* dataset is that the Valuation Office Agency has a licence to use from Ordnance Survey. [152538]

John Healey: The Valuation Office Agency has a license to use the following OS products and datasets:

1: 10 000 Scale Raster
1: 25 000 Scale Colour Raster
1: 50 000 Scale Colour Raster
1: 250 000 Scale Colour Raster
1: 50 000 Scale Gazetteer
Land-Line.Plus®
OS MasterMap® Topography Layer
OS MasterMap® Address Layer
OS MasterMap® Address Layer 2
OS MasterMap® Integrated Transport Network Layer
ADDRESS POINT®
Boundary Line™
Code Point®
Code Point® with Polygons
Land-Form PROFILE®
Meridian™ 2
MiniScale®
Strategi®
OSCAR Asset Manager®
OSCAR Traffic Manager®.

Departments: Departmental Policy Advisers

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list each of her Department's special advisers. [152388]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has two special advisers. They are Andy Bagnall and Paul Richards.

Departments: Departmental Reorganisation

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recommendations from the Lifting the Burden Taskforce her Department *(a)* has introduced and *(b)* plans to introduce. [152941]

John Healey: The Lifting Burdens Task Force was established under the chairmanship of Michael Prater, chief executive of Nottingham city council, in July 2006. The Task Force's remit is to identify which central Government information requirements on local government cause the most difficulty on the ground and which add the least value, and recommend to Government action to reduce such burdens.

The Task Force published its first report on Communities and Local Government's functions

Housing and Planning at the end of February 2007. The full Government response was published in May 2007. Following the report, we lifted the requirement on local authorities to report on the following Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs):

219a Planning: total number of conservation areas in the local authority area

219c Planning: percentage of conservation areas with published management proposals 214 Homelessness: repeat homelessness

The Task Force's recommendations on reform of the planning system were broadly accepted and the responses to most were covered in the Planning White Paper published in May. We will consider the recommendation to remove prescriptive requirements for communication as part of the review of the General Development Procedure Order referred to in the Planning White Paper.

The Task Force published its second report in March 2007, and in response, we removed the requirement for local authorities to report on a further seven BVPIs or parts of BVPIs. We are considering further recommendations from both reports in the context of the new performance framework for local government and the national indicator set which will underpin it, to be introduced from April 2008.

Departments: Departmental Responsibilities

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what responsibilities for regional policy her Department *(a)* gained and *(b)* lost as a result of the recent machinery of Government changes. [152935]

John Healey: The Department for Communities and Local Government's shared (with the former Department for Trade and Industry and HM Treasury) Regional Economic Performance target—to improve sustainable economic performance in all regions by 2008, and over the long term (by 2012) reduce the persistent gap in growth rates between the regions—transferred to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform as part of the recent machinery of Government changes.

Departments: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of people employed by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies are disabled. [153593]

Mr. Iain Wright: The latest available data on the disability status of civil servants in Departments and agencies are as at 30 September 2006 and are published in "Civil Service Statistics 2006" at Table P. This document is produced by the Office for National Statistics and can be accessed from the following website addresses.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/2006CivilServiceStatistics.pdf

Declaration of a disability is voluntary.

Departments: Flint Bishop

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have made payments to Flint Bishop Solicitors since 1997. [151392]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government (CLG) and the former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) were created following Machinery of Government changes on 5 May 2006 and 29 May 2002, respectively.

There are no records of any payments to Flint Bishop Solicitors by the central Department or its agencies since May 2002. Details of payments prior to May 2002 could be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

Departments: Flowers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by her Department on flowers in the last 12 months. [153225]

Mr. Iain Wright: It is not departmental practice to provide cut flowers for office use and so expenditure on this is nil.

A low level of internal planting within the Communities and Local Government HQ buildings is maintained under our Facilities Management contract. The cost of this is included within the fixed contract price for cleaning, grounds maintenance and pest control and is not separately identifiable. Additionally, new plants have been provided at a cost of £6,100.44 during the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007.

Departments: Freedom of Information

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requests were made to her Department under the *(a)* Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000 and *(b)* Environmental Information Regulations between the establishment of the Department and 30 September 2006; and what the (i) FOI case reference number, (ii) request summary, (iii) request outcome and (iv), where appropriate, reason for exemption was in each case. [152537]

Mr. Iain Wright: The list of requests made to Communities and Local Government under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 between 8 May 2006 and 30 September 2006, together with the other information requested, has been tabulated and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

This tabulation consists solely of requests handled by the Central Department, and does not include requests made to its Agencies or the Government Office Network.

Departments: IT

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 4 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns

182-84W, on IT projects, which information technology projects are being undertaken by (*a*) her Department and (*b*) its agencies; what the (i) start date, (ii) original planned completion date, (iii) expected completion date, (iv) originally planned costs and (v) estimated planned costs are of each; and if she will make a statement. [151552]

Mr. Iain Wright: IT projects undertaken by Communities and Local Government and its agencies are as follows:

(*a*) Communities and Local Government (including Regional Coordination Unit and Government Offices in the Regions).

Project	*Start date*	*Original planned completion date*	*Expected completion date*	*Originally planned costs (£000)*	*Estimated planned costs (£000)*
Buynet upgrade to SRM4	March 2007	April 2007	August 2007	96	96
Replacement infrastructure for Peoplesoft HR system	November 2006	May 2007	October 2007	537	400
HQ human resources database, further development 4th release—includes Online Performance Management	April 2007	October 2007	October 2007	525	525
Government offices human resources database, further development	April 2007	March 2008	March 2008	150	150
Government offices Online Performance Management System, further development	April 2007	March 2008	March 2008	150	150
FiReControl (regional fire control centres)[1]	2004	2009	2011	120,000	190,000
FireLink[2]	June 2002	December 2007	June 2009	350,000	350,000
Fire incident recording system	January 2006	December 2006	August 2007	1,300	2,500
Website rationalisation (incorporating Info4local rebuild project)[3]	December 2005	June 2008	December 2008	3,200	3,600
LINK (new corporate desktop system)[4]	February 2005	October 2006	December 2007	2,064	2,064
EDRMS[4]	October 2006	December 2006	December 2007	699	699
DCLG corporate web hosting	June 2006	March 2007	July 2007	578	660
RSGS replacement	July 2006	January 2008	January 2008	737	737
Floor Targets interactive rebuild	January 2007	May 2007	August 2007	250	300

Notes:
[1] The FiReControl project is principally a business change project with an IT component.
[2] Firelink is a radio communications system project for the Fire and Rescue Service across Great Britain, with an element of IT.
[3] A project to rebuild the Info4local website was approved in November 2004 at a cost of £244,000. The project was deferred for later incorporation into the Department's Website Rationalisation Project.
[4] LINK and EDRMS are two out of three component projects that made up the ITSOP project listed in the Answer published on 4 December 2006. The remaining component—the outsourcing of the Department's IT services—was completed on 31 December 2006. EDRMS is the pilot deployment of electronic document and records management system to selected key users.
[5] Plus 400 for Info4local.

(*b*) Agencies of the Department.

Planning Inspectorate have no IT projects currently being undertaken.

Project	*Start date*	*Original planned completion date*	*Expected completion date*	*Originally planned costs (£000)*	*Estimated planned costs (£000)*
Fire Service College					
FRS Managed Learning Environment	January 2006	April 2007	April 2008	5,500	5,500
QEII Conference Centre					
Meeting Matrix	June 2007	September 2007	September 2007	65	65

Departments: Legislation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which Bills introduced by her Department in the last five years did not contain sunset clauses; and if she will make a statement; [152492]

(2) which Bills introduced by her Department in the last five years have contained sunset clauses; and what plans she has for the future use of such clauses. [151832]

Hazel Blears: Since the formation of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in May 2002 and subsequently the Department for Communities and

Local Government in May 2006, we are aware of one sunset clause in primary legislation for which we have been responsible, namely section 1(7) of the Fire Services Act 2003, which prevents the making of an order (fixing firemen's conditions of service) more than two years after commencement of the Act (on the date of Royal Assent, 13 November 2003) except for an order revoking a previous order.

The following primary legislation has received Royal Assent since 2002 and has not contained sunset clauses:

Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004;

Housing Act 2004;

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004;

Council Tax (New Valuation Lists for England) Act 2006; and

Housing Corporation (Delegation) etc. Act 2006

Rating (Empty Properties) Act 2007

Of the Acts currently before Parliament, the GLA Bill does not contain a sunset clause, but the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill does contain a sunset clause (in clause 3) which ensures that the Secretary of State may not give a direction (under clause 2) to an authority to prepare a proposal for unitary local government after 25 January 2008. This sunset clause was introduced by amendment in the Commons in response to concerns of the Local Government Association that the Secretary of State's power to direct would otherwise be too wide. The Secretary of State may therefore only issue a direction under clause 2 from after the enactment and commencement of Part 1 of the Bill (likely to be November 2007) up until 25 January 2008.

As to the future use of sunset clauses, the appropriateness of a sunset clause for the whole or part of any proposed legislation is considered on a case by case basis. It is also addressed when a regulatory impact assessment relating to legislation is being prepared.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many press officers are employed by her Department. [153229]

Mr. Iain Wright: As at 1 April 2007 there were 22 press officers in the central Department.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the name is of each special adviser in her Department. [153228]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has two Special Advisers. They are Andy Bagnall and Paul Richards.

Departments: Ministerial Responsibilities

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the official duties undertaken by the then Minister of State for Housing and Planning on 23 April. [152927]

Yvette Cooper: I attended the 9th meeting of the Hertfordshire Housing Conference in St. Albans.

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to which periodicals her Department subscribes. [153221]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government have a service level agreement with the Department for Transport to provide library services. Communities and Local Government library service provides periodicals for both Communities and Local Government and for Department for Transport. A list of those periodicals centrally funded has been placed in the Library of the House. Separating those titles solely held for use by Communities and Local Government could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Listings for the periodical holdings of Executive agencies, non-departmental public bodies and Government offices are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by her Department on newspapers and magazines in the last 12 months. [153222]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government have a service level agreement with the Department for Transport to provide library services. From 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, the Communities and Local Government library service spent £25,064 on paper-based publications for Communities and Local Government and for Department for Transport. This included the purchase of newspapers, magazines, annuals and books. Separating out spend relating to newspapers and magazines solely held for use by Communities and Local Government would attract a disproportionate cost.

Information on expenditure outside this service for the Executive agencies, non-departmental public bodies and Government offices is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Public Appointments

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the change of her Department's Director of Housing. [153510]

Yvette Cooper: As part of an internal re-organisation in October 2006, changes were made to the remits of the three director posts dealing with housing issues. The Department does not comment publicly on such changes.

Departments: Railways, Aviation and Taxis

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much was spent by her Department on first class train tickets in the last 12 months; [153223]

(2) how much was spent by her Department on *(a)* business class flights and *(b)* first class flights *(c)* first class train tickets *(d)* taxis in the last 12 months; [153224]

(3) how much was spent by her Department on taxis in the last 12 months. [153226]

Mr. Iain Wright: The breakdown of information in the format requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, the following table sets out the overall expenditure incurred by Communities and Local Government on overseas and domestic travel (for civil servants and Ministers) in the last 12 months.

1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007

	£
Overseas travel and subsistence costs	257,447
Domestic travel and subsistence costs	2,004,632

The figures include all expenditure for travel by air, train, taxi and car as well as subsistence and hotel accommodation costs.

All travel by civil servants and Ministers of Communities and Local Government is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code and Travel.

Departments: Recruitment

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department paid in fees to recruitment agencies for *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent staff in each year since 1997. [151670]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department for Communities and Local Government and its predecessors made payments to a number of employment agencies in respect of agency employees during this period but the information requested is not held centrally.

The Department's policy is to engage temporary agency staff only through competitively negotiated framework contracts which provide value for money for the Department. The central part of the Department for Communities and Local Government and its predecessors paid the following amounts to recruitment consultants in relation to permanent staff.

	£
2006-07	79,155.54
2005-06	370,232.23
2004-05	462,964.00
2003-04	730,468.33
2002-03	653,845.86

It would cost a disproportionate amount to obtain information prior to 2002-03.

Departments: Training

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff who had previously been seconded to the Deputy Prime Minister's office have received *(a)* anti-bullying training and *(b)* diversity awareness training since May 2006 following their return to her Department. [152699]

Mr. Iain Wright: Two senior managers seconded to the Deputy Prime Minister's Office attended the Department's Dignity and Respect Workshop.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by her Department on staff away days in the last 12 months. [153218]

Mr. Iain Wright: Expenditure related to staff away days is not identified as a separate item on the Department's accounting system, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, any such expenditure could reasonably be expected within the expenditure total for conferences. The total expenditure on conferences for Ministers and civil servants incurred by Communities and Local Government in the period 1 July 2006 to 30 July 2007 was £543,786.

All expenditure on conferences is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety.

Departments: Tribunals

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by her Department on industrial tribunals in the last 12 months. [153220]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Derelict Land

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will publish a list of all surplus public sector land sites that she expects to be used for brownfield development. [153514]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Register of Surplus Public Sector Land provides a quarterly publication of sites that are owned by central government departments and their agencies. These sites have been identified as available for release for development and details can be accessed via the website at

http://www.englishpartnerships.co.uk/rspsl.htm

The Register is managed by English Partnerships and holds details of over 700 sites totalling more than 5,000 ha. The 550 newly identified surplus sites owned by central government departments and their agencies have not yet been placed on the Register of Surplus Public Sector Land managed by English Partnerships. The sites will be placed on the Register in due course.

Derelict Land: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of available brownfield sites was used for the provision of new homes in each of the London boroughs in each of the last five years. [153568]

Yvette Cooper: This information requested is not held centrally. However almost all housing development in London takes place on brownfield land (97 per cent.

in 2005). Also, the stock of available brownfield land is not static as new sites are coming forward for development all the time. Historically, studies to provide a comprehensive technical analysis of London's potential for future housing growth have been the responsibility of the Mayor of London, or predecessor body, and the boroughs. Regular studies have been undertaken, namely London's Housing Capacity (Greater London Authority, September 2000) and the 2004 London Housing Capacity Study (GLA, July 2005). As a result, housing targets for London have recently been increased, from 23,000 homes per year to 2006-07, to 30,500 homes per year from 2007-08.

Digital Mapping

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans there are to review or revise the Government-wide agreement on digitised mapping services provided by Ordnance Survey. [153513]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government are currently running a competitive procurement for a replacement Pan-Government Agreement. It is intended that this will take effect from April 2008.

Empty Property: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many vacant homes there were in each London borough in each of the last five years. [153556]

Mr. Iain Wright: Estimates for vacant dwellings in each London borough since 2002 are tabulated as follows. These include vacancies up to six months and long-term vacancies over six months. These are as reported by local authorities through the Council Tax Base (CTB1) form and present vacant dwellings receiving some or a full discount on council tax.

Number of vacancies in London boroughs, 2002-06

	November 2002	November 2003	November 2004	October 2005	October 2006
London	111,416	102,998	92,597	88,402	86,701
Barking and Dagenham	1,578	1,798	1,623	1,906	2,477
Barnet	5,093	3,512	3,607	3,767	3,486
Bexley	2,064	2,268	2,161	2,157	2,309
Brent	5,559	2,733	3,568	2,762	2,482
Bromley	3,960	4,207	3,825	3,741	3,781
Camden	5,093	3,389	3,049	2,895	2,594
City of London	63	141	165	123	93
Croydon	4,611	4,722	4,647	4,376	4,643
Ealing	3,196	3,308	3,416	2,971	3,024
Enfield	4,350	3,577	4,494	4,301	4,553
Greenwich	3,417	2,922	3,084	3,295	3,530
Hackney	3,783	3,220	3,407	3,626	3,556
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,015	3,526	2,946	2,588	2,211
Haringey	3,433	3,539	1,966	1,678	1,613
Harrow	2,195	2,462	1,484	1,378	1,143
Havering	2,300	2,407	2,568	2,636	2,617
Hillingdon	2,791	3,009	2,532	2,302	2,148
Hounslow	3,510	1,932	2,125	1,865	1,593
Islington	2,908	4,020	2,677	1,970	1,973
Kensington and Chelsea	4,576	3,308	3,064	2,901	2,678
Kingston upon Thames	2,169	2,333	2,394	1,913	2,181
Lambeth	4,488	5,037	3,291	3,015	4,125
Lewisham	2,832	3,084	n/a	n/a	1,454
Merton	2,529	2,593	1,362	2,085	2,084
Newham	3,280	2,535	2,645	3,138	4,047
Redbridge	2,301	2,533	1,992	2,276	2,755
Richmond upon Thames	3,497	3,086	2,166	1,966	1,900
Southwark	3,478	4,973	4,439	2,723	2,830
Sutton	2,285	2,234	2,351	2,643	2,528
Tower Hamlets	5,072	2,669	2,047	2,081	2,492
Waltham Forest	1,984	2,144	2,078	1,924	2,092
Wandsworth	5,202	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,961
Westminster	4,804	4,544	3,974	3,914	3,748

n/a = information not available.

Note:
Figures for London include estimates for missing local authority data.

Source:
Council Tax Base (CTB1) return from local authorities.

Equity Sharing: Sales

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other incentives (i) Open Market Homebuy agents, (ii) New Build Homebuy agents and (iii) Social Homebuy agents received from selling an equity stake; and whether the level of the incentives varies according to the size of the equity stake purchased by the householder. [145162]

Yvette Cooper: The term 'HomeBuy Agents' applies to those registered social landlords that have been appointed by the Housing Corporation to provide a 'One Stop Shop' for all low cost home ownership products funded by the Affordable Housing Programme. The introduction of HomeBuy Agents across the country in April 2006 has streamlined the application process for applicants and provided strict eligibility and affordability checks to ensure value for money for the public purse.

The financial incentives for registered social landlords to offer our New Build, Open Market and Social HomeBuy products are:

The availability of Government grant to:

cover the cost of the Government's equity loan under Open Market HomeBuy;

cover the discount offered under Social HomeBuy;

contribute to the cost of developing New Build HomeBuy homes; and

assist with any associated administrative costs.

The receipts generated by the sale of shares under New Build and Social HomeBuy. The level of this incentive will vary depending on the size of the share sold. The higher the share sold, the higher the receipt. The original grant must be recycled to provide more affordable homes, the remaining receipt must only be spent on permitted activities.

The equity appreciation that could be earned on their stake in any low cost home ownership homes they provide.

The rental income generated by shared ownership sales under New Build HomeBuy and Social Homebuy. Again the level of

this incentive will vary according to the size of share sold. The higher the share sold, the lower the rental income.

The freedom for landlords (this includes local authorities) offering Social HomeBuy to retain receipts for reinvestment in affordable housing to meet current housing needs.

The availability of alternative sources of subsidy for New Build HomeBuy including on site developer contributions through planning obligations and financial or land contributions from local authorities.

Other incentives include:

The ability to introduce tenure mix on estates and contribute to sustainable communities through New Build HomeBuy and Social HomeBuy sales.

Fire Services

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has given to fire authorities and fire brigades on the use of *(a)* flashing lights and *(b)* sirens when travelling to emergency call-outs. [152413]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government have not issued any guidance on the use of flashing lights and sirens to the Fire and Rescue Service as this is an operational matter for individual Chief Officers.

First Time Buyers: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average age of first time buyers was in each London borough in each of the last five years. [153646]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the average age of first time buyers for London from 2002-06. Data at the London borough level is unavailable due to small sample sizes.

	Median age of first-time buyers in London
2002	30
2003	32
2004	31
2005	30
2006	30

Source:
Regulated Mortgage Survey, sitting tenants excluded

Floods

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of the Regional Civil Contingencies Committees in tackling the recent flooding incidents. [152829]

John Healey: Regional Civil Contingencies Committees (RCCCs) are designed to be implemented in the case when an incident(s) within a Government Office region requires co-ordination at regional level. During the June flooding incidents, this was not necessary as the Strategic Co-ordination Groups within the regions managed the events locally.

During the recent flooding in Gloucester, the Government Office for the South West (GOSW) set up two meetings of the RCCC on 23 and 24 July. Both provided a useful opportunity for high-level, regional partners to hear about the flooding situation at first hand, to discuss resourcing issues and mutual aid, and to consider consequence management and longer term issues relating to recovery.

As the situation in Gloucestershire has become less critical, it has been agreed to stand down the RCCC, but with the option of reconvening it should the situation change. Meanwhile, RCCC members are being kept closely in touch with developments by e-mail, and considering ways of supporting the Strategic Co-ordination Group with preparatory work on recovery.

The effectiveness of the RCCC mechanism during the flooding will be assessed by the independently-led committee that will consider, more broadly, issues identified from these events.

Floods: EU Grants and Loans

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any region in the UK has received aid from the European Commission Solidarity Fund for *(a)* flood damage and *(b)* other reasons in the last five years. [150120]

John Healey: In the last year no region of the UK has received aid from the European Commission Solidarity Fund in respect of either flood or other damage.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to request aid from the European Commission Solidarity Fund for areas affected by flood damage. [150121]

John Healey: No such application has yet been made as we are currently collecting all the information necessary for us to assess the full financial effect of the damage before considering whether such an application could meet the strict criteria laid down for mobilising the Fund.

Floods: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what expenditure by councils affected by recent flooding in North Yorkshire will be covered by the Bellwin formula. [152875]

John Healey: Authorities who notify the Department of their intention to claim Bellwin grant within one month of the commencement of the emergency will, under the established terms of the scheme, be able to claim grant for all eligible expenditure incurred on immediate action to safeguard life or property or to prevent severe inconvenience to the inhabitants, as set out in the legislation governing the scheme. On this occasion, as announced by the Prime Minister on 7 July, 100 per cent. grant will be paid on expenditure in excess of 0.2 per cent. of the authority's revenue budget, an increase on the normal 85 per cent. grant aid. Eligible expenditure up to six months from the commencement of the incident will count for grant, compared to the normal limit of two months.

Floods: Tewkesbury

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding she expects to be made available to *(a)* agencies and *(b)* individuals who have been affected by the recent flooding in the Tewkesbury constituency; and if she will make a statement. [152887]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by the Prime Minister on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 832.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what application is planned to be made to access money from the European Union to help *(a)* agencies and *(b)* individuals who have been affected by the recent flooding in Tewkesbury constituency; and if she will make a statement. [152909]

John Healey *[holding answer 26 July 2007]:* No such application has yet been made as we are currently collecting all the information necessary for us to assess the full financial effect of the damage caused by the June and July floods before deciding whether such an application could meet the strict criteria laid down for mobilising the Fund.

Home Information Packs

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many part-time qualified and accredited home inspectors she expects there to be in each of the next three years; and if she will make a statement. [146509]

Yvette Cooper: It is estimated that about 40 per cent. of home inspectors and domestic energy assessors will work part time. This has been taken into consideration in the Government's plan for the roll-out of Home Information Packs.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 2103W, on home information packs, when the research will be published. [146585]

Yvette Cooper: This research is being updated in light of the changes to the implementation announced on 22 May and will be published in due course.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many qualified home improvement pack inspectors there are, broken down by region; how many qualified inspectors she expects there to be on 1 August; and how many inspectors will be needed to inspect homes with *(a)* four or more bedrooms and *(b)* three or more bedrooms on 1 August. [146697]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the dedicated Home Information Packs website for the most recently published national numbers of accredited assessors, together with a regional breakdown:

http://www.homeinformationpacks.gov.uk/industry/163_Assessorinspectornums.html

We will be providing regular updates on this site.

There is already a sufficient number of assessors to introduce Home Information Packs and Energy Performance Certificates for four-bedroom properties and larger on 1 August 2008. The implementation update published on 11 June, a copy of which was placed in the House Library, states the criteria which will be used for the roll out of packs to other sized properties.

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's latest estimate is of the average cost of a home information pack, including VAT, for residents of the South West Government Office Region; and if she will make a statement. [151587]

Yvette Cooper: An estimate of the cost of producing a Home Information Pack is set out in the Impact Assessment published on 11 June.

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition she uses of *(a)* bedrooms, *(b)* studies, *(c)* lofts and *(d)* bathrooms in relation to home information packs. [151774]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) on 25 June 2007 *Official Report*, column 164W.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the annual level of expected non-compliance with the home information pack provisions. [152686]

Yvette Cooper: We have put in place a robust enforcement regime to deal with those who do not comply with the new requirements. The Housing Act 2004 makes it clear that the responsibility to obtain a Home Information Pack is on the person responsible for marketing the property.

Homelessness

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in *(a)* Leeds, *(b)* West Yorkshire and *(c)* England are estimated to be homeless; and how many are under 16 years of age in each case. [151445]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level, in respect of households rather than people.

Information reported each quarter includes the number of households accepted by local authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty. The duty owed to an accepted household is to secure suitable accommodation. If a settled home is

not immediately available, the authority may secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

This data is published in our quarterly statistical release on statutory homelessness, which includes a supplementary table showing the breakdown of key data, including acceptances and temporary accommodation, by each local authority, including Leeds, Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield. This is published on our website and placed in the Library each quarter. The latest release was published on 11 June 2007 and contains data for the period January to March 2007:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1002882&PressNoticeID=2438.

Since 1998, information has also been collected on the number of people who sleep rough—that is, those who are literally roofless on a single night—and these are also published on our website, by local authority:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/705/NationalRoughSleepingEstimate2006_id1502705.xls.

Local authorities do not specifically report data on the number under 16-year-olds affected by statutory homelessness.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes her Department has made to funding to local authorities on homeless prevention revenue support in the last three years. [153511]

Yvette Cooper: The level of homelessness revenue funding to local authorities and voluntary sector agencies has increased by 23 per cent. from £60 million in 2004-05 to £74 million in 2007-08, to support them in their work on tackling and preventing homelessness effectively.

No changes have been made to the way funding is allocated to local authorities and voluntary sector agencies.

Homelessness: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were sleeping rough in each London borough *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* the most recent period for which figures area available. [153645]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table provides a breakdown of the level of rough sleeping in each London borough in each of the last five years. Data is taken from Housing Strategy and Statistical Appendix returns submitted by local authorities.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Barking and Dagenham	0	0	0	0	1
Barnet	0	0	0	0	0
Bexley	0	0	0	0	0
Brent	4	0	6	1	0
Bromley	0	0	0	0	0
Camden	28	13	5	17	10
City	41	36	22	12	25
Croydon	6	0	0	0	0
Ealing	4	0	4	1	1
Enfield	0	0	0	0	0
Greenwich	3	0	0	0	0
Hackney	11	7	8	7	6
Hammersmith and Fulham	4	2	3	2	6
Haringey	8	6	4	6	1
Harrow	0	0	0	1	0
Havering	0	0	0	1	1
Hillingdon	0	0	0	3	0
Hounslow	3	0	0	3	3
Islington	2	7	1	3	3
Kensington and Chelsea	6	6	10	12	10
Kingston upon Thames	0	0	0	0	0
Lambeth	12	11	12	7	9
Lewisham	1	0	0	3	3
Merton	0	0	0	0	0
Newham	0	6	3	0	0
Redbridge	5	5	0	0	0
Richmond upon Thames	6	6	0	0	0
Southwark	2	17	6	7	6
Sutton	0	0	0	0	0
Tower Hamlets	2	11	5	0	3
Waltham Forest	4	1	1	2	6
Wandsworth	0	0	0	0	0
Westminster	169	133	175	133	173
London	321	267	265	221	267

Households: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the average age of household formation by *(a)* males and *(b)* females over the last five years, broken down by London borough. [153570]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information can be provided for England only as a whole.

Estimates of the average age of the main householder when his/her household was formed are set out in the table. The figures include households from all types of housing tenure—owner occupiers, social renters and private renters.

Average age of main householder[1] when he/she formed a new householder when he/she formed a new household

Survey year	Male householder	Female householder
2001-02	28	27
2002-03	29	25
2003-04	29	27
2004-05	28	26
2005-06	28	26

[1] The main householder is the sole owner or tenant. If there are joint owners or tenants then the main householder is the person with the higher income. If the incomes are the same then the older of the two is the main householder.

Source:
Survey of English Housing.

Housing

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many units of *(a)* social rented housing and *(b)* shared ownership and intermediate housing were (i) projected and (ii) started in each English region in each of the last three years. [115785]

Yvette Cooper: The following table shows the number of starts of sites through the Housing Corporation's affordable housing programme and starter home initiative for social rented housing and low cost home ownership including intermediate housing by region for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 and estimated numbers for 2006-7 and 2007-8. Starts on site are projected for each region and reviewed several times in the year.

The timing of developments means that numbers can fluctuate from one year to the next. Plans have been set out in the Housing Green Paper for a substantial increase in affordable housing over the next three years in every region.

Starts on site by region (units)

	Actual						*Estimated*			
	2003-04		*2004-05*		*2005-06*		*2006-07*		*2007-08*	
Region name	*LCHO*	*RENT*	*LCHO*	*RENT*	*LCHO*	*RENT*	*LCHO*	*RENT*	*LCHO*	*RENT*
Eastern	310	1,941	955	2,575	1,169	1,829	1,450	4,039	981	2,327
East Midlands	342	891	858	1,171	823	1,328	1,034	1,368	524	678
London	3,731	6,090	5,110	6,051	4,163	5,189	4,327	6,559	2,617	5,693
North East	51	645	36	907	126	585	160	852	23	220
North West	419	1,660	620	1,637	716	1,396	660	1,619	333	397
South East	2,713	4,232	3,342	3,139	2,503	2,750	2,258	5,910	1,581	4,050
South West	433	2,748	872	1,904	1,056	1,768	960	2,886	757	2,121
West Midlands	283	1,598	651	1,747	576	710	875	1,811	477	1,025
Yorkshire and Humberside	65	1,312	176	1,225	287	1,488	500	1,203	396	908

Source:
Housing Corporation

Housing Corporation: Manpower

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff funded by the Housing Corporation are classified as without posts. [152545]

Mr. Iain Wright: On 30 June 2007 there were 14 staff in the Housing Corporation without a permanent post. There is a strategy in place to reduce this number to nil as the year progresses. All staff concerned remain effectively engaged in delivering key objectives set out in The Housing Corporation 2007-09 Corporate Plan.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of the 240,000 houses which are planned to be built per year by 2016 she expects to be built by *(a)* the private sector, *(b)* housing associations and *(c)* local authorities in each year until 2016. [150835]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* We have published a Housing Green Paper which sets out the Government's plans for the level of affordable housing to be delivered in the years covered by the Comprehensive Spending Review, and the roles of housing associations and local authorities in delivering that.

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the regional distribution is of her plans to increase the building target from 200,000 houses a year to 240,000 a year. [151310]

Yvette Cooper: Government have made clear that improving the supply of housing is a national priority. There is pressure on housing affordability in all parts of the country.

We have today published a Housing Green Paper that sets out further details of our proposals. This includes invitations to local authorities to come forward with proposals for further growth points and views on potential eco-town locations.

The detail of where additional housing will be located is a matter for regional and local planning processes and functions.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many more dwellings will be built on green belt land as a consequence of the increase in building target to 240,000 dwellings a year. [153693]

Hazel Blears: As the Planning White Paper "Planning for a Sustainable Future (Cm 7120)", made clear, and the Housing Green Paper "Homes for the Future (Cm 7191)" confirmed, we are committed to the principles of the Green Belt and will make no fundamental change to Green Belt planning policy, as set out in Planning Policy Guidance note 2.

There remains a general presumption against inappropriate development in the Green Belt. Development in the Green Belt should not be approved except in very special circumstances.

In 2005 less than 1 per cent. of all new dwellings were built on greenfield Green Belt land.

Housing: Cornwall

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many units of social housing were sold to the private market in *(a)* England and *(b)* Cornwall in the last 12 months. [152105]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 24 July 2007]:* The numbers of council homes sold through the right to buy scheme in 2005-06 by local authority area can be viewed on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/383/Table648_id1156383.xls

Figures for 2006/07 are not yet available.

Sales of homes owned by registered social landlords are monitored by the Housing Corporation through the continuous recording (CORE) system. Sales by local authority area can be viewed on the CORE web site at:

http://www.core.ac.uk/core/hala-annual-reports.html#geosales

Housing: Energy

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of homes will require an Energy Performance Certificate to confirm the home's energy efficiency and to indicate its environmental performance by *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2020. [150612]

Yvette Cooper: An estimate of the number of energy performance certificates required each year to 2020 is included in the Regulatory Impact Assessment for the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007.

Housing: Flood Control

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account is taken of land deemed unsafe to build on due to flooding risk within a larger development plot when calculating planned housing and population densities; and if she will make a statement. [150781]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 19 July 2007]:* Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 3 "Housing" requires local planning authorities to identify specific sites which will deliver their housing numbers. In assessing what sites are suitable for inclusion in their plans, local planning authorities will need to consider PPS 25 "Development and Flood Risk" which ensures that flood risk is taken into account at all stages in the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, and to direct development away from areas at highest risk. Sites which do not meet the requirements of PPS3 and PPS25 should not be considered as suitable for housing use.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will prepare and publish a guidance plan for householders on the action to take in the event of flooding covering *(a)* the use of sandbags, *(b)* the use of skips and *(c)* insurance. [152878]

John Healey: There is already a range of guidance available for householders on the action to take in the event of flooding.

For example, the guide "Preparing for floods" is available from the Planning Portal (www.planningportal.gov.uk) and provides guidance to property owners on how they can improve the flood resistance of their properties. It is also intended for use by developers, local planning authorities and others involved in construction of new buildings, and renovation of existing buildings, at risk of flooding.

The Environment Agency has also produced specific guidance on the use of sandbags with the Local Government Association. However in many cases there are better solutions for protecting domestic properties than sandbags such as floodboards and airbrick covers. Guidance on preparing for flooding and flood protection products is available on the Environment Agency's website

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/flood.

Following the recent floods we have been working closely with the Association of British Insurers (ABI) and have sent out information to flood affected local authorities on where people can go for free independent advice on insurance matters. Further information is also available on the ABI website (www.abi.org.uk/floodinfo) and the Financial Services Authority website

www.moneymadeclear.fsa.gov.uk.

Looking to the future, on 12 July 2007 the Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced a review to look at how the recent floods were managed and responded to by the Environment Agency, local authorities, the emergency services and others. One of the specific objectives of the review will be

"to ensure the public has as much access as possible to information on the risk of flooding to allow them to take appropriate precautions, be adequately informed on developments as an emergency unfolds, and be looked after properly in the immediate aftermath."

We would expect that proposals on guidance plans for householders in the event of flooding will be considered as part of the review. We aim to publish the initial findings of the review by the end of the year and subsequently a formal Government report.

Housing: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many homes have been built for key workers in London under the *(a)* intermediate rent, *(b)* homebuy new build and *(c)* mixed funded for sale programmes; how many have been (i) sold and (ii) let under each programme; and what the (A) average and (B) longest time has been that a home in each programme has remained empty; [122392]

(2) what percentage of homes built for key workers in London have been sold to key workers in each year since the inception of key worker homes. [122428]

Yvette Cooper: The Government offer housing assistance to key workers under the Key Worker Living (KWL) scheme in areas experiencing severe recruitment and retention difficulties. Key Worker Living funding is divided between Open Market HomeBuy (equity loans to purchase properties on the open market) and new build products such as New Build HomeBuy (shared ownership of newly built homes) and intermediate rent (newly built homes where the rent is set at a level between that charged by social and private landlords).

The number of newly built homes only available for, and sold or let to, key workers in London since the launch of KWL in 2004 is provided in the following table. We do not have the figures requested on an annual basis.

The table shows that, of the units that had not been sold or let, 58 were under offer from key workers, 608 had been marketed to key workers for less than three months and 170 had been marketed to key workers for between three and six months. It normally takes between three and six months to market and sell a unit. So to date, 67 per cent. of new build homes only available to key workers under Key Worker Living have been sold or let to key workers.

Key Worker Living in London 2004-05 to 2006-07

Programme	*Available for KWs only*	*Marketed for three months or less*	*Marketed for between three to six months*	*Under offer*	*Sold/Let to key workers*
Intermediate rent	980	217	34	4	725
KWL shared ownership (Mixed funded sale)	1,523	391	136	54	941
Total	2,502	608	170	58	1,666

Source: Housing Corporation

Since the introduction of the New Build HomeBuy product in April 2006, we no longer fund specific key worker only schemes. Instead key workers access our New Build HomeBuy programme as a priority group alongside other priorities such as social tenants. Any key worker specific schemes yet to complete will have been funded under old shared ownership programmes.

In addition to the numbers in the table above, we have helped 4,982 key workers in London through our KWL Open Market HomeBuy scheme and 4,168 key workers in London through the Starter Home Initiative (SHI). SHI was the predecessor to KWL and ran from 2001-2004. The majority of SHI completions were as Open Market HomeBuy, with a small number of newly built units that were grant funded via an equity loan for the purchaser.

Since the launch of KWL the Housing Corporation has been collecting data on when the construction of a scheme has been completed and when the final unit has been occupied. The purpose of this data is to actively manage the portfolio of new build properties and take action to prevent long term voids—it does not permit us to produce an average of the time it takes from completion of construction to occupation of individual units.

Responsibility for marketing and sale of the units lies with Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) and Homebuy Agents. The longest period of time that a unit built exclusively for key workers on our intermediate rent and shared ownership schemes has been unoccupied is 12 months and 20 months respectively. The former property remained unoccupied for this amount of time due to delays as a result of prospective tenants dropping out which meant that the property had to be remarketed. The latter property remained unoccupied as a result of legal issues, which were only recently resolved. These were exceptional circumstances and the Department has made clear to RSLs operating the scheme that speedy action needs to be taken when legal or other problems arise.

At present there are no properties available exclusively for key workers that have been unsold for more than six months.

Housing: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council owned houses have been built for rent in each *(a)* district and *(b)* unitary council area in Hampshire since 1997. [147871]

Yvette Cooper: There have been no reported local authority dwellings built in Hampshire local authorities and unitary authorities since 1997.

Between 1 April 1997 and 31 March 2006, the following units of affordable housing (social rent and intermediate (e.g. low cost home ownership)) were built or acquired by Registered Social Landlords on behalf of Hampshire local authorities and the unitary authorities of Portsmouth and Southampton.

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Portsmouth UA	236	201	190	205	295	153	—	130	304
Southampton UA	296	330	231	280	160	317	257	301	301
Hampshire	1,612	1,361	991	913	1,058	949	1,602	1,396	1,219
Basingstoke and Deane	426	299	223	122	260	220	459	269	252
East Hampshire	160	68	131	105	118	61	256	131	86
Eastleigh	193	148	114	79	59	60	177	260	75
Fareham	55	103	67	111	58	44	31	63	8

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Gosport	143	66	20	67	3	75	118	76	
Hart	86	42	112	40	38	98	142	230	132
Havant	128	178	73	91	114	111	96	27	142
New Forest	155	170	144	152	210	63	119	76	145
Rushmoor	203	214	46	46	93	94	197	130	234
Test Valley	63	73	61	100	76	195	50	92	69

Source:
Statistical returns from local authorities, Housing Corporation

Housing: Infrastructure

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements for *(a)* road, *(b)* water drainage and *(c)* sewerage infrastructure apply in respect of planning applications for new housing developments. [152877]

Yvette Cooper: General requirements on these matters are set out in planning policy documents issued by Government and by individual local planning authorities. Planning authorities should, in working out where within their areas development should go, discuss with infrastructure providers what standards are needed. This should mean that when plans are adopted they are fully deliverable not only in terms of housing development but also in terms of the supporting infrastructure.

For particular developments the requirements are likely to be arrived at by a process of negotiation, taking account of the particular circumstances. A prospective developer may find it helpful to have pre-application discussions with the local planning authority and to consult the relevant statutory undertakers.

Housing: Inspections

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will name each of the accreditation bodies for *(a)* home inspectors and *(b)* domestic energy inspectors. [152389]

Yvette Cooper: To date three Home Inspectors Certification schemes have been approved, along with nine domestic energy accreditation schemes.

Home Inspectors Certification Schemes; BRE: RICS and SAVA.

Domestic Energy Accreditation Schemes: BRE; EPC Direct; EPC Ltd; Elmhurst; HIeu Ltd; Northgate; Quidos; NES; RICS.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what legal advice her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* received on home information packs and liability for compensation for home inspectors and energy inspectors. [152422]

Yvette Cooper: The Department does not disclose any legal advice or whether or not it has sought or obtained it due to the fact that it is subject to legal professional privilege.

Housing: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were built in each year since 1997 in each Leeds parliamentary constituency, broken down by those built *(a)* to buy, *(b)* to rent privately, *(c)* as part of housing associations and *(d)* by local authorities. [148650]

Yvette Cooper: Information on new house building is collected at local authority level only. The numbers of new homes built in Leeds local authority area are tabulated. It is not possible to distinguish between owner occupied and private rent. The numbers of affordable homes built for Registered Social Landlords are for social rent or intermediate housing (e.g. low cost home ownership). The local authority figures are new build for social rent.

Not all affordable housing supply is through new build completions, supply can also come from the acquisition and refurbishment of private sector homes. Between 1 April 1997 and 31 March 2006 there were an additional 637 affordable homes supplied by Registered Social Landlords, on behalf of Leeds local authority, which are not shown in the table. Figures for 2006-07 are not yet available.

House building completions: Leeds

	All private sector completions[1]	Registered Social Landlord[2] (affordable)	Local authority[1] (social rent)	Total new build completions
1997-98	1,034	404	16	1,454
1998-99	1,196	262	1	1,459
1999-2000	1,698	254	0	1,952
2000-01	1,855	129	0	1,984
2001-02	1,589	339	0	1,928
2002-03	1,748	254	0	2,002
2003-04	2,829	119	0	2,948
2004-05	2,852	271	0	3,123
2005-06	2,821	408	0	3,229

Sources:
[1] P2 house building returns from local authorities and National House-Building Council.
[2] Housing Corporation.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many units of accommodation for key workers were *(a)* provided and *(b)* unoccupied in each year for which figures are available. [138752]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 22 May 2007]:* The Government offer housing assistance to key workers under the Key Worker Living (KWL) scheme in areas experiencing severe recruitment and retention

difficulties. Key Worker Living funding is divided between Open Market HomeBuy (equity loans to purchase properties on the open market) and new build products such as New Build HomeBuy (shared ownership of newly built homes) and intermediate rent (newly built homes where the rent is set at a level between that charged by social and private landlords).

As at March 2007, 5,845 newly built homes had been made available for key workers only in London, South East and Eastern regions through the Key Worker Living programme, of which 4,577 have been sold/let with a further 268 under offer. Of the 1,000 homes currently being marketed to key workers, 800 of these have been completed only in the last three months and a further 200 homes have been marketed for three to six months. It normally takes between three and six months to market and sell a unit. None of the properties currently available for key workers have remained unsold for more than six months.

The number of newly built homes only available for, and sold or let to, key workers since the launch of KWL in 2004 is provided in the following table. We do not have the figures requested on an annual basis.

Programme	*Available to KWs only*	*Unoccupied (marketed) for three months or less*	*Unoccupied (marketed) for between three and six months*	*Under offer*	*Sold/let to key workers*
Intermediate rent	2,644	231	36	12	2,365
KWL shared ownership (mixed funded sale)	3,201	569	164	256	2,212
Total	5,845	800	200	268	4,577

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what liability tenants with an equity stake under the Social Homebuy scheme have to meet all or part of the costs of repairs for that dwelling; [145527]

(2) what assessment she has made of the effect on the take-up rate of the Social Homebuy scheme of tenants purchasing an equity stake assuming financial responsibility for all maintenance costs; [145139]

(3) what liability a tenant has for freehold-related maintenance costs if they purchase an equity stake in a leasehold property under the Social Homebuy scheme. [145149]

Yvette Cooper: I refer to the answer given to the hon. Member on 30 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1518W.

Housing association and local authority tenants who purchase a share in a house are responsible for all repairs and redecoration both internally and externally. Purchasers buying a share in a flat will be responsible for internal repairs and will contribute a share of the costs incurred by their landlord in maintaining the building and common parts. Details are set out in their shared ownership lease.

The Social HomeBuy pilot scheme is running until March 2008 and is subject to an ongoing independent evaluation. Initial indications from early participants are that responsibility for all maintenance may contribute to affordability and sustainability issues, particularly for tenants purchasing smaller shares. The Government are exploring various options for improving affordability for tenants.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes were built in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England in each year since 1997; and what percentage this represented of all houses built in each area and year. [147703]

Yvette Cooper: Information is not readily available in the format requested.

The numbers of new build completions are shown in table A and the total supply of affordable housing is shown in table B. Since affordable housing provision includes new build and acquisitions they are not directly comparable with the total new build only figures used in this draft and it would not be appropriate to calculate percentages.

Cornwall is defined as the local districts of Caradon, Carrick, Kerrier, North Cornwall, Penwith, Restormel and the Isles of Scilly.

A: Total New Build completions in England, South West and Cornwall local authorities

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
England	149,555	140,708	142,046	133,255	129,866	137,739	143,958	155,893	163,398
South West	19,003	15,825	15,892	14,972	15,598	15,729	15,984	17,411	18,761
Cornwall	1,513	1,918	1,800	2,094	1,983	1,851	1,681	1,688	1,623

Source:
P2 Housing building returns as reported by local authorities

B: Affordable Housing Provision (New Build and Acquisitions) in England, South West and Cornwall local authorities

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
England	47,269	42,312	33,718	32,156	32,143	32,063	37,064	36,000	44,861
South West	5,287	4,577	3,926	3,500	3,397	3,308	3,749	3,470	4,647
Cornwall	545	591	307	424	300	321	334	260	432

Source:
Statistical returns from local authorities, Housing Corporation

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans the Government has to increase the supply of affordable housing in places where the cost of housing is relatively high. [148787]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 12 July 2007]:* The Prime Minister has announced plans to raise the annual housing supply target for 2016 from 200,000 to 240,000 additional homes a year.

We have published a Housing Green Paper that sets out further details of our proposals, including Government's plans for the level of affordable housing to be delivered in the years covered by the Comprehensive Spending Review.

The detail of where additional affordable housing will be located is a matter for regional and local planning processes and functions.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will hold discussions with church authorities on the potential sale of church land for affordable housing. [149469]

Yvette Cooper: Officials would be happy to enter into discussions with church authorities about the potential for the development of affordable housing on their vacant or surplus sites.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to provide regeneration funding to allow local authorities to *(a)* acquire existing and *(b)* build new affordable housing for rent; what recent discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on this subject; and if she will make a statement. [149796]

Yvette Cooper: Proposals to increase the supply of affordable housing were set out in the Housing Green Paper. These include proposals to strengthen the role of local authorities in meeting local housing needs.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Islington, North (Jeremy Corbyn) of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 535W, on housing: low incomes, if she will *(a)* encourage and *(b)* help facilitate local authorities to increase the number of social rented homes they provide directly; and if she will make a statement. [149950]

Yvette Cooper: Proposals to increase the supply of social rented homes are set out in the Housing Green Paper. These include proposals to strengthen the role of local authorities in meeting local housing needs.

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to increase the availability of affordable housing in *(a)* Suffolk and *(b)* the East of England. [150540]

Yvette Cooper: In 2006-07 we delivered the following number of affordable homes:

	2006-07	*2007-08*
Suffolk	709	802
East of England	4,373	5,799

The Housing Green Paper set out proposals to increase housing and also affordable housing in every region. Further details of the regional breakdown of investment will be set out later in the year.

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes were built in Suffolk in each year since 1997. [150541]

Mr. Iain Wright: The number of new build affordable dwellings built on behalf of Suffolk local authorities since 1997-98 is in the following table. Affordable dwellings are defined as social rent and intermediate housing e.g. low cost home ownership.

	Number of dwellings
1997-98	366
1998-99	250
1999-2000	251
2000-01	297
2001-02	301
2002-03	396
2003-04	363
2004-05	266
2005-06	635

Source:
Housing Corporation

New build registered social landlord and council dwellings only make up part of the affordable supply, the remainder being acquired by registered social landlords. Between 1997-98 and 2005-06, acquisitions by registered social landlords numbered 1,737, taking the total affordable housing provision in Suffolk to 4,862 over the period.

Suffolk is defined as the local authorities of Babergh, Forest Heath, Ipswich, Mid Suffolk, St. Edmundsbury, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to increase the availability of affordable housing in the south east. [151784]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* We have published a Housing Green Paper which sets out the Government's plans for the level of affordable housing to be delivered in the years covered by the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Regional assemblies will be asked for their advice on housing spending priorities in their areas. This will include levels of spend on different elements of the National Affordable Housing Programme and spatial distribution. This advice will be provided in the context of work which has already been done by the regional assemblies as part of the preparation of Regional Spatial Strategies in their role as regional planning bodies

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will put restrictions on the re-sale of the £60,000 starter homes launched by the former Deputy Prime Minister to avoid profiteering and retain the houses in the affordable homes market. [152275]

Yvette Cooper: The Design for Manufacture competition was run by English Partnerships (EP) on behalf of Communities and Local Government. The aim of the competition was to deliver more than 1,100 high quality, well designed homes on ten publicly owned sites for a construction cost of £60,000 per unit. In order to ensure mixed communities, the homes will provide a mix of accommodation under a variety of tenures: affordable rent, shared ownership and private sale at full market value. The aspiration is to reach 50 per cent. affordable housing of all tenures across the 10 sites, significantly higher than the percentage of affordable housing achieved through section 106 agreements.

The homes for affordable rent will be transferred into the ownership of the registered social landlord (RSL) partnering the preferred developer on each site and will not therefore be offered for sale. The remaining affordable homes will be available for those who qualify for shared ownership arrangements, either through the First Time Buyers Initiative operated by EP or through the Homebuy scheme operated by RSLs. Should the purchaser under the shared ownership arrangements take the decision to sell, EP and the RSL have the right of first refusal to buy back the home. Should they not exercise this right, they would in any case benefit from any uplift in value on the proportion of the equity which they retain when the home is sold on.

The homes for private sale are being sold at full market value and will not therefore be subject to any restriction upon re-sale.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recommendations from the Cave Review of Social Housing she plans to implement. [152380]

Yvette Cooper: The Government published their response to the Cave Review on 19 June 2007 in "Delivering Housing and Regeneration—Communities England and the Future of Social Housing Regulation".

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social tenants are eligible for *(a)* social homebuy, *(b)* the right to buy and *(c)* the right to acquire. [152844]

Yvette Cooper: Social homebuy is a voluntary scheme and information on the number of households who are eligible for the scheme is not available. 78 registered social landlords and seven local authorities are currently piloting the scheme. Some landlords are offering the scheme widely across their stock. Others are targeting specific estates, locations or local authority areas.

The right to buy is available to eligible secure tenants of local authorities and registered social landlords (RSLs). The number of dwellings owned and let by local authorities is just over two million. However, no information is available on the number of tenants who are eligible for the right to buy.

Assured tenants of housing associations who were transferred with their homes from local authorities have a preserved right to buy—approximately one million dwellings to date.

Approximately 200,500 RSL tenants may qualify for the right to acquire scheme introduced by the Housing Act 1996 because their homes have been built with public funds since 1 April 1997. Tenants of homes transferred from local authorities after the same date may also qualify for the right to acquire scheme, including those tenants who retain a preserved right to buy.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent estimate is of the average capital value of a house under the *(a)* social homebuy, *(b)* new build homebuy and *(c)* open market homebuy schemes. [152850]

Yvette Cooper: The average capital value of a house bought under the three homebuy schemes is:

	£
Social homebuy pilots	155,000
New build homebuy	168,789
Open market homebuy	156,510

This is the full value of the property, regardless of the size of the share bought.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many housing starts there were in each local planning authority in England in each of the last three years. [152950]

Mr. Iain Wright: A table showing the number of starts in each local authority in England for the last three years has been placed in the Library of the House.

Figures are based on building control inspections as reported by each local authority on the quarterly P2 return to Communities and Local Government. New build starts as reported by the National House Building Council are added to provide a measure of overall activity. Local authority figures presented are as reported and do not include estimates where local authority returns are missing.

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many key workers in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* Weston-Super-Mare have received assistance through the Key Worker Living Programme. [153351]

Yvette Cooper: Since April 2004, 15,438 key workers have been helped into a new home through the Key Worker Living (KWL) programme in England. KWL only operates in London, South East and East of England. Therefore, no key workers have received

assistance through the KWL programme in Weston-Super-Mare or the South West of England.

However key workers on low to modest incomes outside the KWL regions can receive help through the Government's wider HomeBuy programme which enables first time buyers to buy a share of a home and get a first step on the housing ladder. We do not hold data centrally on how many key workers have been helped through this route.

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress the Government has made towards fulfilling its commitmen: to help 30,000 key workers into home ownership by 2010 through the Key Worker Living Programme as set out by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in Sustainable Communities: Homes for All in 2005. [153352]

Yvette Cooper: Since April 2005, we have assisted 10,862 key workers, through the Key Worker Living Programme. We are on track to delivering our commitment to help 30,000 key workers to find a home from 2005 to 2010.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department has guaranteed commercial lenders participating in the Open Market Homebuy scheme against falling house prices. [153687]

Yvette Cooper: The Open Market HomeBuy product which is provided in partnership with lenders, enables purchasers to buy a property on the open market with the help of two 12.5 per cent. equity loans, one from Government and one from a lender. If house prices fall, and the property is sold, the proceeds of the sale are used to firstly pay off the balance of the mortgage and then the value of the lender's equity loan. For three of the participating lenders this will be the original value of the equity loan, as they do not share in a fall in value. For one lender the loan will have fallen in value to reflect the fall in value of the property.

If the house price has fallen dramatically, then the proceeds of the sale may not cover all of these debts. If the proceeds are not sufficient to pay off the lender's conventional mortgage and equity loan then they have 'recourse' to the borrower. This means that the borrower is still in debt to the lender after the property is sold.

Government, however, do not have recourse to the borrower. This means that if there are not sufficient proceeds from the sale, Government are not paid and cannot recover the debt from the borrower. This means that Open Market HomeBuy purchasers are less vulnerable to negative equity than those with a purely conventional mortgage.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department and its agencies are taking to lever more private finance into the social housing sector. [153690]

Yvette Cooper: The Government have recently published two documents that set out its plans to lever in more private finance to the social housing sector. First the consultation paper Delivering Housing and Regeneration: Communities England and the future of social housing; and second the Housing Green Paper—Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable.

In addition, The Housing Corporation, in their publication "Unlocking the Door: Delivering more homes from the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007", concluded that there is additional financial capacity within the Housing Association sector and scope for efficiency savings. Housing Associations themselves believe that savings that absorb likely land and build cost inflation of 6 per cent. annually are possible over the next three years.

Housing: Overcrowding

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to bring forward proposals for a new statutory definition of overcrowding. [150900]

Yvette Cooper: The Government will set out further proposals on overcrowding later in the year. We have invested over £40 million in London pilot schemes to provide innovative solutions to some of the worst cases of overcrowding and have made the provision of new social housing a priority in the comprehensive spending review.

Housing: Parking

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes the Planning Policy Statement has made to the *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum amount of car parking allowed in new residential developments. [153605]

Yvette Cooper: Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS3) does not prescribe car parking standards or limits for residential development. Local authorities should set their own residential parking policies, taking account of expected levels of car ownership, the importance of promoting good design and the need to use land efficiently.

Housing: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many properties were *(a)* bought and *(b)* part-bought in (i) the Peterborough city council area and (ii) Peterborough constituency under the Government's Homebuy scheme in each year since 2001; and if she will make a statement; [144065]

(2) how many new affordable houses were built in Peterborough unitary authority area in each of the last five years. [144090]

Yvette Cooper: The following table shows the total number of properties purchased under low cost home ownership schemes in each of the last five years for the area covered by Peterborough city council. This information is not held on a constituency basis.

The shared ownership schemes (currently known as New Build HomeBuy) have allowed applicants buy a share of a property (from 25 per cent. to 75 per cent.)

and pay rent to a housing association on the remaining share which they do not own.

	Shared ownership	*Shared equity*
Peterborough		
2002-03	0	7
2003-04	4	5
2004-05	6	12
2005-06	35	20
2006-07[1]	40	4

[1] Provisional.
Source:
Housing Corporation.

The shared equity schemes (currently known as Open Market HomeBuy) have enabled people to buy a property on the open market with the help of equity loans. Under the current scheme purchasers buy the property outright, but only need to raise around 75 per cent. of the purchase price of their home from a conventional mortgage. The balance is made up by two equity loans, each of around 12.5 per cent. of the purchase price. One loan comes from Government through a HomeBuy Agent and the other comes from one of four mortgage lenders participating in the HomeBuy scheme. For the remainder of 2007-08, we are expanding the range of Open Market HomeBuy products. From 23 July we are offering a new 17.5 per cent. Government equity loan which purchasers will be able to use more flexibly as a deposit and take to any lender on the open market. This will complement the existing products and offer greater choice to purchasers.

The following table shows the total affordable housing in Peterborough including homes for both affordable rent and low cost home ownership (as detailed in the previous table) that have been provided either through new build or acquisition and refurbishment.

	Low cost home ownership	*Affordable homes for rent*	*Total affordable housing provided*
Peterborough			
2002-03	7	82	89
2003-04	9	0	9
2004-05	18	142	160
2005-06	55	44	99
2006-07[1]	44	67	111

[1] Provisional.

Housing: Prices

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the ratio was between the average price of a home for first-time buyers and *(a)* average wages and *(b)* average household incomes in each local housing authority area in England at the latest date for which figures are available. [151351]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested cannot be derived by local housing authority due to the sample size of first time buyers (FTBs) from the Regulated Mortgage Survey data. However the ratios between the mean average price of a house for first time buyers and *(a)* mean average wages and *(b)* mean average household incomes at a regional level are presented in the following table for Q1 2007. The usual comparison used by the Government and the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit involves lower quartile earnings compared to lower quartile house prices.

Ratios between the mean average price of a home for first time buyers against (a) mean average wages and against (b) mean average household incomes

Government Office Region	*(a)*	*(b)*
North East	4.3	4.5
North West	4.5	4.4
Yorks and Humber	4.5	4.4
East Midlands	4.6	4.6
West Midlands	4.9	5.0
Eastern	5.8	5.2
London	6.5	7.0
South East	6.0	5.1
South West	6.0	5.4
England	5.6	5.4

Notes:
1. Figures have been derived using: Q1 2007 average house prices for first time buyers from the Regulated Mortgage Survey.
2. Average wages based on the ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) as at April 2006 and up-rated to Q1 2007 using the ONS Average Earnings Index (AEI), average household earnings based on the CLG Survey of English Housing (SEH) for 2005-06 and up-rated to Q1 2007 using the ONS Average Earnings Index (AEI).

Housing: Private Finance Initiative

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list each housing private finance initiative scheme, by local authority, that her Department and its predecessors have approved since May 1997. [152386]

Yvette Cooper: The Housing Private Finance Initiative schemes approved by the Department since May 1997 are listed by local authority in the following table:

Local authority	*Project name*	*Status*
Ashford Borough Council	Stanhope Estate[1]	Signed 2007-08
Cheshire County Council	Extra Care Housing Project	In procurement
Coventry City Council	New Homes for Old	Signed 2005-06
Derby City Council	Inner City Regeneration Round 3 Additional Social Rented Scheme	Signed 2000-01 in procurement
Kent County Council	Better Homes Active Lives	In procurement
Kirklees Metropolitan Council	Excellent Homes for Life[1]	In procurement
Leeds City Council	Swarcliffe Independent Living[1] Little London[1]	Signed 2004-05 in procurement In procurement
London Borough of Brent	Social Housing and Adult Care	In procurement
London Borough of Camden	Chalcots[1]	Signed 2006-07
London Borough of Croydon	New for Old	Signed 2005-06

Local authority	Project name	Status
London Borough of Hammersmith And Fulham	Homes for Older People	Signed 2003-04
London Borough of Islington	Islington Street Properties 1[1] Islington Street Properties 2[1]	Signed 2002-03 Signed 2006-07
London Borough of Lambeth	Myatts Field[1]	In procurement
London Borough of Lewisham	Brockley[1]	Signed 2007-08
London Borough of Newham	Canning Town[1] Forest Gate[1]	Signed 2005-06 In procurement
Manchester City Council	Ardwick-Plymouth Grove[1] Brunswick Miles Platting[1]	Signed 2002-03 in procurement Signed 2006-07
North East Derbyshire District Council	Holmewood	Signed 1998-99
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council	Sheltered Housing Gateways to Oldham[1]	Signed 2006-07 in procurement
Reading Borough Council	North Whitley[1]	Signed 2003-04
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	Hawthorns Fields[1]	Signed 2005-06
Selby District Council	Non-HRA PFI Project One	Signed 2003-04
Warrington Borough Council	Anson and Blenheim	Phase 1 Signed 2004-05 Phase 2 Signed 2006-07
West Wiltshire District Council	Round 3 Additional Social Rented Scheme	In procurement

[1] Indicates schemes in the Department's Decent Homes/Mixed Communities PFI Programme.

Decent Homes/Mixed Communities PFI schemes

refurbishment and/or reprovision of existing council stock, including elements of regeneration; properties remain in council ownership and tenants remain tenants of the local authority; and

Additional social rented housing PFI schemes

new build units or the acquisition and refurbishment of non-decent private sector dwellings. In these schemes, the new housing is owned by the PFI contractor (usually a registered social landlord, RSL) not the council.

A further seven schemes are developing outline business cases. If these are approved, they will enter the procurement stage. The local authorities developing outline business cases are as follows:

Guildford borough council—Additional Social Rented scheme

London borough of Lewisham—Chrysalis — Decent Homes scheme

Manchester city council—Collyhurst—Decent Homes scheme

Medway council—Shaws Wood and Woodlands Care Courts—Additional Social Rented scheme

North Tyneside council—Homes for the Future—Decent Homes scheme

Salford city council—Creating a New Pendleton—Decent Homes scheme

Woking borough council—Additional Social Rented scheme.

In addition, there are also two combined heating and power schemes which have been funded through the programme in Manchester city council and London borough of Tower Hamlets.

Housing: Regeneration

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the funding agreement for the 2006-08 period between her Department and each pathfinder scheme. [152555]

Mr. Iain Wright: Copies of the funding agreements for 2006-07 between each pathfinder and the Department have been placed in the Library of the House. Funding agreements for 2007-08 are currently being finalised—when complete, copies of these will also be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Housing: Standards

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1861W, on housing: standards, if she will *(a)* provide a summary of the outcome of the meeting and *(b)* place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the meeting to which she refers. [149547]

Yvette Cooper: Following the meeting with the Citizens Advice Bureau, it was agreed that further consideration would be given to exploring potential solutions to the issue of retaliatory eviction facing tenants who exercised their statutory rights with respect to repairs being completed in the property they rent.

Ministers' meetings with outside bodies are undertaken on a confidential basis. It is not the Department's practice to disclose the details of what was discussed in such meetings.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many assessments were carried out under the housing health and safety system in 2006-07; and how many properties were assessed as representing a category 1 hazard in *(a)* each local authority area, *(b)* local authority property, *(c)* registered social landlord property and *(d)* private accommodation. [151709]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 26 July 2007]:* As the Housing Health and Safety Rating System was implemented in 2006-07, We do not yet have data on assessments of hazards, data will be available in 2007-08.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her response is to the recommendation made by the Williams Commission in its report, Quality First: The Commission on Design of Affordable Housing in the Thames Gateway, that the Planning Inspectorate should send a stronger message to developers and local authorities that low quality in the design of housing schemes is a legitimate basis upon which planning applications should be refused. [152328]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 24 July 2007]:* The independent report by the Williams Commission was commissioned by the Housing Corporation. It makes a very valuable contribution to the debate on urban

design and affordable housing. Officials will be considering the recommendations made to Government and discussing them with the Housing Corporation and Planning Inspectorate.

Housing: Sustainable Development

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many assessors are *(a)* qualified and *(b)* in training to give code ratings under the Code for Sustainable Homes; how many assessors are needed to carry out voluntary assessments; how many will be needed to carry out mandatory assessments when the Code becomes mandatory in 2008; and if she will make a statement. [146700]

Yvette Cooper: By the end of June 2007, the Buildings Research Establishment (who administer the scheme and train and accredit assessors) advise us that 432 trained and accredited assessors were available to undertake assessments for the Code for Sustainable Homes (the Code), and that they are training approximately 50 assessors a month and anticipate having approximately 900 assessors in place by April 2008.

The Code involves a two-stage assessment process. At design-stage the different types of homes in a development are assessed rather than each individual home; the post construction check is against a sample of the home-types that have been completed. The Government are consulting on proposals for homes to receive a mandatory rating but not a mandatory assessment. Some homes might therefore have no assessment and simply receive a zero rating or non rating. Therefore, it is not clear yet how many assessors would be needed. If new house building were to be around 165,000 new homes and all of these were assessed against the Code, the existing 432 assessors would need to carry out 51 assessments each a year. Based on the current growth assessor numbers the estimated 900 assessors available in April 2008 would need to carry out about 25 assessments each a year. These figures are based on the average development size, and the number of different types of properties on each development. In the past year one assessor has completed 60 assessments and registered a further 350 against the Code or its predecessor Ecohomes. These issues will be considered further as part of the consultation.

Housing: Valuation

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 26 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 633W, on housing: valuation, whether a property with a greenhouse may be assigned a higher financial valuation than an identical property without a greenhouse. [152680]

John Healey: There is no answer under the head "Housing: Valuation" of 26 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 633W. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 26 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 641W.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1677W, on housing: valuation, whether a greenhouse is included in the generic classification of outbuilding. [152681]

John Healey: A standard greenhouse would not be classified by the Valuation Office Agency as an outbuilding.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many dwellings have had their individual property records updated by the Valuation Office Agency using information from the Rightmove.co.uk database in the last month. [152831]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 26 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 630W, to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove).

Housing: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, whether any Government-owned sites in Warrington have been identified as suitable for the provision of social or low-cost housing; and whether any discussions have taken place with other agencies about whether any sites they own could be released for housing provision. [150711]

Mr. Iain Wright: Three surplus public sector sites in Warrington are on the Register of Surplus Public Sector land. They are:

the former Police Training Centre, Bruche, owned by the Home Office/National Police Improvement Agency;

a small piece of land in Delenty Drive, owned by the local PCT; and

former railway/ viaduct land owned by British Railways Board (Residuary) Ltd.

Of these, the Bruche site has been identified as having the potential for housing development. English Partnerships is taking forward discussions with the Home Office over its purchase to enable the provision of housing including affordable homes. English Partnerships has also discussed the former railway land with the British Railways Board (Residuary) Ltd. Following these discussions, two other surplus sites have been identified recently which are currently being assessed for housing potential.

After considering the Delenty Drive site with the primary care trust, English Partnerships and Warrington borough council have ruled out its potential for housing development because of its size.

English Partnerships is also examining the results of the second round competition for the First Time Buyers' Initiative for further housing development opportunities in Warrington. The competition closed on 16 July and is aimed at developing potential First Time Buyers' Initiative schemes on current or former public sector land.

Further discussions are continuing with all central Government Departments and their agencies about bringing forward more land for housing development.

INTERREG Programme

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department is the lead Government Department for the EU's INTERREG programme. [153683]

Hazel Blears: Communities and Local Government is the lead Government Department for the EU's INTERREG programme.

Land: Databases

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether residential gardens are included in the typology of previously developed land for the National Land Use Database. [153519]

Yvette Cooper: The typology for previously-developed land used in the National Land Use Database of Previously-Developed Land (NLUD-PDL) comprises vacant and derelict sites, and sites in use which the local authority has identified as possibly available for redevelopment. It includes residential as well as other land, however there is an optional minimum threshold of 0.25 hectares and therefore it generally does not include small sites.

Local Area Agreements

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to change the arrangements for local area agreements. [152852]

John Healey: The Local Government White Paper "Strong and Prosperous Communities" put local area agreements (LAAs) at the heart of the new performance framework for local government.

From 2008 new LAAs will be the only means by which central Government can agree targets for those outcomes delivered by local government alone or in partnership, drawn from the new national indicator set.

Further information on the new arrangements for LAAs can be found in the publication "Developing the future arrangements for Local Area Agreements" on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1506327.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the reasons for the time taken for signing off local area agreements. [152937]

John Healey: New local area agreements will cover the period April 2008 to March 2011 in line with the new public service agreement (PSA) framework. Targets in the new agreements will be drawn from the national indicator set to be published following the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 in the autumn.

Local Government Executive: Referendums

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many referendums have been held on whether to have a directly-elected mayor under the Local Government Act 2000. [152550]

John Healey: There have been 34 such referendums in England and one in Wales.

Local Government Finance

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the revenue grant to local authorities was, excluding education funding, in each year since 1997-98. [152830]

John Healey: Formula grant, which comprises Revenue Support Grant, redistributed business rates, principal formula Police Grant, SSA Reduction Grant (SSA Review), SSA Reduction Grant (Police Funding Review) and Central Support Protection Grant, where appropriate, is an unhypothecated block grant i.e. authorities are free to spend it on any service. This, together with the method of calculating the distribution to authorities, particularly floor damping, means that it is not possible to say how much grant has been provided for any particular service such as education.

The following table shows the amount of formula grant provided to all local authorities since 1997-98. Prior to 2006-07, the services covered by formula grant included schools; from 2006-07 onwards support for schools has been funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant. The table therefore also shows the total amount of Dedicated Schools Grant provided to authorities in 2006-07 and 2007-08.

£ million

	Current year's Formula Grant)	*Dedicated Schools Grant*	*Total*
1998-99	35,436.867	—	35,436.867
1999-2000	37,110.829	—	37,110.829
2000-01	38,516.380	—	38,516.380
2001-02	40,024.446	—	40,024.446
2002-03	40,323.132	—	40,323.132
2003-04	43,894.370	—	43,894.370
2004-05	46,124.222	—	46,124.222
2005-06	49,015.925	—	49,015.925
2006-07	24,813.914	26,573.838	51,387.752
2007-08	25,633.008	28,031.350	53,664.358

Please note that it is not possible to compare these data directly due to transfers in funding and function.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding is being provided to each participating budget pilot area; and what the source of this funding is. [152851]

John Healey: According to data from the local authorities concerned, the funding which has been available for allocation under participatory budgeting

in pilot areas, and its source, is set out as follows. This funding covers more than one financial year:

Area	*Funding source*	*Amount (£)*
Bradford	Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	779,531
	Safer and Stronger Communities Fund	309,967
Newcastle	Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	260,507
Sunderland	New Deal for Communities in East End and Hendon	130,000
	New Deal for Communities (including re-profiled funds)	23,000,000 (of which 2,350,000 was re-profiled.)
	East Area Committee, Local Authority Funding	20,000
Salford	Local Authority Transport capital programme, "other minor works" funding devolved to Claremont and Weaste Community Committee	100,000
Manton	Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder	50,000
Lewisham	Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	37,500
	Local Authority core funds (spending priorities for these funds to be decided in September)	7,500

The funding to be available for allocation in the remaining four areas is being agreed.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether councils taking part in the participatory budget pilots are receiving additional funding from central Government. [152921]

John Healey: No. However the Department sponsors the Participatory Budgeting Unit, a Third Sector project managed by the Church Action on Poverty, which is involved in the pilots. A grant of £210,000 over three years from 2004 to 2007; and an additional £30,000 for this current year until March 2008, have been awarded by the Department for funding the Unit's core costs.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of the pilots taking part in the participatory budget pilots were already engaged in participatory budgets prior to the recent announcement by her Department. [152936]

John Healey: Five of the participatory budgeting areas identified by the Secretary of State earlier this month were already engaged in the pilot process.

Local Government Services: Inflation

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what index is used to calculate inflation in relation to the costs of providing local authority services. [152549]

John Healey: In common with other Government Departments, Communities and Local Government uses the HM Treasury Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Deflator to measure money changes in real terms.

Local Government: Cumbria

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has had from the Better Government for Cumbria Group on Cumbria County Council's unitary bid. [151444]

John Healey *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* We received representations from the Better Government for Cumbria Group on 25 January, 28 March and 22 June 2007. These were taken into account before we announced our decisions on which proposals should proceed towards implementation in my statement on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 68WS.

Local Government: Finance

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's budget limit is for unitary local government bids. [152372]

John Healey: We made it clear in the Invitation to Councils, published in October 2006, that all proposals will need to be self-financing and central Government will accept no liability for any miscalculation or cost overrun in the final outturn.

Local Government: Flags

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has given to local authorities on the flying of the Union flag on a daily basis at council offices; and if she will make a statement. [150111]

Margaret Hodge: I have been asked to reply.

Local authorities can decide for themselves when they wish to fly the Union Flag. However, as some choose to follow Government guidance, we have updated the flag flying section of the DCMS website (www.culture.gov.uk/flagflying) and informed the Local Government Association. This follows the announcement by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport allowing all UK Government Departments to have the freedom to fly the Union Flag when they wish while the Department carry out a consultation on altering the flag flying guidance.

Local Government: Grants

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of local government revenue expenditure, excluding education, was financed by specific grants in each year since 1997-98. [152511]

John Healey: The percentage of local government revenue expenditure financed by specific grants in England in each year since 1997-98 and the estimated figures for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are in the following table.

The table is produced on a non-Financial Reporting Standard (FRS17) basis to 2003-04 and on an FRS17 basis from 2003-04 onwards. The main implication is that the costs of entitlements to retirement benefits

(pensions) in FRS17 are accounted for in the year in which employment gives rise to the entitlement, rather than the year in which cash payments of contributions or pensions take place. On an FRS17 basis revenue expenditure is now financed by appropriations from pension reserves, in addition to appropriations from other reserves, revenue support grant, redistributed non-domestic rates, police grant and council tax.

	Proportion excluding education	*Percentage Proportion including education*
Non-FRS17 basis		
1997-98	5	4
1998-99	6	5
1999-2000	6	5
2000-01	7	8
2001-02	9	11
2002-03	13	14
2003-04	—	18
FRS17 basis		
2003-04[1]	—	17
2004-05[1]	—	77
2005-06[1]	—	17
2006-07[1]	—	44
2007-08[1]	—	44

[1] Most specific grants are allocated to particular service areas. However, there are a number of specific grants which can fund a variety of services. The increasing proportion of such grants means that, from 2003-04, it is no longer possible to give accurate figures for specific grants by service block.

Source:

Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) returns 1997-98 to 2005-06. Communities and Local Government Revenue Account (RA) Budget returns 2006-07 to 2007-08.

The large change in specific grant from 2006-07 onwards is largely due to changes in the way the expenditure on schools is funded. Local authorities now receive dedicated schools grant, included in specific grants, replacing funding previously included in formula grant.

The definition of local government revenue expenditure used here is that expenditure funded from Aggregate External Finance (AEF), council tax and authorities' reserves. AEF is central Government revenue funding that comprises formula grant (revenue support grant, redistributed business rates and police grant), general Greater London Authority (GLA) grant and specific grants inside AEF, i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services. The specific grants used here are the specific grants inside AEF.

Comparisons across years may not be valid due to changing local authority responsibilities.

Local Government: ICT

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps she is taking to promote best practice among local authorities in using mobile and wireless technology to facilitate more efficient working and public service delivery; and if she will make a statement; [153520]

(2) what steps she is taking to address the technical and cultural barriers which constrain the use of ICT and mobile technology in local government. [153523]

John Healey: The Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships are tasked with promoting efficiency and improvement among councils in their area. They undertake a range of activities to address barriers through such means as dissemination of good practice.

In addition, the Department has created a national project on mobile working (NOMAD) as part of the local e-government programme. NOMAD www.projectnomad.org.uk, which is owned now by Cambridgeshire county council, is a centre of excellence established specifically to promote mobile and flexible working in local services, receiving contributions from both commercial suppliers of mobile technologies, and many local authorities.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will make a statement on the potential of mobile technology and ICT in local government to meet efficiency savings identified in the Gershon Review; [153522]

(2) what assessment has been made of the costs and benefits of mobile and wireless technology in local government and service delivery; and if she will make a statement. [153524]

John Healey: The benefits guide to the Project Nomad e-government project (www.projectnomad.org) estimates potential savings from that project of the order of £54 million with an additional value added of £170 million. Other activities, such as those supported by the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships will also have a role to play in enhancing efficiency through these means.

Local Government: Pay

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the implications of the GMB *v.* Allen case in Middlesbrough on single status. [152623]

John Healey: I cannot comment on a case which is currently under appeal.

Local Government: Reform

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department will announce which unitary council and local government restructuring bids should be implemented in the first wave of such restructuring. [152672]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to my written statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 68WS.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the representations from the Chief Secretary to the Treasury to her Department on the costs of local government restructuring. [152944]

John Healey: It is not Government policy to release cabinet committee correspondence.

Local Government: Standards

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department has to consult local authorities on the 200 performance indicators which will be included in the new local government performance framework. [152840]

John Healey: The Comprehensive Spending Review which is currently under way will shape the new national indicator set for local government. Departments have been consulting key stakeholders, including local authorities and representative organisations where appropriate, on their proposals for Public Service Agreements, Delivery Agreements and associated indicators.

The national indicator set for local government will be announced alongside the Comprehensive Spending Review in the autumn. We plan to consult local authorities on the detailed definitions of indicators following this announcement.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Yardley of 13 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1073W, on local government: standards, which local authorities in each Government Office region have public service agreement or local area agreement targets which relate to children being placed in care, other than adoptions; what the targets are in each case: and how much funding each local authority will receive if it achieves these targets. [153537]

John Healey: No local authorities currently have local public service agreement (LPSA) or local area agreement (LAA) reward element targets in relation to the numbers of children they look after. Only one local authority has ever had a target relating to children being placed in care as part of its LPSA or LAA reward element. In its first round LPSA Kent county council (Government Office of the South East Region) chose to include a local target to "reduce the total number of children looked after by KCC (bearing in mind the individual needs of the children and the involvement of the courts".

The target Kent county council negotiated related to their performance in March 2004, and to improve from an anticipated 1,300 children looked after down to 1,200 children looked after. KCC achieved this target and received £2.1 million in performance reward grant from Government.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many improvement targets for councils will be *(a)* established via local area agreements and *(b)* included in her Department's plans. [153691]

John Healey: From 2008, local area agreements (LAAs) will be the only place where improvement targets can be established with local authorities for outcomes they deliver alone or in partnership. Baroness Andrews set out the Government's position on the number of improvements targets during the passage of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill on 16th July 2007:

"We expect LAAs to contain up to 35 improvement targets and 18 statutory education and early years targets." [*Official Report, House of Lords*, 16 July 2007, Vol. 694, c. 95]

These targets will be drawn from the single set of around 200 national indicators for local government which will be published following CSR07, and which will reflect the priorities of all Departments. Targets in LAAs will vary between localities. They will be dependent on the outcome of negotiations between Local Strategic Partnerships and the Government offices representing central Government.

Local Government: Working Hours

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of local authorities have implemented *(a)* flexible working practices and *(b)* mobile working. [153521]

John Healey: The information requested in not held centrally. The adoption of modern work practices is a common theme of the published Local Authority Annual Efficiency Statements, which can be viewed on the departmental website at www.communities.gsi.gov.uk

Mr. Robert Adewumni

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to improve internal audit and the scope for internal fraud following the conviction of Mr Robert Adewumni for fraud in the Civil Resistance Directorate of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. [153637]

Hazel Blears: Communities and Local Government's internal audit had before this case, and continues to have, a continuous improvement programme to ensure that modern and effective audit practices are in place. Within internal audit there is a separate fraud section with appropriately trained staff. They are fully acquainted with the Fraud Act, the Proceeds of Crime Act, etc. The section assists the Department in building a culture of fraud awareness and prevention.

In the Adewumni case the internal audit acted to investigate and find the level of the fraud, and to provide advice to management on necessary improvements. In this case there was a lack of compliance with laid down systems of control. Internal audit has further enhanced its compliance reviews as a result of this fraud. The Department improved its guidance for its managers and made some changes to processes Action was also taken to enhance financial/HR processes. This will reduce the risk of fraud through improving processes for prevention and detection.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated net loss to the public purse was of the fraud perpetrated by Mr. Robert Adewumni in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister; and what steps are being taken to recover losses from Mr. Adewumni's overseas bank accounts. [153636]

Hazel Blears: The estimated loss was £867,200.

Robert Adewumni was sentenced to four years imprisonment in March 2006 for theft of money from Communities and Local Government (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister). Since then the Department, the police and Crown Prosecution Service have been working towards retrieving the stolen funds. A Confiscation Hearing was held at Southwark Crown court on 22 June 2007.

Mr. Adewumni was further charged with Contempt of Court at this Hearing. This charge was for breaking a Restraining Order issued in May 2005. In particular this related to failure to repatriate assets, transferring of assets and failure to declare assets. He pleaded guilty to this charge and was sentenced to a further 18 months imprisonment.

An order was made for repayment of £414,867 to Communities and Local Government (CLG) within six months from the date of the hearing. Failure to meet the repayment in full will result in a further three year prison sentence to run consecutively (following on from the Contempt of Court sentence).

A further order was also made against Tami Adewumni, his wife, that she should repay £23,437, also within six months, failing which she will receive an additional 12 month prison sentence.

The figures for repayment include all known assets including bank accounts held outside of this country. Police investigations have explored a number of overseas lines of inquiry, including "gifts" to friends and relatives, companies in the British Virgin Islands and the US, and an account in Nicosia, Cyprus.

Non-Domestic Rates

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was raised in business non-domestic rates by each local authority in the last year for which figures are available; and how much of that total was returned to each local authority. [150248]

John Healey: I have placed a copy of the information requested for local authorities in England in the Library of the House.

Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 174W to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on non-domestic rates: valuation, who produced the feasibility study. [152528]

John Healey: The Valuation Office Agency.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 174W, on non-domestic rates: valuation, if she will place in the Library a copy of the first phase feasibility study report. [152535]

John Healey: This is an interim report forming part of a feasibility study by the Valuation Office Agency, to investigate the viability of developing additional computer assisted rental analysis for the preparation of the 2010 Non Domestic Revaluation. Release of the findings into the public domain at this time would be prejudicial to the further research and development of this computer-based tool.

Ordnance Survey

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Ordnance Survey's targets are for use of 15cm high-resolution pictometry oblique imagery across England. [152820]

Mr. Iain Wright: Ordnance Survey has a commercial agreement with BLOM Aerofilms Limited to act as an authorised reseller of Pictometry data of Great Britain.

It is a matter for BLOM Aerofilms Ltd. to determine for which areas of England coverage of the product is made available, based on customer demand, and acquisition of the data, and on other commercial considerations. It is for customers of the product to determine uses within their businesses. Ordnance Survey does not use Pictometry within its own business processes.

Owner Occupation

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's target is for increasing the level of home ownership. [152845]

Yvette Cooper: 'Homes for the Future', launched on 23 July outlines the Government's plans for delivering new homes. We are taking urgent action to meet growing demand and address the serious issue of housing affordability. Our new target will deliver 240,000 additional homes a year by 2016.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* conclusions and *(b)* outputs were of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's Home Ownership Task Force. [152948]

Yvette Cooper: The Home Ownership task force published its report, "A Home of My Own", in November 2003. A copy is available on the Housing Corporation's website.

The task force looked at the routes into low cost home ownership and made recommendations for an increase in the supply in all types of housing, both market and social housing. It also proposed a number of detailed improvements to low cost home ownership schemes and the provision of better information and advice to individuals.

A copy of the report and the Government's full response to the 45 recommendations is available on the Communities and Local Government website.

The majority of the recommendations were accepted in full by the Government and taken forward in the

Housing Act 2004 and in the development of the homebuy scheme, which commenced in April 2006, as well as more generally.

On 23 July we published a Housing Green Paper which sets out our continuing support for the low cost home ownership programme.

Partnerships: Thames Gateway

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who the partners in the Thames Gateway project were in each year since its inception; and what the budget for support for partners was in each year. [149745]

Yvette Cooper: The following table details support funding for Thames Gateway Local Regeneration Partnerships.

This funding has supported the creation and delivery of nine local regeneration partnerships in the Thames Gateway, including two urban development corporations, each tasked with co-ordinating the delivery of the Thames Gateway Programme at a local level. These funds have directly funded staff costs, project development, development briefs, and feasibility studies for key sites and initiatives.

In some cases they also contribute to project management of crucial projects such as the Fastrack bus-transit system in Kent Thameside and Rochester Riverside development in Medway.

These costs are part of a larger programme of investment by my Department, currently some £672 million (2003-08), which we have invested in a range of projects including brownfield remediation, economic development, education, health and greenspace. This long-term programme is set to achieve the delivery of 160,000 new homes and 180,000 new jobs and lever in some £38 billion of private investment in the next 15-20 years.

Total support amounted to:

		£
	Capital	*Revenue*
2003-04	104,801	481,624
2004-05	2,047,340	3,424,927
2005-06	4,761,635	8,759,744
2006-07	3,185,155	10,654,158
Total	10,098,211	25,093,971

							£
			2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*Total*
Basildon Renaissance	Essex	Resource consumption	—	250,000.00	255,000.00	260,000.00	765,000.00
Bexley Partnership	London	Capital	—	—	89,000.00	216,342.00	305,342.00
		Resource consumption	—	—	296,947.00	163,205.00	460,152.00
Kent Thameside Delivery Board	Kent	Capital	—	694,306.00	666,000.00	424,000.00	1,784,306.00
		Resource consumption	165,624.00	119,048.00	136,000.00	76,000.00	496,672.00
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation	London	Capital	—	489,000.00	413,000.00	263,000.00	865,000.00
		Resource consumption[1]	—	1,234,459.00	3,507,000.00	4,305,000.00	10,819,977.00
Medway Renaissance Partnership	Kent	Capital	104,081.00	527,969.00	1,367,950.00	1,300,000.00	3,300,000.00
Renaissance Southend	Essex	Resource consumption	—	199,028.00	217,442.00	352,558.00	769,028.00
Swale Development Board	Kent	Capital		386,065.00	367,685.00	285,813.00	1,039,563.00
		Resource consumption	100,000.00	76,392.00	135,069.00	107,395.00	418,856.00
Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation	Essex	Capital	—	—	1,203,000.00	311,000.00	1,514,000.00
		Resource consumption[1]	216,000.00	1,546,000.00	4,100,000.00	5,190,000.00	11,052,000.00
Woolwich Regeneration Agency	London	Capital	—	—	400,000.00	125,000.00	525,000.00
		Resource consumption	—	—	112,286.00	200,000.00	312,286.00
		Capital	104,081.00	2,047,340.00	4,761,635.00	3,185,155.00	10,098,211.00
		Resource[1]	481,624.00	3,424,927.00	8,759,744.00	10,654,158.00	25,093,971.00

[1] Resource consumption figures do not include notional cost of capital and writedown charges for land held by the UDCs.

Planning Permission

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what advice *(a)* her Department, *(b)* regional government offices and *(c)* the Planning Inspectorate have given to local planning authorities who are preparing their local development framework on the process by which supplementary planning guidance and design brief documents previously issued by the authority can be saved either as a supplementary planning document or as a design brief which will continue to have weight in determining planning applications. [152952]

Yvette Cooper: Local planning authorities are being advised that supplementary planning guidance and design briefs are still capable of remaining a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and appeals provided that the policies in local plans on which they are based remain in force. There is no need to save them as supplementary planning documents (SPDs).

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been given to local authorities on making submissions from the public on individual planning applications open to public inspection. [153715]

Hazel Blears: We have issued no guidance on the point. For the sake of fairness and transparency, we urge local planning authorities to make comments from third parties open to inspection wherever possible. This helps applicant and authority to understand why aspects of a proposal give rise to objection, and adds to efficiency in the planning system. However, there is no legal duty to make representations public, unless (with certain exceptions) a letter of comment forms part of a planning officer's report to Committee or the background papers to the report.

A local authority should always have regard to the Data Protection Act: the decision on what to disclose is one for the individual authority.

Planning: Appeals

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning appeals have so far been considered and ruled on by the Planning Inspectorate in relation to planning applications for residential development under the new Policy Planning Statement 3 regime. [153503]

Yvette Cooper: The following table gives information on the number of planning appeals concerning residential development determined by the Planning Inspectorate for the period since the introduction of PPS3 in November 2006 until June 2007.

	Number/percentage
Total decided	5,428
Number allowed	1,610
Number dismissed	3,818
Percentage allowed	30

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what targets were set for processing of planning and enforcement appeals between April 2006 and March 2007; and what such targets have been set since April 2007. [153697]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Inspectorate's targets are the same for both periods requested and are set out as follows:

Key performance targets 2006-07 and 2007-08—England

Proposals for 10 or more dwellings

1. To open all hearings within 20 weeks of the start date of the case.

2. To issue 80 per cent. of decisions within 10 weeks of the close of the hearing.

3. To open all inquiries within 20 weeks of the start date of the case

4. To issue 80 per cent. of decisions within 10 weeks of the close of the inquiry.

Planning appeals and called in planning applications decided by the Secretary of State

5. To open 80 per cent. of inquiries and hearings within 22 weeks of the start date of the case.

6. Jointly with Planning Central Casework Division/Ministers, to issue all decisions in accordance with statutory timetables.

Planning and enforcement appeals decided by Inspectors by the written representations method

7. Planning appeals: By the end of 2006-07 to determine 50 per cent. of planning appeals decided by written representations within 16 weeks of the start date of the case.

8. Enforcement appeals: 80 per cent. of enforcement appeals decided by written representations to be determined within 32 weeks of the start date of the case.

Planning and enforcement appeals decided by Inspectors by the hearing method

9. Planning appeals: By the end of 2006-07 to determine 50 per cent. of planning appeals decided by hearing within 30 weeks of the start date of the case.

10. Enforcement appeals: 80 per cent. of enforcement appeals decided by hearing to be determined within 33 weeks of the start date of the case.

Planning and enforcement appeals decided by Inspectors by the inquiry method

11. Planning appeals: By the end of 2006-07 to determine 50 per cent. of planning appeals decided by inquiry within 30 weeks of the start date of the case.

12. Enforcement appeals: 80 per cent. of enforcement appeals decided by inquiries to be determined within 43 weeks of the start date of the case.

Key performance targets 2006-07 and 2007-08—Wales

13. 80 per cent. of all planning appeals decided by written representations to be determined in 16 weeks.

14. 80 per cent. of all planning appeals decided by hearings to be determined in 22 weeks.

15. 80 per cent. of all planning appeals decided by inquiries to be determined in 30 weeks.

16. 80 per cent. of all enforcement appeals decided by written representations to be determined in 32 weeks.

17. 80 per cent. of all enforcement appeals decided by hearings and inquiries to be determined in 43 weeks.

18. For called-in applications and recovered appeals to meet the individual timetable set for delivery of the report to the National Assembly (seven weeks up to eight inquiry sitting days; agreed timetable for larger cases).

Planning: Floods

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to take account of the risk of flooding in the formation of its planning policy. [152669]

Yvette Cooper: In December 2006 we published Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 25 "Development and Flood Risk" to strengthen protection against flood risk in the planning system.

We extended the Environment Agency's statutory consultee role so that it now has to be consulted on planning applications in flood risk areas (The regulation came into force on 1 October 2006).

A planning Direction supports PPS25, providing greater scrutiny for major developments proposed in flood risk areas. Where local authorities intend to approve applications that the Environment Agency still objects to, Government Offices can consider whether to call the application in for decision by the Secretary of State.

PPS25 is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1504639

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations her Department has received from the Environment Agency on planning regulations and guidance on development on flood plains. [153507]

Yvette Cooper: The Environment Agency is a key stakeholder on flood risk issues as it has statutory responsibility for flood management and defence in England and will support the planning system by providing timely information and advice on flooding issues that is fit for purpose. Officials have worked very closely with the Environment Agency in developing Planning Policy Statement 25 Development and Flood Risk (published December 2006). We are continuing to work closely with the Environment Agency on the development of the Practice Guide Companion to PPS25 which will be published later this year.

As part of the monitoring by the Environment Agency and Local Government Association of the planning process we have taken forward recommendations to strengthen the role of the Environment Agency. We have made them a statutory consultee (from October 2006) for all developments in flood risk areas and also introduced a flooding Direction 2007 which allows call-in to be considered if the Environment Agency sustains an objection to a development on flood risk grounds.

Property: Photographs

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 177-8W to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar, on property: photographs, if she will provide the information given in the answer as at July 2007. [152529]

John Healey: As at 3 July 2007 there were 23.68 million domestic properties entered in the council tax valuation lists in England and Wales. Photographs were attached to 3.2 per cent. of the 22.34 million domestic properties in England and 10 per cent. of the 1.34 million domestic properties in Wales.

Public Sector Relocation Independent Review

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1679W, on the Public Sector Relocation Independent Review, which Government departments and agencies which sent written submissions to the Lyons Inquiry into local government which are held by her Department. [152682]

John Healey: The final report of the Lyons Inquiry into Local Government provides, on pages 376 to 388, a list of organisations and members of the public that provided submissions to the Lyons Inquiry.

Regional Assemblies

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has held with the regional assemblies on their future role and responsibilities; and if she will make a statement. [150563]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the oral statement I made to the House on 17 July 2007, announcing the publication of the Review of Sub-national Regeneration and Economic Development. The Review sets out the Government's proposals for the future of regional institutions, including regional assemblies.

Regional Government

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what support her Department expects to provide to the Ministers for the Regions. [152392]

John Healey: The role of Regional Ministers is set out in paragraphs 115 to 118 in "The Governance of Britain" and is currently being developed. At present, support is being provided by their departmental private offices and the Government offices in their respective regions as part of their wider functions.

Regional Government: Local Authorities

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to return powers held by the regional assemblies to local councils following the abolition of the regional assemblies. [152303]

John Healey: Local authorities will be given greater power and flexibilities to promote economic well-being; and regional development agencies will be expected to delegate funding to them wherever possible.

There will however remain matters that need to be dealt with at a level beyond even the largest local authority, be that sub-regional or regional.

The Government will consult further later this year on how to implement these reforms.

Regional Planning and Development

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her role is in approving and amending regional spatial strategies published by *(a)* the Greater London Authority and *(b)* the regional chambers in England. [152947]

John Healey: Following the examination in public, the Secretary of State is responsible for consulting on any proposed changes before approving and issuing the final version of the regional spatial strategy (RSS). Once published, the RSS becomes the regional level of the statutory development plan.

The Mayor of London is responsible for publishing the Spatial Development Strategy "The London Plan" (which is the equivalent to an RSS). The Secretary of State has no role in approving the Spatial Development Strategy. The Secretary of State can direct the Mayor to make changes to the plan before it is published, but this power of direction may only be exercised for the purpose of avoiding inconsistency with national policies or any detriment to the interests of an area outside Greater London.

The SNR published on 17 July set out the Government's proposals for strengthening regional governance and accountability including the introduction of a single regional strategy. We will consult on detailed implementation later this year.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans the Government have to merge regional spatial strategies with regional economic strategies. [153495]

John Healey: The Review of Sub-National Economic Development published on 17 July 2007 set out the Government's proposals to merge regional spatial strategies with regional economic strategies. We will consult further on how to implement these reforms.

Richmond Park

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward legislation to protect the viewing corridor of the Tower of London from Richmond Park. [153712]

Mr. Iain Wright: No. The Tower of London is not currently visible from Richmond Park.

Right to Buy Scheme

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the average Right to Buy discount in England was for a house in each year since 1996-97; [153498]

(2) what the average sales price was of a Right to Buy house, before any discount was applied, in each year since 1996-97. [153499]

Mr. Iain Wright: The average right to buy discounts and sale prices of social rent dwellings, in England, in each financial year since 1996-97 are shown in the following table. Information for 2006-07 is not yet available.

Right to buy sales[1] of social rent dwellings: England (estimated average per dwelling)

£

	Local authority sales			*Registered social landlord sales*		
	Market value	*Sale price*	*Discount*	*Market value*	*Sale price*	*Discount*
1996-97	40,677	20,566	20,110	48,101	23,873	24,228
1997-98	42,123	21,303	20,819	49,162	24,461	24,701
1998-99	45,492	22,614	22,878	51,457	25,129	26,328
1999-2000	48,935	25,324	23,631	53,216	26,945	26,271
2000-01	51,094	27,217	23,876	52,524	27,336	25,189
2001-02	53,519	30,136	23,384	50,782	26,733	24,048
2002-03	58,655	34,863	23,793	59,365	32,127	27,238
2003-04	66,840	42,204	24,635	58,638	32,386	26,253
2004-05	77,176	51,524	25,652	64,728	36,934	27,794
2005-06	83,474	57,925	25,549	72,165	43,879	28,286

[1] Includes sales through the preserved right to buy.

Source:
Housing Corporation (CORE), Local authorities (P1B)

Thames Gateway: Finance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much public money was given to Thames Gateway project in each year since its inception. [149679]

Yvette Cooper: Billions of pounds are spent each year in the Thames Gateway through mainstream budgets such as education, health, transport, regional development agencies and local government. In addition, targeted funding to help facilitate additional homes and jobs is funded through the Department for Communities and Local Government Thames Gateway programme as follows:

£ million

	Programme resource consumption	*Programme capital*	*Total spend*
2003-04	2.254	38.436	40.690
2004-05	6.901	136.448	143.349
2005-06	12.600	143.792	156.392
2006-07	16.564	118.344	134.908
2007-08 (Projected)	23.000	155.000	178.000

Thurrock Development Corporation

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will make a statement on the progress made since its inception by the Thurrock Urban Development Corporation; what key decisions it has taken since the answer of 20 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1773-4W, on Thurrock Development Corporation; and what the latest timetable is for its future work programme; [145922]

(2) if she will make a statement on the work of the Thurrock Development Corporation since the answer of 19 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 111W, on the Thurrock Development Corporation. [145923]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 26 June 2007]*: Since April 2006, the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation has continued to implement its land acquisition programme with the acquisition of two sites in West Thurrock and south east Thurrock. The Development Corporation has determined over 100 planning applications, 53 of which have given planning permission for 670 new dwellings and employment developments that on completion will deliver 1,850 new jobs.

In addition, the Development Corporation has sought to improve its engagement with stakeholders and is leading the sustainability block of the Thurrock Local Strategic Partnership and the economic development block of the Local Area Agreement. The Development Corporation established a community fund which offers grant of up to £20,000 to non-profit making clubs and other organisations to encourage and promote voluntary and community development and improve the quality of life for local residents and communities.

The Development Corporation will continue this activity and will deliver the remainder of the capital programme identified in the Two Year Corporate Plan 2006-07 to 2007-08. A timetable for a future work programme will be taken once the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review is known and in the light of the proposals in the Corporate Plan they are preparing for financial years 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Travelling People

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how the Housing and Regeneration Bill is proposed to implement the European Court of Human Rights' ruling on Travellers. [152938]

Mr. Iain Wright: The provisions in the Housing and Regeneration Bill to implement the European Court of Human Rights ruling in the case of 'Connors *v.* United Kingdom' are currently under consideration. In the consultation on "The Governance of Britain—the Government's Draft Legislative Programme", published on 11 July 2007, the Government outlined its draft legislative programme for the next session of Parliament. The Housing and Regeneration Bill was listed as one of the proposed Bills, and we intend to use this Bill to legislate on the Connors judgment. The final legislative programme will be confirmed in the Queen's Speech in the autumn.

Unitary Councils: Exeter

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the level of stakeholder support for Exeter's proposal to become a unitary authority. [153473]

John Healey: The Department's assessment against all five criteria, including the cross section of support from partners and stakeholders, is set out in Exeter city council's decision letter of 25 July 2007. This is available on the Department's website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1509144

Valuation Office

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what data was taken from the National Register of Social Housing by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) to supplement and validate the VOA's records as referred to in the answer of 21 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1877W, on the Valuation Office Agency. [152540]

John Healey: No data was taken from the National Register of Social Housing other than a list of addresses of properties on the National Register, which was supplied to the VOA, in electronic format, on 2 March 2005.

Valuation Office: Contracts

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1863W, on the Valuation Office: contracts, whether the future payments by the Valuation Office Agency to Rightmove for the duration of the existing contracts are fixed. [152427]

John Healey: Further payments are subject to an established ceiling within the duration of the contract and to any arrangements for variation or extension of the contract.

Valuebill Database

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Government departments and agencies *(a)* have and *(b)* will have access to the Valuebill database and interface. [153509]

John Healey: The Valuebill national project promoted the close alignment of pre-existing property databases within the Valuation Office Agency and Billing Authorities, and developed standards for the interfaces. No Government departments or agencies other than VOA have access to those interfaces. Full details are available from www.londonconnects.gov.uk/valuebill.cfm

Wilkinson Star

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings she and her predecessor had with *(a)* Wilkinson Star Ltd and *(b)* Peninsula Business Services Ltd in the last 12 months. [152521]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has had no meetings with Wilkinson Star Ltd. or Peninsula Business Services Ltd. in the last 12 months.

Youth Organisations: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding her Department provides to support *(a)* youth councils and *(b)* other youth organisations in Hampshire. [151043]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The Government do not set a budget for local authorities to spend on specific youth-related organisations or youth councils, and do not collect this information. Local authorities decide how funding should be deployed in their areas, taking into account Government policy and local needs. For 2007-08, Hampshire local authority reported that they intended to allocate a budget of £8,281,500 for youth services. The Department is currently validating this figure and it is therefore subject to change.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations he has made to local education authorities on the establishing of city academies; and if he will make a statement. [152922]

Jim Knight: Local authorities are key partners in the development of academies, and my Department works closely with local authorities on the development of academy projects and the organisation of secondary provision in their areas more generally.

The Department's academies prospectus for sponsors and local authorities states that, as a broad rule of thumb, the Government are prepared to consider any secondary school where fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils gained five or more good GCSEs (including English and Maths) as a potential academy project. It also states that local authorities should always consider an academy as an option for dealing with a school in special measures, or subject to an improvement notice, whatever its results.

Academies: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of funding per head for pupils in *(a)* academies and *(b)* all secondary schools in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [150699]

Jim Knight: For the financial year 2007-08 the average revenue funding per pupil at academies is £5,966 excluding any payments made by or through local authorities. The budget share for an academy is calculated using the funding formula for the local authority in which it is situated. Sixth form funding is calculated using the Learning and Skills Council formula.

Since 2006-07 secondary schools have been funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The DSG is distributed through a single guaranteed unit of funding per pupil so a split between primary and secondary funding is not available.

In 2007-08 the national average DSG allocation was £3,888 per pupil for nursery, primary and secondary school aged pupils. Additional revenue grants were £571 per pupil, making a total of £4,459 per pupil.

The revenue grants figure is provisional and does not include grants allocated by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC).

The academies figure is not comparable with that for maintained schools because it includes 16+ funding; and most academy pupils are of secondary age whereas the DSG figure is for pupils aged three to 15. Furthermore, most academies have high levels of deprivation and this increases their funding level per pupil.

Adoption: Standards

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities have received payments from central Government for achieving adoption target levels; and how much each received in each of the last three years. [151067]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

30 local authorities have been rewarded for successfully achieving adoption targets in their local public service agreements (LPSA). The better outcomes and amount of 'performance reward grant' (PRG) each has received over the three years 2004/05 to 2006/07 in relation to their performance in these targets is set out in the following table. In addition, 13 local authorities did not achieve the adoption targets in their local PSA and hence received no PRG for this target. One local authority is still to make a claim

Local PSAs—which are negotiated between local authorities and central Government policy departments, facilitated by the DCLG—have helped to incentivise local authorities and partners to provide better public services to their citizens around priorities for improvement locally. Evaluation shows they have been successful in doing this, with real benefits in improved outcomes for local people and communities.

Local PSA adoption and placement targets: payments made to date under local PSAs

Local authority	*Amount of 'reward grant' paid (£)*
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	210,173.00
Blackburn with Darwen	307,367.00
Bristol City Council	307,512.00
Buckinghamshire County Council	526,958.00
Bromley (LB)	499,440.00
Camden (LB)	318,916.50
Cheshire County Council	685,134.00
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	578,333.00
Durham County Council	502,675.00
Enfield (LB)	244,963.00
Essex County Council	2,469,200.00
Gloucestershire County Council	612,209.00
Greenwich (LB)	580,996.00

Local PSA adoption and placement targets: payments made to date under local PSAs

Local authority	*Amount of 'reward grant' paid (£)*
Halton Borough Council	153,938.00
Hampshire	1,675,619.00
Hounslow (LB)	165,019.00
Kensington and Chelsea (LB)	339,117.00
Kent County Council	2,156,583.00
Lewisham (LB)	602,854.00
Liverpool City Council	347,404.00
Luton Borough Council	400,027.00
Manchester City Council	984,877.00
Merton Borough Council	358,708.00
Northamptonshire County Council	1,119,115.00
Sheffield City Council	1,025,000.00
Southwark (LB)	435,242.00
St. Helens Metropolitan Borough Council	83,845.00
Wandsworth (LB)	387,627.00
Warwickshire County Council	231,061.00
York City Council	203,620.00

Asylum

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the evidential basis was for the statement in the Care Matters White Paper that 95 per cent. of asylum claims are rejected. [152953]

Beverley Hughes: The evidence basis for the statement in the Care Matters White Paper regarding the percentage of negative decisions made on asylum claims from UASC was sourced from the Immigration Research and Statistics Service which is available from the Home Office website in two different formats.

1. National Statistics:

Statistics on UASC applications are published as part of the quarterly asylum bulletin. Statistics on UASC are also available in the annual asylum bulletin.

The most up to date data on the outcome of UASC asylum claims can be found on page 10 (point 12) of the Asylum Statistics United Kingdom 2005, these statistics show that the numbers of UASC granted refugee status or humanitarian protection (HP) is very low (five per cent. in 2005). This document is available via the following link. The 2006 annual publication, and Q2 2007 quarterly publication will be published on August 21.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

2. Management Information:

The management information report is produced quarterly and contains more detailed statistics on UASC. This report can also be sourced from the same website link as before.

Bishops Park College

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library copies of the correspondence between his officials and Essex local education authority on the decision to build Bishops Park college in Clacton. [153377]

Jim Knight: This information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost to the Department.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 90W, on the Building Schools for the Future programme, whether the recommendations of the review have been implemented; [153609]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 90W, on the Building Schools for the Future programme, for what reason HM Treasury was a joint commissioner of the review. [153610]

Jim Knight: The reports and other associated documentation following joint Prime Minister's Delivery Unit (PMDU) reviews are confidential advice to Ministers and are not put into the public domain. This includes terms of reference and other documentation connected with the substance of the review. The action plan to address the recommendations of the review is an ongoing piece of work.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 92W, on Building Schools for the Future (BSF): private finance initiative, how much funding from his Department's capital budget was spent on the BSF schools already built in each financial year, broken down into expenditure on newly built and refurbished schools and the seven new-build BSF schools that are under construction. [153647]

Kevin Brennan: BSF schools which are complete were funded as part 5 of a "Quick Wins" initiative. Funding from the capital budget for these projects is shown in the following table.

£ million

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
New build	4.5	10.8	0.4
Remodelled/ refurbished	3.5	6.5	1.3
Total	8.0	17.3	1.7

There are currently 30 new build schools under construction. Of these, 23 are being procured through the private finance initiative scheme and so will not receive any funding until the schools open. Capital funding of £18 million was provided to authorities in 2006-07 to meet milestone payments for those conventionally funded new build schools currently under construction.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report* column 92W, on Building Schools for the Future (BSF): private finance initiative (PFI), how his Department decides whether BSF schools will be procured as part of PFI schemes. [153648]

Kevin Brennan: The procurement strategy for BSF projects is determined on value for money grounds. Local authorities are required to carry out a detailed options appraisal which considers different procurement and funding methods for the schools in a project using both quantitative (discounted cash flow) and qualitative analysis, in accordance with HM Treasury's 'Value for Money Assessment Guidance' of November 2006.

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service: Accountability

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the principal responsibilities are of Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service support workers. [150869]

Kevin Brennan: This is a matter for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS). Anthony Douglas, the Chief Executive, has written to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service: Appeals

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service's self-regulated appeals procedures. [152736]

Kevin Brennan: This is a matter for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS). Anthony Douglas, the chief executive, has written to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Anthony Douglas, dated 25 July 2007:

I am writing to you in response to the Parliamentary Question that you tabled recently:

152736—To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service's self-regulated appeals procedures.

Cafcass current complaints procedures provide for a review process in relation to all decisions made in response to service users complaints. An important part of the complaints procedures rests with the problem solving stage in which Cafcass makes every effort to understand the service users complaint, to address it and to respond to it. Cafcass has mechanisms for learning from those complaints and ensuring that lessons learnt from them are applied to its practice.

Independent scrutiny of the application of Cafcass complaints procedures is provided by the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman, who, on request, will consider any complaint that Cafcass has not operated its complaints procedures in a fair and reasonable way.

In 2006 the former DfES produced new guidance and standards for complaints procedures for Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs) and Local Authorities to put in place for children's services. On publication of the DfES guidance, Cafcass undertook an examination of its own complaints procedures as a direct comparison against those advised by the DfES Guidance. In December 2006 this comparative report was presented to the Cafcass Board Task Group on complaints procedures, which decided in principle that Cafcass should begin work on a revised complaints procedures that builds on the strengths of its current procedures whilst meeting the standards set down by the DfES guidance, unless in any specific respect there were clear reasons related to the nature of the work of Cafcass not to do so.

In particular, the Cafcass Board made the decision that Cafcass complaints procedures should be revised to meet the requirements laid down within the DfES guidance in two respects:

1. For the services of independent observers to be employed to oversee the progress of complaints investigations, in order to guarantee the process in terms of fairness and reasonableness.

2. To include a final appeal process involving a panel of independent people.

As a consequence Cafcass is currently in the process of redrafting its complaints procedures to meet these standards of independence as well as other aspects of the DfES guidance.

A copy of this reply will be placed in the House Library.

Children: Day Care

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many people have participated in level 3 to 5 childcare training since the inception of the Transformation Fund; and if he will make a statement; [152687]

(2) how many *(a)* recruitment incentives, *(b)* quality premiums and *(c)* home grown graduate incentives have been paid from the Transformation Fund for child care; and at what cost; [152688]

(3) how much each local authority has received from the Transformation Fund since its inception. [152794]

Beverley Hughes: The Transformation Fund was introduced in April 2006 as a time-limited initiative to test out approaches to improving the qualifications of the early years workforce in the private, voluntary and independent sectors and to raise standards in the provision of early education and child care. Its particular focus has been to initiate action directed at ensuring all full day care settings are led by a graduate, through the availability of a quality premium, a recruitment incentive and, since December 2006, a home grown graduate incentive. It has also supported broader upskilling of the workforce to raise the numbers of staff qualified at Level 3, 4 and 5 as well as to train staff to work with children with additional needs.

The Department does not collect data on the number of people who are participating in Level 3 to 5 training via the Transformation Fund. However, based on returns from local authorities, over 18,000 settings (including over 4,200 childminders) have received support through the Transformation Fund for one or more of the five eligible strands identified above.

According to returns from local authorities, as of March 2007:

(a) 428 full day care settings received the Recruitment Incentive at a cost of £1,218,218;

(b) 1,152 full day care settings received the Quality Premium at a cost of £4,506,676; and

(c) 282 full day care settings received the Home Grown Graduate Incentive at a cost of £448,608 (this element started in December 2006).

The following table sets out out-turn data for 2006-07 based on the unaudited financial statements received to date from local authorities.

Transformation Fund expenditure 2006-07 based on local authorities unaudited financial statements as at July 24 2007

Local Authority	Unaudited 2006-07 expenditure (£)
Barking and Dagenham	100,294
Barnet	[1]236,512
Barnsley	34,477
Bath and North East Somerset	72,365
Bedfordshire	184,637
Bexley	62,829
Birmingham	202,702
Blackburn with Darwen	201,093
Blackpool	104,901
Bolton	152,274
Bournemouth	143,647
Bracknell Forest	68,231
Bradford	346,169
Brent	196,192
Brighton and Hove	110,643
Bristol	272,896
Bromley	413,363
Buckinghamshire	127,277
Bury	74,243
Calderdale	92,087
Cambridgeshire	381,236
Camden	[1]164,321
Cheshire	443,191
City of London	5,970
Cornwall	361,820
Coventry	102,718
Croydon	286,194
Cumbria	385,287
Darlington	92,938
Derby	189,830
Derbyshire	550,868
Devon	[1]321,845
Doncaster	261,391
Dorset	250,341
Dudley	28,907
Durham	408,083
Ealing	71,301
East Riding of Yorkshire	136,864
East Sussex	183,253
Enfield	93,068
Essex	614,970
Gateshead	64,751
Gloucestershire	443,612
Greenwich	111,147
Hackney	266,990
Halton	134,730
Hammersmith and Fulham	146,702
Hampshire	819,258
Haringey	[1]190,246
Harrow	51,920
Hartlepool	89,369
Havering	48,166
Herefordshire	111,624
Hertfordshire	446,886
Hillingdon	44,407
Hounslow	[1]157,227
Isle of Wight	119,110
Isles of Scilly	18,305
Islington	199,017
Kensington and Chelsea	196,244
Kent	903,396
Kingston upon Hull	187,123
Kingston upon Thames	91,449
Kirklees	339,249
Knowsley	10,744
Lambeth	11,984
Lancashire	488,578
Leeds	54,370
Leicester City	49,051
Leicestershire	24,264
Lewisham	201,062
Lincolnshire	352,206
Liverpool	[1]79,612
Luton	190,173
Manchester	130,004
Medway	288,554
Merton	71,036
Middlesbrough	131,070
Milton Keynes	159,363
NE Lincolnshire	166,805
Newcastle upon Tyne	[1]136,612
Newham	181,102
Norfolk	161,075
North Lincolnshire	[1]83,974
North Somerset	119,754
North Tyneside	177,479
North Yorkshire	350,678
Northamptonshire	189,524
Northumberland	230,933
Nottingham City	115,823
Nottinghamshire	587,501
Oldham	101,933
Oxfordshire	302,496
Peterborough	[1]105,779
Plymouth	176,670
Poole	71,942
Portsmouth	198,874
Reading	61,094
Redbridge	316,977
Redcar and Cleveland	119,535
Richmond upon Thames	166,123
Rochdale	288,925
Rotherham	176,394
Rutland	37,586
Salford	157,618
Sandwell	55,616
Sefton	252,575
Sheffield	246,813
Shropshire	261,923
Slough	37,379
Solihull	161,445
Somerset	385,671
South Gloucestershire	208,577
South Tyneside	79,544
Southampton	126,214
Southend	145,648
Southwark	[1]219,576

Transformation Fund expenditure 2006-07 based on local authorities unaudited financial statements as at July 24 2007

Local Authority	*Unaudited 2006-07 expenditure (£)*
St. Helens	77,731
Staffordshire	393,587
Stockport	242,465
Stockton-on-Tees	178,610
Stoke on Trent	[1]133,844
Suffolk	[1]357,376
Sunderland	238,192
Surrey	402,868
Sutton	[1]115,767
Swindon	164,643
Tameside	[1]125,815
Telford and the Wrekin	58,582
Thurrock	175,291
Torbay	94,494
Tower Hamlets	[1]207,256
Trafford	74,411
Wakefield	82,485
Walsall	30,206
Waltham Forest	155,331
Wandsworth	362,376
Warrington	183,121
Warwickshire	[1]275,525
West Berkshire	45,033
West Sussex	279,449
Westminster	344,036
Wigan	286,253
Wiltshire	290,866
Windsor and Maidenhead	102,758
Wirral	53,910
Wokingham	115,643
Wolverhampton	[1]143,474
Worcestershire	310,791
York	145,270
Total	29,265,873

[1] These local authorities have still to submit returns and therefore notional expenditure has been shown which is based on an assumption of same spend rate as the 134 local authorities that have submitted statements.

Class Sizes

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average class size was in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each (i) Government region and (ii) local education authority in each of the last five years. [151174]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the House Library.

Further information on class sizes can be found in SFR 16/2007 'Pupil Characteristics and Class Sizes in Maintained Schools in England, January 2007 (Provisional)', which was published on 26 April 2007. This publication is available in the Library and on the Department's website here:

http:/www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000726/index.shtml

Departments: Affairs

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 94W, on departments: affairs, what the value and purpose was of each payment by his Department to Atkins (formerly WS Atkins) as part of the Academies Programme since 2001. [153618]

Kevin Brennan: The value of the payments made to Atkins as part of the Academies Programme for each financial year since 2001-02 to date is shown in the following table.

The payments were made for an advisory service on capital project design and other support services for the academies programme.

Financial year	*Total paid (£)*
2001-02	45,645
2002-03	556,658
2003-04	1,207,456
2004-05	2,013,071
2005-06	2,860,574
2006-07	2,825,659
2007-08	[1]739,292

[1] Up to 26 July 2007

Departments: Air Conditioning

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent by his Department and its predecessor and its agencies on the hire of mobile air conditioning units in each of the last five years. [151977]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families or its predecessor has spent no money on the hire of mobile air conditioning units in the five years to April 2007.

Departments: Common Purpose

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department paid to Common Purpose in each of the last five years; for what purpose; and what the outcome of the expenditure was. [147609]

Kevin Brennan: The former Department for Education and Skills concluded a contract in September 2004 for £28,800 and April 2005 for £22,900 with Common Purpose to provide challenging and diverse learning experiences for future leaders. Participants were able to research and explore how the Department's policies impacted "on the ground" in relation to the Department's Five Year Strategy, and gain a greater appreciation of how Government policies were interpreted and implemented by service deliverers in public, private and voluntary/community sectors and the constraints facing different organisations.

In addition Common Purpose South Yorkshire currently has free use of a small accommodation unit in the Sheffield site of the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Departments: Early Retirement

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of staff in his Department and its

predecessor took early retirement in the last five years, broken down by grade; and at what cost. [148741]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In the former DFES, there have been voluntary early severance and retirement releases. For the 2002-03 financial year to the end of the 2006-07 financial year, the total number and cost for such releases from the former DFES were as follows:

Financial year	*Number of early releases (from former DFES)*	*Total cost (to former DFES) (£ million)*
2002-03	57	5.57
2003-04	28	2.54
2004-05	332	17.1
2005-06	204	15.1
2006-07	156	10.55

Departments: Flowers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent by his Department on flowers in the last 12 months. [153262]

Kevin Brennan: The Department did not commit any expenditure on flowers in the last 12 months.

Departments: Legislation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which Bills in policy areas for which his Department is responsible introduced in the last five years contained sunset clauses; and what plans he has for the future use of such clauses. [151836]

Kevin Brennan: The following table sets out the Acts, introduced by the Department's predecessors in the last five years which contained sunset clauses:

Act	*Section*	
Education Act 2002	2(7)	Power to suspend statutory requirements etc.
Children Act 2004	47	Expiry of powers in sections 45 and 46
Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006	16(6)	Exceptions to requirement to make a monitoring check

The appropriateness of a sunset clause for the whole or part of any proposed legislation is considered on a case by case basis. It is also addressed when a regulatory impact assessment relating to legislation is being prepared.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which Bills introduced by his Department and its predecessors in areas within his Department's responsibility in the last five years did not contain sunset clauses; and if he will make a statement. [152493]

Kevin Brennan: The following Acts, introduced by the Department's predecessors in the last five years did not contain sunset clauses

Education Act 2005

Education and Inspections Act 2006

Children and Adoption Act 2006

Departments: Marketing

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent on replacing the former Department for Education and Skills with his Department including introducing a new corporate identity; and how much he expects total expenditure on transition to be. [147619]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 4 July 2007]:* The costs of setting up the Department for Children, Schools and Families are expected to be met within existing departmental budgets.

Departments: Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at his Department and its agencies in each year between 1997 and 2006; and what the total cost of those bonuses was. [146426]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families was formed in June 2007 from parts of the former Department for Education and Skills (DfES), which was itself formed in 2001.

Information is available for all senior civil servants in the former DfES for the years 2005/06 and 2004/05, and is shown in the following table. The Department had no agencies.

	Number of bonus awards made to senior civil servants in DfES	*Total cost of the bonuses awarded (£)*
2004/05	98	506,039
2005/06	96	627,303

There is no information available for previous years.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last three years; and at what total cost. [146989]

Kevin Brennan: Information for Executive Assistant to Grade 6 bonus payments received in 2006-07 is not yet available. Members of the senior civil service will not receive their bonus payments until November 2007.

For Department's (formerly the DfES) most up to date information, I refer the hon. Member to the reply my predecessor gave on 8 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 1706W.

Departments: Postal Services

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what volume of correspondence his Department sent *(a)* by Royal Mail and *(b)* by other commercial delivery services in

each of the last five years; and what the reasons were for the use of other commercial delivery services. [150444]

Kevin Brennan: The former Department for Education and Skills (DfES) sent, between 1 June 2006 and 31 May 2007, 1,472,641 items of correspondence from its Head Office post rooms via the Royal Mail. Volumes for the preceding four years could be supplied only at disproportionate cost. The former DfES did not use any other commercial delivery services for its correspondence.

Departments: Publicity

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the cost effectiveness of advertising commissioned for policy areas within his Department, including relevant campaigns commissioned by its predecessor in the last 12 months. [148512]

Kevin Brennan: In 2006-07, the former Department for Education and Skills spent these amounts on advertising as part of integrated information campaigns:

	£000
Student finance	2,476
Adult basic skills	1,805
Teenage pregnancy	1,534
Child care recruitment	405

All of these were evaluated against targets for response (calls to a campaign telephone number or hits on a website). The first three, where the advertising spend was more substantial, were additionally evaluated through independent customer research which tracked the campaign impact against its objectives, measuring levels of customer awareness and exploring shifts in attitude and behaviour among the target audience. Additionally, £0.045 million was spent on an advertising insert targeting the children and young people's work force, which was not evaluated due to the size of the advertising spend.

All departmental advertising is bought on our behalf by the Central Office of Information (COI), which is able to use its purchasing power to negotiate significant discounts, ensuring that our advertising budgets are cost effective in the amount of media they purchase. In 2005-06; the most recent year in which records are available, COI achieved cost savings for Government clients of 44.1 per cent. against industry benchmarks.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the cost effectiveness of advertising commissioned by his Department and the former Department for Education and Skills in areas within his Department's responsibility in the last 12 months. [148685]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 2 August to parliamentary question 148512.

Departments: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's targets are; what the performance was against each target at the most recent date; which targets have been *(a)* dropped and *(b)* amended in the last 24 months; and if he will make a statement. [152278]

Kevin Brennan: With regard to the Spending Review 2004 PSA targets which my Department is responsible for, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 19 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 531-32W. Performance against these PSA targets is set out in the former Department for Education and Skills' 2007 departmental report (CM 7092). Two of my Department's PSA targets have been amended since the 2004 Spending Review: PSA target 1 (children's communication and social and emotional development); and PSA target 2 (the use of formal child care by lower-income families).

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* staff training and *(b)* communication training in the last 12 months. [153255]

Jim Knight: Costs for staff and communication training for the former DfES are available from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 in the following table:

Budget	*Cost (£)*
Communications training	49,204
Learning and Development	2,259,991

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many overseas visits were made by *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers within his responsibility, and at what cost, in each year since 1997. [151660]

Ed Balls: Details of overseas visits by officials over the last seven financial years are set out in the following table.

Financial year	*Numbers of visits*	*Cost (£)*
2001-02	226	138,964
2002-03	375	240,768
2003-04	423	197,297
2004-05	398	167,675
2005-06	455	251,630
2006-07	405	251,328

In respect of overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers, since 1999, the Government has published on an annual basis, a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2006-07 is currently being compiled and will be

published before the summer recess. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Education: Disabled

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will include educational attainment as a criterion for the national indicator for disabled children's services. [153571]

Kevin Brennan: The Government committed to develop a national disabled children's indicator as part of a Public Service Agreement in the report 'Aiming high for Disabled Children' (May 2007). The report outlines some of the issues to be considered in developing the indicator and we expect the indicator to be finalised later in the year.

The Government are also agreeing a national indicator set for local government, which will include many of the indicators that will be used to measure progress at a national level on the Public Service Agreements over the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 period. This set will include indicators related to educational attainment and will be finalised later in the year.

Education: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of school lessons were judged by Ofsted as unsatisfactory in each reporting period since 1993-94; and if he will make a statement. [149886]

Kevin Brennan: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Library.

Free School Meals

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in each *(a)* local education authority and *(b)* in each type of school received free school meals and came from single parent homes in each of the last 10 years. [151210]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children were *(a)* entitled to and *(b)* received free school meals in each year from 2002-03 to 2006-07; and if he will make a statement; [152141]

(2) how many free school meals have been served in each year from 1990-91 to 2006-07 in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools; and what the total (i) primary and (ii) secondary school population was in each year. [152144]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the quality, availability and uptake of school meals generally is not held centrally. However, information on free school meals for maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools for January 2007 is contained in the following table:

	Maintained nursery and primary	*Maintained secondary*
School population	4,149,600	3,273,500
Number entitled to free school meals	659,100	429,900
Number receiving free school meals	544,300	314,700
Those receiving free school meals as a proportion of school population	13.1	9.6

Figures for earlier years are not readily available.

Also, figures from the School Food Trust's 2006 annual survey of school meals take up in England showed that take up of school meals in 2005-06 was 42.3 per cent. in primary schools and 42.7 per cent. in secondary schools. Findings from the 2007 survey will be available in August.

Head Teachers: Early Retirement

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many head teachers took early retirement in each of the last three years. [153349]

Kevin Brennan: The information is not available.

Higher Education: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students from *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex were allocated university places in each year since 1997. [151372]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

The number of entrants to higher education institution in the UK for each year since 1997/98 are given in the following table.

Number of entrants[1] to undergraduate courses from East Sussex local authority and Eastbourne constituency—UK higher education institutions[2]—academic years 1997/98 to 2005/06

Academic year	*Eastbourne constituency*	*East Sussex local authority*
1997/98	595	3,565
1998/99	645	3,880
1999/2000	670	3,920
2000/01	650	3,805
2001/02	660	3,975
2002/03	710	4,265
2003/04	740	4,115
2004/05	780	4,155
2005/06	790	4,370

[1] Covers students on full-time and part-time modes of study.
[2] Exclude the Open University.
Note:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December (excluding those writing up, on sabbatical or dormant) for comparability and are rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Higher Education: Finance

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding per *(a)* undergraduate and *(b)* postgraduate student the Government provided to (i) the University of York and (ii) York St. John University in each year since 1997. [152197]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested can be found in the following tables, however it is not possible to provide a comparable time series as the changes in the funding models vary from year to year. Information prior to 1998-99 is not available on a similar basis to the later years and has therefore been shown in separate tables.

University of York

		Teaching funding
1996-97	Undergraduate (UG) (including Post Graduate PGT)	2,561
	Post Graduate Research (PGR)	1,507
1997-98	UG (including PGT)	2,567
	PGR	1,592

Not a time series		*Rates for standard teaching funding*	*Home and EC HEFCE-funded FTEs (T model)*	*Rate for PGR supervision fund*	*Widening participation funding*	*Rewarding and developing staff funding*
1998-99		—	—	—	—	—
	UG	2,790	4,395	—	—	—
	PGT	1,670	551	—	—	—
	PGR	2,169	261	3,251	—	—
1999-2000		—	—	—	102,188	—
	UG	2,885	4,884	—	—	—
	PGT	1,847	585	—	—	—
	PGR	2,397	237	3,502	—	—
2000-01		—	—	—	166,031	—
	UG	3,114	4,681	—	—	—
	PGT	2,073	483	—	—	—
	PGR	2,534	250	3,542	—	—
2001-02		—	—	—	234,295	594,163
	UG	3,083	5,005	—	—	—
	PGT	1,914	530	—	—	—
	PGR	2,615	255	3,525	—	—
2002-03		—	—	—	275,075	896,460
	UG	3,080	5,347	—	—	—
	PGT	1,676	535	—	—	—
	PGR	2,576	228	3,393	—	—
2003-04		—	—	—	527,255	1,382,345
	UG	2,985	5,584	—	—	—
	PGT	1,620	587	—	—	—
	PGR	2,531	238	3,521	—	—
2004-05		—	—	—	496,396	—
	UG	3,282	5,854	—	—	—
	PGT	1,499	639	—	—	—
	PGR	3,111	225	3,830	—	—
2005-06		—	—	—	415,284	—
	UG	3,435	6,017	—	—	—
	PGT	1,603	580	—	—	—
	PGR	—	—	5,981	—	—

Not a time series		Rates for standard teaching funding	Home and EC HEFCE-funded FTEs (T model)	Rate for PGR supervision fund	Widening participation funding	Rewarding and developing staff funding
2006-07		—	—	—	474,067	—
	UG	3,545	6,201	—	—	—
	PGT	1,606	684	—	—	—
	PGR	—	—	5,997	—	—
2007-08		—	—	—	470,916	—
	UG	3,724	6,443	—	—	—
	PGT	1,704	681	—	—	—
	PGR	—	—	5,777	—	—

York St. John university (formerly university college of York St. John)

		Teaching funding
1996-97	UG (including PGT)	2,043
	PGR	0
1997-98	UG (including PGT)	2,099
	PGR	0

Not a time series		Rates for standard teaching funding	Home and EC HEFCE-funded FTEs (T model)	Rate for PGR supervision fund	Widening participation funding	Rewarding and developing staff funding
1998-99		—	—	—	—	—
	UG	2,538	2,176	—	—	—
	PGT	662	71	—	—	—
	PGR	1,078	7	2,306	—	—
1999-2000		—	—	—	55,569	—
	UG	2,564	2,278	—	—	—
	PGT	698	119	—	—	—
	PGR	2,027	11	2,463	—	—
2000-01		—	—	—	83,751	—
	UG	2,594	2,248	—	—	—
	PGT	508	109	—	—	—
	PGR	1,357	8	0	—	—
2001-02		—	—	—	127,921	150,507
	UG	2,591	2,531	—	—	—
	PGT	524	87	—	—	—
	PGR	643	2	2,491	—	—
2002-03		—	—	—	180,693	230,234
	UG	2,732	2,449	—	—	—
	PGT	256	114	—	—	—
	PGR	997	1	0	—	—
2003-04		—	—	—	834,033	458,237
	UG	2,608	2,476	—	—	—
	PGT	416	108	—	—	—
	PGR	628	4	0	—	—
2004-05		—	—	—	825,072	—

Not a time series		*Rates for standard teaching funding*	*Home and EC HEFCE-funded FTEs (T model)*	*Rate for PGR supervision fund*	*Widening participation funding*	*Rewarding and developing staff funding*
	UG	3,002	2,463	—	—	—
	PGT	169	111	—	—	—
	PGR	1,255	4	0	—	—
2005-06		—	—	—	990,469	—
	UG	3,090	2,499	—	—	—
	PGT	137	80	—	—	—
	PGR	—	—	0	—	—
2006-07		—	—	—	1,157,970	—
	UG	3,180	2,582	—	—	—
	PGT	233	96	—	—	—
	PGR	—	—	0	—	—
2007-08		—	—	—	1,260,809	—
	UG	3,273	2,606	—	—	—
	PGT	312	120	—	—	—
	PGR	—	—	0	—	—

Literacy: Teaching Methods

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what use his Department plans to make of the voluntary and community sector in delivering personalised learning and one-to-one tuition in English in the Making Good Progress pilot areas; and if he will make a statement. [153621]

Kevin Brennan: Reading mentors are an invaluable resource for many schools in supporting children to read well. The Department is currently providing funding to Volunteer Reading Help (VRH)—a charitable organisation which recruits, trains and places volunteers to give one-to-one help twice a week to children aged 6-11 years who find reading a challenge. Currently VRH has around 2,000 volunteer readers working with around 5,000 children.

In the 'Making Good Progress' pilot, each pilot local authority will be responsible for making arrangements for delivering tuition including overseeing the recruitment of suitable tutors, who must be qualified teachers, and organising locations for the tuition to take place. We know that some local authorities are liaising with community groups who have offered venues for tuition.

The wider picture is that over £1 billion has been invested in personalised learning by 2007-08, Our guidance to schools indicated that our priorities for the funding were: to support intervention and catch-up provision for children who have fallen behind in English and maths; to support the education of gifted and talented learners; and to help learners from deprived backgrounds to access after school and year-round activities. It is for schools to decide how to use this money to provide more tailored support for their pupils.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what delivery partners his Department will work with to deliver one-to-one tuition in reading and literacy in *(a)* Making Good Progress pilot local authorities and *(b)* other local authorities in England; and if he will make a statement; [153625]

(2) how one-to-one tuition for low-attaining pupils will be delivered under the Making Good Progress pilots; who will deliver this tuition; and if he will make a statement. [153626]

Kevin Brennan: In the "Making Good Progress" pilot one-to-one tuition will be an out of school hours programme of up to 10 hours of individual tuition in English and/or mathematics. Tutors will liaise with the class teacher to ensure that the tuition that they offer meets the needs of the child and is closely tied in to the work that the child is doing in class. Each pilot local authority will be responsible for making its own arrangements for delivering tuition, including overseeing the recruitment of suitable tutors, who must be qualified teachers, and organising locations for tuition to take place.

We are now in the third and final year of the "Every Child a Reader" pilot, funded by a collaboration between the DfES, KPMG Foundation and other charitable trusts. The pilot is helping 5,000 six-year-olds with significant learning difficulties to learn to read. It does this by placing specialist literacy teachers into schools to provide intensive one-to-one or small group support to children most in need. Results from the first year of the pilot showed that children made well over four times the normal rate of progress. As a result, a national roll-out will begin from 2008-09 benefiting over 30,000 children a year by 2011.

Ofsted: Operating Costs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the running costs of Ofsted were in each year from 1992-93 to 2006-07; what

Ofsted's planned running costs are in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [149082]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Library.

Primary Education: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much funding the *(a)* business sector and *(b)* voluntary sector has committed to the Every Child a Reader programme, broken down by financial year; [153354]

(2) how much funding the *(a)* business sector and *(b)* voluntary sector is expected to commit to the Every Child a Reader programme in each financial year until 2010-11; [153355]

(3) how much has been set aside for the Every Child a Reader programme in each of the years covered by his Department's Comprehensive Spending Review settlement announced in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's 2007 Budget; [153365]

(4) how much has been spent on the Every Child a Reader programme in each financial year since its inception. [153366]

Kevin Brennan: Contributions from business-led charitable funders to the three year Every Child a Reader pilot are approximately £1.25 million in 2005-06, £1.85 million in 2006-07 and £2.35 million in 2007-08. The 2007 pre-Budget report announced that the ECAR programme would be rolled out nationally from 2008-09, benefiting 30,000 children a year by 2010-11. We are in discussions about the funding of the national roll-out and no decisions have yet been taken.

Taking into account the Department's contribution to ECAR, a total of £10 million has been spent on the pilot since its inception in 2005-06. Broken down by financial year, this equates to approximately £1.5 million in 2005-06, £4 million in 2006-07 and £4.5 million in 2007-08.

In addition, over the three years of the ECAR pilot 2005-08, the KPMG Foundation has contributed administrative costs at £500,000 and the Department has funded the Institute of Education £1.2 million to support the national and local training infrastructure.

Primary Education: Literacy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children *(a)* have participated in the Every Child a Reader programme in each financial year since its inception and *(b)* are expected to participate in the Every Child a Reader programme in each financial year until 2010-11. [153367]

Kevin Brennan: Since the inception of the three year Every Child a Reader (ECAR) pilot, 542 children participated in the pilot in 2005-06, 1,750 children in 2006-07 and we estimate that 2,340 children will participate in 2007-08.

The Every Child a Reader programme will roll-out nationally from 2008-09. no decisions about the delivery have yet been taken but 30,000 children will benefit from the programme by 2010-11.

Pupil Exclusions: Intimidation

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the number is of incidents of bullying which have led to the exclusion of a pupil from their school in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* local authority and *(b)* type of bullying. [152163]

Kevin Brennan: The available information has been placed in the House Library.

Only three years of data relating to the reason for exclusion are currently available. The first year for which information on the reason for exclusion is available relates to the 2003/04 academic year. Exclusions data for 2005/06 academic year were published in June 2007.

Information on type of bullying is not collected centrally. The information provided shows the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions by reason, which includes 'Bullying'.

Pupils: Intimidation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment his Department has made of the value for money of expenditure on its anti-bullying policies; [153356]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1092-94, on pupils: intimidation, to how many schools the National Strategies gave additional support with anti-bullying work in each financial year since 2002-03; [153455]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1092-94, on pupils: intimidation, what percentage of schools were using the principles of the Charter to draw up effective anti-bullying policies in each financial year since 2002-03; [153456]

(4) pursuant to the answers of 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 795W and 4 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1092W, on pupils: intimidation, if he will clarify the allocation of funds for tackling bullying to *(a)* organisations and *(b)* programmes. [153615]

Kevin Brennan: PricewaterhouseCoopers recently completed an evaluation of the Department's programme of work with the Anti-Bullying Alliance, the main organisation which the Department funds for anti-bullying work. The PWC report was generally positive, but suggested that some elements of the work should be put out to tender. The Department is currently preparing tender documents for future elements of the anti-bullying work programme.

The Department's programme of work with the National Strategies Regional Advisers—to spread good practice and work with identified schools to support and challenge them in improving their anti-bullying policies and strategies—began this financial year. I refer the hon. Member to previous answer 147174, making clear that data on the number of schools supported are not held by the Department.

The National Strategies began to monitor use of the Anti-Bullying Charter to inform effective policy and practice in secondary schools in March 2006. They

have recorded a steady increase in the use of the principles of the Charter over the twice-yearly reporting cycle. They began to monitor primary schools as well in March 2007. The National Strategies advise that nearly 75 per cent. of secondary schools and over 50 per cent. of primary schools are using the principles of the Charter to draw up their own anti-bullying policies.

I refer the hon. Member to answers provided previously on the issue of funding (141379, and 147173), which detailed overall allocations for anti-bullying work in each financial year since 2002 as well as the funds given to organisations that the Department has worked with. Funding not allocated to external organisations was used to support a variety of activities, including anti-bullying resources such as DVDs and hard-copies of guidance documents, local and national events, the preparation of guidance, research, and publicity campaigns.

Pupils: Qualifications

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to his answer of 5 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1127W, on pupils: qualifications, on what basis it was decided that a CACHE level 2 certificate in child care and education is equivalent to five GCSEs at A* to C for the purposes of the secondary school (GCSE and equivalent) performance tables. [149869]

Jim Knight: The performance points for qualifications reported in the Achievement and Attainment Tables are determined by the size of each qualification and the challenge it represents, where size is an indication of the time spent by a centre in supporting a learner and challenge based on the grades it is possible to achieve at a particular level within the National Qualifications Framework. Size is converted into a measure based on the guided learning hours attached to a qualification, with GCSEs having a size measure of one. The Cache Certificate in Child Care and Education at Level 2 currently accredited (Qualification Accreditation Number 100/0645/X) requires 480 guided learning hours which converts to a size measure of five.

A revised version of this qualification has recently been accredited into the National Qualifications Framework (Qualification Accreditation Number 500/1886/3) and will be available to learners from 1 November 2007. The revised version will require 300 guided learning hours and will, therefore, have a size measure of three.

The size indicators are based on set ranges of guided learning hours, or bands. At Levels 1 and 2, a qualification with between 90 and 144 guided learning hours (such as a GCSE) will have a size indicator of one, while a qualification with between 415 and 504 guided learning hours (such as the CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Child Care and Education) will have a size indicator of five. For the purposes of the SCAAT, the CACHE Level 2 Certificate has a size equivalence of five GCSEs.

The challenge indicators are based on grades. Performance points are assigned to each grade within a grade range at each National Qualifications Framework level. An A* grade for a GCSE will attract 58 points, while a Distinction in a qualification with a three grade scheme such as the CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Child Care and Education, will attract 55 points. The points for a qualification are then multiplied by its size indicator to obtain its overall performance points scores.

The performance points that a qualification attracts are used solely as a measure of an institution's performance, and are not a reflection of the amount of work a learner may need to undertake to achieve the qualification.

A revised version of this qualification has recently been accredited into the National Qualifications Framework (Qualification Accreditation Number 500/1886/3) and will be available for learners from 1 November 2007. This revised version has a volume of 300 guided learning hours and will therefore have a size indicator of three.

Pupils: Questionnaires

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what use Ofsted will make of its lifestyle questionnaires for years six to eight pupils; [149432]

(2) how many complaints he has received about Ofsted's inquiry form for primary school pupils about drink, drugs and local facilities; [149438]

(3) what his policy is on preserving anonymity of pupils when answering Ofsted questionnaires about lifestyle. [149439]

Jim Knight: HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member to explain how Ofsted will use information obtained from its questionnaires about lifestyles. A copy of her reply has been placed in the House Library.

I am aware of two letters received by the Department about the recent 'Tellus2' survey undertaken by Ofsted, both of which were referred to Ofsted for reply. I understand that Ofsted itself received seven queries from primary schools during the response period, three of which questioned the general suitability of some questions for younger children. Of these three, one specifically mentioned the question on drinking. These queries did not result in a complaint. Since the closure of the survey, Ofsted has received nine communications from parents, of which two expressed concern about the nature of the questions and two specifically mentioned the question on drinking. One of these latter two also mentioned the question on smoking. The primary school questionnaire did not include a question on drugs.

Respondents to such questionnaires quite rightly have their anonymity protected. In the case of the Tellus2 survey, children and young people responded using an individual, randomly generated 'log in' identifier, rather than their names or dates of birth. Postcode information was collected, at the request of local authorities, to enable summary information to be produced about groups of children living in different parts of an authority. However, this was on the basis that data would only be reported if no individuals or schools could be identified from it.

Pupils: School Meals

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance he has issued to schools on checking the contents of children's home-made packed-lunches; and if he will make a statement. [150817]

Kevin Brennan: The Department has not issued guidance to schools on checking the contents of children's home-made packed-lunches.

The School Food Trust guidance on food-based standards for school lunches contains advice to caterers and schools on how to ensure packed lunches they provide meet the standards. In addition, the Food Standards Agency has produced guidance on providing healthy packed-lunches on its website.

Some schools have school food policies that ban certain products from being brought into school in packed lunches. If schools do want to adopt such policies, we would strongly recommend that they consult with parents.

School Meals: Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average daily expenditure on school meals by each local education authority was in each year since 1996-97. [152300]

Kevin Brennan: The Department does not collect data on the average daily expenditure on school meals by each local education authority.

School Meals: Nutrition

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what changes there have been to the consumption of *(a)* chips, *(b)* burgers and *(c)* high fat foods in schools since 2004. [152299]

Kevin Brennan: New food-based nutritional standards were introduced in September 2006 for school lunches and similar standards will apply to other school food from September 2007. Nutrient-based standards will be introduced for school lunches in September 2008 for primary schools and September 2009 for secondary schools.

These standards require that no more than two deep fried foods can be served in any single week. That includes deep-fried chips and oven-baked products which have been deep-fried as part of the manufacturing process. Limits have also been placed on the serving of meat products which mean that burgers can be served only once every two weeks. The nutrient-based standards will place limits on the levels of fat that can be served as part of a school lunch.

School Meals: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of new standards for school meals on levels of demand; and if he will make a statement; [152447]

(2) what his estimate is of the total school meal uptake in secondary schools in *(a)* 2003-04 and *(b)* 2006-07; and if he will make a statement; [152140]

(3) what information is collected by his Department on the costs and take-up of school meals; and if he will make a statement; [152297]

(4) how many and what proportion of pupils in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools took school meals in each reporting period since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [152298]

(5) what recent representations he has received from the Local Authorities Caterers Association on school meals. [152139]

Kevin Brennan: The Department does not collect information about the cost of school meals or school lunch take-up. It has also not made an assessment of the new standards for school meals on levels of demand. However, the School Food Trust will be publishing in August the results of its annual survey on school lunch take-up. Early figures from that survey indicate that take-up in primary schools is down by 1.8 percentage points (to 40.6 per cent.) and in secondary schools by 5.3 percentage points (to 37.4 per cent.). And a recent survey by the Local Authority Caterers Association reported that total meal take-up has dropped over the three year period from 2003/04 to 2006/07. In primary schools the drop is 3 percentage points (to 40 per cent.) and in secondary schools 7 percentage points (to 35 per cent.).

The take-up figures are not unexpected as schools often experience falling demand with the introduction of healthier food. But we are in the early stages of our long-term ambition to transform school food: and we have other measures planed for the short and the longer term to promote school lunch and encourage children to eat more healthily. We also know that where schools take steps to manage the changes carefully through, for example, good marketing and pupil and parent involvement, take up can rise sharply.

Schools: Catering

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of companies contracted by local authorities to provide catering services *(a)* lost money, *(b)* broke even and *(c)* made a profit in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2005-06 and (iii) 2006-07; what estimate he has made of the number in each category in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement; [152131]

(2) what the average school meal selling price to parents has been in each year since 2000-01; and if he will make a statement. [152145]

Kevin Brennan: The Department does not collect information on the financial position of caterers or on the average school meal selling price. However, a recent survey from the Local Authority Caterers Association provided information on 2006/07 trading outturn forecasts for LA caterers which indicated that 9 per cent. would have a surplus, 26 per cent. would break even and 65 per cent. faced a deficit. The same survey reported on average school meal selling prices in

primary schools, where the data shows an increase of 20 per cent. (from 1.37 to 1.64) between 2003/04 and 2006/07.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff have been employed in the school meals service in each year since 1985-86. [152134]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Schools: Disabled

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding is available for the improvement of disabled access in Ribble Valley schools. [149065]

Jim Knight: Detailed information for Ribble Valley schools is not held centrally as the Department makes capital allocations mainly on a local authority area basis. All local authorities and schools receive capital allocations to support their local priorities. This is in addition to our strategic programmes such as Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and, from 2008-09, the roll out of the new Primary Capital Programme. In addition to Lancashire's investment through its BSF wave 1 project, over the current spending review period, 2005-06 to 2007-08, Lancashire authority and its schools have been allocated capital support of just over £139 million, of which over £41 million was allocated to Lancashire authority through the Single Capital Pot, including £4.4 million to support: the Schools Access Initiative to help make schools increasingly accessible.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what increased resources are provided to schools on the basis of higher staff costs in some parts of the country; what the basis is of this allocation policy; and if he will make a statement. [150886]

Kevin Brennan: The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) gives local authorities allocations for multi year periods: the allocations for 2007-08 will depend on pupil numbers in schools in January 2007 and the per pupil guaranteed unit of funding.

The DSG per pupil Guaranteed Unit of Funding is unchanged from that set in December 2005 and in:

2006-07 was based on spend per pupil in 2005-06, with: a basic increase of 5 per cent. per pupil (5.1 per cent. for London authorities); and headroom allocated to reflect five ministerial priorities.

2007-08 was based on the 2006-07 DSG Guaranteed Unit of Funding, with: a basic increase of 5 per cent. per pupil (5.1 per cent. for London authorities); and headroom allocated to reflect three ministerial priorities.

As the DSG per pupil guaranteed unit of funding is based on spend per pupil in 2005-06 It will: reflect the higher expenditure caused by the higher staff costs in some parts of the country; and be influenced by Government funding in 2005-06 (see as follows). Each of the ministerial priorities included an Area Cost Adjustment (ACA) factor which reflects two kinds of difference between areas in costs:

differences in labour costs (the 'Labour Cost Adjustment'); and

differences in business rates paid on local authority premises (the 'Rates Cost Adjustment')

The formula used to calculate Schools Formula Spending Share for 2005-06 and previous years took account of the higher staff costs in some parts of the country through the inclusion of the ACA factor.

It is a matter for each local authority—in consultation with their Schools Forums—to determine the level of funding between different providers, based on an assessment of local circumstances.

Schools: Religious Sects

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance he has issued to schools on dealings with organisations which have been the subject of allegations of cultish behaviour, with particular regards to *(a)* Friends of the Western Buddhist Order, *(b)* New Kadampa Tradition and *(c)* Soka Gakkai International; and if he will make a statement. [152364]

Kevin Brennan: The Department has issued no such guidance. Religious education syllabuses for maintained schools without a religious designation are drawn up by an agreed syllabus conference which advises the local education authority. The non-statutory framework for Religious education was published in October 2004 and provides that pupils should be taught about Christianity, at least one other principle religion and a religious community with a significant local presence. It is up to schools and local authorities to decide upon resources and teaching methods and this would include checking the credentials of any organisation they chose to work with.

Schools: Sports

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools which have offered competitive school sports in each year since 1997. [152164]

Kevin Brennan: Competitive games activities have been compulsory for all 5-14 year olds as part of the PE National Curriculum since 1992.

The 2005/06 School Sport Survey, which collects data from schools in School Sport Partnerships, found that 97 per cent. (16,436) of schools held at least one competitive sports day in the year. In addition 10,725 competitive festivals of sport were staged.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what average amount of time a school of each type spent in special measures in the latest period for which figures are available. [151238]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the information requested, in respect of schools removed from special measures during the autumn term 2006 and the spring term 2007.

Type of school	Number of schools removed from special measures (including those closing or requiring significant improvement)	Total number of months spent in special measures	Average number of months in special measures
Primary	50	807	16
Secondary	25	578	23
Special	4	72	18
Pupil Referral Units	3	43	14

Turnaround times for schools in special measures have reduced since 1997. For example, the average time primary schools spent in special measures in 1997/98 academic year was 23 months. The equivalent figure for secondary schools was 28 months.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools *(a)* in each local education authority and *(b)* of each type were classified as causing concern for more than two years in each of the last 10 years; and how many of those schools have since been closed. [151240]

Kevin Brennan: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Library.

Schools: Termination of Employment

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many members of school staff in each local education authority had their employment terminated because of inappropriate relations with a student in the last 12 months. [151217]

Kevin Brennan: Where employers in the education sector have ceased to use the services of a person because they consider that person is unsuitable to work with children, or they would have ceased to use the person's services where the person has left their employment, they are required to refer information to the Department. In addition, the Police refer to the Department cautions and convictions for those who have been working in educational establishments in accordance with Home Office Circular 6 / 2006 (The Notifiable Occupations Scheme). Therefore, school staff and others working with children are referred to the Department for a range of reasons including convictions or cautions for a wide range of offences, allegations involving various forms of misconduct, and referrals on the grounds of ill health.

The total number of all types of referrals received by the Department over the 12 months until 31 December 2006 was 2,784. Identifying how many members of school staff in each local authority had their employment terminated because of inappropriate relations with a student in the last 12 months would require detailed checks to be made of individual case records and this would incur disproportionate cost.

Schools: Vivisection

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers he plans to receive training to deal with vivisection in the classroom; and which organisations have been approached to contribute to that training. [151597]

Jim Knight: This Department is working in conjunction with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to launch a DVD based on the play 'Every Breath'. This and supporting materials for teachers will be available to schools in October.

We have not yet appointed an organisation to develop and deliver training for teachers on discussing controversial topics In lessons, such as experiments involving animals.

Teachers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many secondary schools in England had one fully qualified *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry, *(c)* German, *(d)* Mandarin and *(e)* Urdu teacher in the most recent year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [153431]

(2) what proportion of teachers were on *(a)* long-term and *(b)* short-term sick leave in each local authority area in the most recent reporting period for which information is available; and if he will make a statement; [153432]

(3) what proportion of *(a)* teacher and *(b)* head teacher posts were vacant in (i) the latest reporting period and (ii) each year from 1997 to 2007; [153433]

(4) what proportion of secondary school teachers have trained to teach in their degree subject; [153435]

(5) what his estimate is of the total staff employed by each local education authority in each year from 1997-98; [153436]

(6) what his estimate is of the ratio of teachers to teaching assistants in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each year since 1990. [153437]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on School Workforce has been published in SFR 15/2007 "School Workforce in England (including pupil:teacher ratios and pupil:adult ratios), January 2007 (Provisional)" which was released on 26 April 2007. This is available on the Department's website via the following link: http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000725/index.shtml and is also available in the Library. This is an annual publication, which includes tables for January 1997 to 2007 on teacher numbers, support staff numbers, teacher vacancies, pupil:teacher ratios (PTRs) and pupil:adult ratios (PARs), teacher ethnicity and teacher sickness absence.

Teachers: Qualifications

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the minimum entry standards are for *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary teachers in terms of (i) GCSEs, (ii) A levels and (iii) other qualifications; and if he will make a statement. [153434]

Kevin Brennan: In order to enter an initial teacher training programme, trainee teachers must have at least a grade 'C' or equivalent in GCSE maths and English. For those teaching primary pupils, a grade 'C' or equivalent qualification in a science subject is also required.

Initial teacher training providers will typically also set additional requirements for entry to initial teacher training courses such as A levels, NVQs or work experience.

For a postgraduate course, trainee teachers must also have a degree. This also applies to the employment based routes into teaching; with the exception of the Registered Teacher Programme which requires that trainees have completed two years (240 CATS) of higher education.

Regardless of the route, a first degree or an equivalent and passing the professional skills tests in numeracy, literacy and information communication technology is a requirement for the award of qualified teacher status (QTS).

These requirements reflect a belief that all teachers should have a good standard of knowledge in the core subjects and that teaching is a job towards which our best and brightest young people should aspire. They also give parents confidence in the knowledge and competence of the teachers education their children.

Teachers: Training

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people are training to become *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school teachers, broken down by subject area; and how many were in such training in each of the last five years. [151179]

Kevin Brennan: The following tables show the total number of trainees on ITT courses between 2002/03 and 2006/07 with the break down of secondary figures by subject, for mainstream and Employment Based Routes (EBR) trainees.

Number of trainees on mainstream primary and secondary ITT courses between 2002/03 and 2006/07

	Total number of trainees on ITT courses				
	2002/03	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
Primary	28,240	29,740	30,720	31,030	30,890
Secondary	21,040	22,330	21,720	21,020	20,480
Secondary by subject					
Mathematics	2,160	2,440	2,470	2,370	2,400
English (inc. drama)	2,440	2,440	2,380	2,260	2,250
Science	3,250	3,330	3,260	3,330	3,390
Modern Languages	1,890	1,970	1,750	1,580	1,580
Technology[1]	3,340	3,540	3,350	3,190	3,230
History	1,000	1,020	940	870	760
Geography	1,090	1,080	970	860	810
Physical education	2,820	3,010	2,910	2,880	2,780
Art	910	960	880	800	660
Music	750	750	710	700	690
Religious education	620	630	680	720	850
Citizenship	190	220	250	230	240
Other[2]	500	540	580	540	500
Vocational subjects[3]	0	160	280	350	330
Fast Track[4]	90	240	310	330	0

[1] Technology includes design and technology, information and communications technology, business studies, graphics, textiles and food technology.
[2] Other includes classics, dance, economics, media, performing arts and social studies.
[3] Vocational subjects include applied art and design, leisure and tourism, applied ICT, applied science, applied business, engineering, manufacturing, and health and social care.
[4] The Fast Track recruitment programme ended in 2005/06.
Notes:
1. Figures for mainstream trainees include universities and other HE institutions, SCITT and OU, but exclude employment based routes.
2. Figures for 2006/07 are provisional and are subject to change.
3. Figures include trainees who are re-sitting all or part of their ITT programme.
4. Figures are for the total number of trainees on ITT courses therefore includes all trainees at all stages on courses of 1-5 year durations.
5. Figures are individually rounded to the nearest 10 and may not sum.
Source:
ITT Trainee Number Census.

Number of trainees on Employment Based Routes primary and secondary ITT courses between 2002/03 and 2006/07

	Total number of trainees on ITT courses				
	2002/03	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
Primary	1,790	2,650	2,900	2,890	2,810
Secondary	3,180	4,370	4,800	4,610	4,520

Number of trainees on Employment Based Routes primary and secondary ITT courses between 2002/03 and 2006/07

	Total number of trainees on ITT courses				
	2002/03	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
Secondary by subject					
Mathematics	400	580	570	530	480
English (inc. drama)	670	880	950	960	940
Science	530	670	750	680	600
Modern Languages	230	320	290	260	230
Technology[1]	680	820	860	780	690
History	90	140	160	170	190
Geography	60	100	110	90	100
Physical education	150	310	450	430	510
Art	90	110	150	160	160
Music	80	140	130	150	170
Religious education	80	90	110	130	150
Citizenship	20	40	40	40	50
Other[2]	110	150	190	170	180
Vocational subjects	0	20	50	60	60

[1] Technology includes design and technology (including textiles), food technology, information communications technology and business studies.

[2] Other includes dance, humanities, law, media studies, PHSE, psychology, classics, economics, social sciences and social studies. The category also includes recruits to Key Stage 2/3 with no subject specialism from 2002/03 to 2005/06.

Notes:

1. Numbers shown are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures include trainees through the Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP), the Registered Teacher Programme (RTP), the Overseas Trained Teacher Programme (OTTP) and Teach First (TF).
3. Figures are taken from the employment based routes data management system (EBRDMS). 2006/07 figures are as at 23 July 2007 and are subject to change. Teach First began in 2003/04 and TF data has been included on EBRDMS since 2005/06. Figures for TF for 2003/04 and 2004/05 are taken from the Teach First organisation.
4. Trainees who withdrew before their programme start date are removed from the aforementioned data.
5. The aforementioned table is based on the assumption that all RTP trainees complete their training within two academic years. Therefore RTP trainees are counted in both the academic year in which their programme starts and in the following academic year. It should be noted that some courses may in fact be spread over three or more academic years.
6. The aforementioned table is based on the assumption that all GTP and OTTP trainees complete their training within one academic year. Therefore GTP and OTTP trainees are counted only once, in the academic year in which their programme starts. It should be noted that some courses may in fact be spread over two or more academic years.
7. TF is a two year programme, which includes one year's initial teacher training. Therefore TF trainees are counted once in the academic year in which their programme starts.

Source:

TDA Employment Based Routes Database and the Teach First organisation.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on training teachers at *(a)* the University of York and *(b)* York St. John University in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2006-07. [152196]

Jim Knight: The main source of university funding for initial teacher training (ITT) is mainstream grant funding allocated and paid to them by the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA). The allocations to these two institutions were as follows:

	Mainstream grant	
	£ million	*Number of places*
1996/97		
College of Ripon and York St. John	2.2	[1]771
University of York	0.5	156
2006/07		
College of Ripon and York St. John	3.8	827
University of York	0.8	134

[1] ITT places.

The TDA does not hold or collect information on how much either of these two universities spends directly on ITT. Although mainstream grant funding represents the single biggest source of funding for ITT, there are other sources such as tuition fees; and individual universities have discretion about how they allocate their total resources between ITT and non-ITT activities.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average cost was of training a *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school teacher in each financial year since 1999-2000. [153357]

Kevin Brennan: The Training and Development Agency for Schools in England (TDA) allocates grant funding to accredited initial teacher training (ITT) providers for the purpose of delivering initial teacher training courses. The amount of funding is based on the number of ITT trainees recruited and registered on courses. The unit of funding varies according to the type of ITT. The TDA does not collect information on how providers use that funding as the cost is only a comparatively small part of the total cost of ITT. Therefore, the Department does not hold comparable information on the average cost of training primary and secondary teachers.

Teachers: Yorkshire and Humberside

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time equivalent *(a)* teachers and *(b)* non-teaching assistants there were in local education authority schools in (i) Yorkshire and Humber and (ii) City of York in (A) 1997 and (B) 2006. [152191]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of regular teachers, teaching assistants and other support staff in local authority maintained schools in Yorkshire and the Humber Government Office Region and the City of York local authority In January 1997 and 2006.

Full-time equivalent regular teachers, teaching assistants and other support staff in local authority maintained schools in Yorkshire and the Humber Government Office Region and the City of York local authority, January 1997 and 2006

	Regular teachers[1]		*Teaching assistants*[2, 3]		*Support staff*[2, 4] *(excluding teaching assistants)*	
	1997	*2006*	*1997*	*2006*	*1997*	*2006*
Yorkshire and the Humber	41,900	44,900	7,700	17,330	7,160	14,400
City of York	1,290	1,370	140	500	180	280

[1] Source: DCSF annual survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies (618g).
[2] Source: DGSF School Census.
[3] Teaching assistants include special needs support staff and minority ethnic support staff.
[4] Support staff include administrative staff, technicians and other support staff.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

York College: Finance

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the budget for York College was in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms in each year since 2004-05. [152195]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

Investment in further education provision, including that delivered by general further education colleges like York college, has risen nationally by 48 per cent. in real terms between 1997 and 2005.

My Department does not hold information on publicly funded post-16 places at individual provider level. I am therefore copying this to Mark Haysom, the Learning and Skills Council's Chief Executive, so that he can respond with the detailed information you have requested. A copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

JUSTICE

Feltham Young Offender Institution and Remand Centre

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 949W, on Feltham Young Offender Institution and Remand Centre, who was responsible for carrying out the investigation into the so-called Muslim Olympics at the institution; who commissioned the investigation; who heard the disciplinary proceedings; and if he will make a statement. [153708]

Mr. Hanson: The then governor of Feltham commissioned the investigation and was in charge of the subsequent disciplinary hearing. The then head of race relations was the investigating officer.

Fixed Penalties: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many fixed penalty notices were issued by Essex Police in *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004, *(c)* 2005 and *(d)* 2006; how many of those notices have been paid; how many have been sent to be determined in court; and how many have remained unanswered. [152780]

Mr. Hanson: The information collected by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform identifies the number of motoring offences fixed penalty notices issued by result at police force area level. Data are collected on the disposal, (i.e. paid, fine registration certificate issued etc.). However because of the time taken for the procedures for payment to be enforced the data are collected approximately nine months later than the period of issue and published in the following years' annual volume covering motoring offences.

2003 data are provided in Table A. 2004 data will be published in the autumn in the publication "Offences Relating to Motor Vehicles, England and Wales 2005, Supplementary Tables". It is expected that 2005 data will be published in 2008 and 2006 data in 2009.

The penalty notice for disorder (PND) scheme was rolled out to police forces in England and Wales in 2004 under the provisions of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. Data on the number of the penalty notices issued, paid, contested in court as well as unpaid PNDs registered as fines, for 2004 and 2005 in Essex, are provided in Table B. In addition, provisional data show that a further 4,357 PNDs were issued in 2006; detailed information on the number paid, contested in court and fine registered will be available this autumn.

Under the scheme, the police are able to issue penalty notices of either £50 or £80 for a specified range of minor disorder offences. The recipient of a PND has 21 days to either pay the penalty or seek a court hearing. If the recipient takes no action and the notice remains unanswered, a fine of one-and-a-half times the penalty amount is registered against them.

The courts are responsible for enforcing PNDs in the same way as any other unpaid fine.

Table A: Fixed penalty notices issued by result in Essex police force area, 2003

Fixed penalty notices	*Endorsable*	*Non-endorsable (driver present)*	*Non-endorsable (driver absent)*	*Total*
Number of notices				
Paid within 28 days	85,041	5,918	6,443	97,402
Payment accepted after 28 days	10,250	941	2,497	13,688
Sub-total paid	95,291	6,859	8,940	111,090
Process issued	—	—	5	5
No further action taken	34	110	1,171	1,315
Fine registration certificate issued[1]	273	1,818	2,190	4,281
Total	95,598	8,787	12,306	116,691
Percentage of notices				
Paid within 28 days	88.96	67.35	52.36	83.47
Payment accepted after 28 days	10.72	10.71	20.29	11.73
Sub-total paid	99.68	78.06	72.65	95.20
Process issued	—	—	0.04	0.00
No further action taken	0.04	1.25	9.52	1.13
Fine registration certificate issued[1]	0.29	20.69	17.80	3.67
Total	100	100	100	100

[1] Includes outcomes not finalised.

Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Fixed penalty notices collection held by Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Table B: Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued, paid in full, contested in court and fine registered in Essex police force area, 2004 and 2005[1]

	Number issued	*Paid in full*	*Court hearing requested*	*Fine registered*
2004	2,802	1,681	—	1,054
2005	4,454	2,789	3	1,464

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he will answer the letter to his predecessor transferred from the Home Office and dated 29 May, from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Paul Southworth. [152954]

Mr. Hanson: The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor replied to the right hon. Member on 26 July.

Police Cautions: Yorkshire and Humberside

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many cautions were given to those under 16 in *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* West Yorkshire in each of the last five years; [151448]

(2) how many cautions were issued in West Yorkshire in each of the last five years; for what categories of offences cautions were issued; and whether cautions may be repeated for the same offence. [151284]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

The number of persons aged 10 to 15 cautioned for all offences in West Yorkshire police force area for the years 2001 to 2005, along with the number of defendants of all ages cautioned by offence type in West Yorkshire police force area, and the number of defendants of all ages cautioned for sexual offences in England and Wales for the years 2001 to 2005 can be viewed in the following tables. This information is from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Information on cautions collected by the police is only reported to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform broken down at force area level, not by police division, so it is not possible to separately identify the number of cautions in Leeds from our data.

Technically an offender could receive a second caution for a similar offence but it should be in very extenuating circumstances. The Home Office Circular discourages repeat use of the same penalty with the same offender. Someone who offends again needs to know that the next response will be a tougher one. And where a serious offence is committed, then the case should go to court.

Therefore both national and locally held records must be checked before a caution is given. If the

suspect has previously received a caution then a further caution should not normally be considered. If there has been a sufficient lapse of time to suggest that a previous caution has had a "significant deterrent effect" then a caution can be administered, but it is at the discretion of the police and CPS. The lapse of time varies, in practice, between forces.

Number of defendants aged 10 to 15 cautioned for all offences by West Yorkshire police for the years 2001 to 2005[1,2]

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
West Yorkshire police force area					
Age 10-15	3,099	3,158	3,116	4,140	5,149

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used. Our ref:PQ151448
Source:
RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice.

Number of defendants of all ages cautioned by offence type in West Yorkshire police force area and the number of defendants of all ages cautioned for sexual offences in England and Wales for the years 2001 to 2005[1,2]

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
West Yorkshire					
Violence against the person	1,109	1,670	2,493	4,277	6,038
Burglary	401	390	346	485	563
Robbery	37	37	29	41	49
Theft and handling stolen goods	2,688	2,423	2,538	3,138	3,635
Fraud and forgery	208	210	189	279	332
Criminal damage	52	76	83	101	149
Drug offences	934	1,271	1,294	1,457	1,674
Other indictable offences	139	165	323	362	520
Summary offences (excluding motoring)	3,474	3,787	3,951	4,743	4,859
Sexual offences	29	44	31	76	85
England and Wales					
Sexual offences	1,240	1,203	1,359	1,553	1,761

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used. Our ref: PQ 151284 and 151285.
Source:
RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Expenditure

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much has been spent from the public purse on adult education in each of the last five years. [150364]

Bill Rammell: The figures requested are shown in the following table.

Adult participation funding excluding learner support expenditure

£ millions

	Financial years				
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
19+ Further Education	1,692	1,695	1,882	1,902	2,011
Train to Gain/Employer Training Pilot	n/a	7	33	89	142
19+ Workbased Learning	154	211	213	243	232
Personal and Community Development Learning (PCDL)	153	194	225	237	229
Adults Total	1,999	2,107	2,353	2,471	2,614

Adult Education: Liverpool

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of changes in the level of funding for non-priority adult education in Liverpool over the past two years; [150770]

(2) what procedure he has put in place to enable him to assess the adequacy of the Learning and Skills Council's allocation of funds for non-priority adult education in Liverpool. [150772]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 19 July 2007]:* We have increased public investment in further education by 48 per cent. in real terms between 1997-98 and 2005-06 and funding for adult education has increased by 7 per cent. between 2005-06 and 2007-08.

In October 2005 the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) published "Priorities for Success" which set out our funding strategy for 2006-07 and 2007-08 and was updated in October 2006 with the publication of the LSC's Annual Statement of Priorities. The strategy set out our funding priorities and in line with our Skills Strategy focused public funding on helping adults to develop the skills they will need for sustained employment and further progression in learning.

The LSC has worked with providers across the country including in Liverpool to align provision to meet these priorities. Where providers have previously delivered large volumes of short courses and other lower priority activity then this has resulted in significant shifts of funding towards more substantive programmes that meet national priorities. In these circumstances the LSC have looked at the extent to which provision can be aligned in a single year taking into account historical levels of delivery and the needs of the local community.

In terms of provision outside of these priorities we have safeguarded £210 million for personal and community development learning, including leisure learning in both 2006-07 and 2007-08. We also recognise the need to ensure that we have sufficient provision at lower levels to support progression through to higher level qualifications and we will be supporting this activity through the Foundation Learning Tier.

Adult Education: Qualifications

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people have passed qualifications on adult education courses in each of the last five years; and to what level. [150437]

Bill Rammell: The numbers of successes and success rates by level for adult Further Education and Work Based Learning are shown in the following tables. Similar information is not centrally collated for the other strands of adult education.

Successes and success rates in LSC funded FE provision for adults (19+)

Qualification type	Successes (thousands) 2004/05					Success rates (percentage)				
	2001/02	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2005/06	2001/02	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2005/06
Long[1] courses										
Level 1	296	401	399	378	331	50	59	59	61	64
Level 2	258	261	262	280	288	49	54	54	60	65
Full Level 2 learning aims	n/a	64	65	83	99	n/a	54	55	60	66
Not full level 2 learning aims	n/a	197	197	198	188	n/a	54	54	60	65
Level 3	185	170	173	176	178	50	53	54	58	63
Level 4, 5 and HE	11	13	7	10	12	38	47	59	59	62
Level not specified	192	66	72	79	66	62	68	63	72	76
All Long[1] courses	948	917	913	923	875	52	57	57	61	65
All Short[2] courses	1,832	2,124	2,131	2,116	1,637	75	82	82	83	85
All Qualifications	2,773	3,023	3,044	3,040	2,513	65	72	72	75	77

[1] Long courses are of expected length of 24 weeks or more
[2] Short courses are of expected length of less than 24 weeks

Successes and success rates in LSC work based learning provision for adults (19+)

Programme type	Successes[1] (thousands)					Current success rates (percentage)				
	2001/02	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2005/06	2001/02	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2005/06
Advanced Apprentice-ships (Level 3)	10	12	12	13	17	31	39	44	50	60
Apprentice-ships at level 2	10	14	17	24	28	31	35	42	52	59
All frameworks or NVQs[2]	25	35	39	44	49	33	40	46	53	60

[1] Successfully completing framework or NVQ component or both.
[2] Includes NVQ training not separately identified above.

Adult Learning Grant

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when the full guidance for the administration of the adult learning grant will be issued. [153012]

Mr. Lammy: The Adult Learning Grant (ALG) provides income assessed support of up to £30 per week to adults studying full time for their first full Level 2 or first full Level 3 qualification. Following a successful pilot period during which ALG has been shown to improve retention and success rates among learners it is being introduced across England from September 2007. The scheme is administered by a single helpline, Assessment and Payment body, with further education colleges providing voluntary support to applicants. Outline guidance was distributed to all colleges in June. Full, detailed administrative guidance will be published in early August 2007.

Apprentices

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of trainees *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each sector progressed from an apprenticeship at level 2 to an advanced apprenticeship in the latest period for which figures are available. [153468]

Mr. Lammy: Data relating to progression for apprenticeship to advanced apprenticeship is not currently available in a comprehensive manner because of the lack of unique learner identifiers in the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) individualised learner record (ILR) data prior to 2007/08. The unique learner number (ULN) will enable the linking of two mutually exclusive records and episodes of learning to estimate the volume of learners progressing to advanced apprenticeship. The ULN is expected to be rolled out to all provision from January 2008, with a plan to compel use by LSC funded provision from September 2008. It will then take some years to work through the system before the ULN can be used to comprehensively monitor the progress of learners across provision, where there has been a break in the training.

Assessments: Prisoners

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he plans

to take in conjunction with the Prison Service to resolve security and other access issues so that serving prisoners may take vocational examinations which are available solely on-line. [153384]

Mr. Lammy: The 'Reducing Re-Offending Through Skills and Employment: Next Steps', published jointly by the former department for education and skills, the Home Office and the department for Work and Pensions in December 2006 gave a clear commitment to improve the use of technology in delivering learning to offenders in custody, as well as offering more widespread access to ICT qualifications.

DIUS are working closely with NOMS on an initiative to deliver resettlement services electronically to offenders. The Programme for Offender Learning and Resettlement Information Services (POLARIS) is being trialled in selected London prisons to develop a secure means of offering prisoners access to e-learning, including on-line examinations, and other resettlement services.

Degrees: Ethnic Groups

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many and what percentage of students from *(a)* Asian Bangladeshi, *(b)* Asian Chinese, *(c)* Asian Indian, *(d)* Asian Pakistani, *(e)* other Asian, *(f)* Black African, *(g)* Black Caribbean, *(h)* Other Black, *(i)* White and *(j)* other ethnic backgrounds (i) applied and (ii) were accepted for (A) full-time and (b) part-time first undergraduate honours degrees in each year since 1997; [148119]

(2) how many and what percentage of students from *(a)* Asian Bangladeshi, *(b)* Asian Chinese, *(c)* Asian Indian, *(d)* Asian Pakistani, *(e)* other Asian, *(f)* Black African, *(g)* Black Caribbean, *(h)* Other Black, *(i)* White and *(j)* other ethnic backgrounds (i) applied and (ii) were accepted for (A) foundation degrees, (B) undergraduate honours degrees and (C) HNDs in each year since 1997. [148120]

Bill Rammell: The available information is shown in the tables. The figures are taken from data collected by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) which are limited to students who apply to full-time undergraduate courses via the UCAS application system. The figures do not therefore cover part-time students, nor those full-time students who apply directly to Higher Education Institutions.

UCAS do not allocate applicants to specific course types because students can submit up to six applications to one or more of First Degree, Foundation Degree HMD or other courses. For acceptances, the figures for Degrees include both first degrees and foundation degrees.

A new classification of ethnic group was introduced in 2001 which allowed those students of mixed ethnicity to be classified in more detail. Figures for 2000 and earlier are therefore not strictly comparable with those for 2001 and later years.

UK Domiciled Applicants by Ethnic Group, UK Higher Education Institutions, Year of Entry 1997 to 2006

	1997		1998		1999		2000	
Ethnic Group	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Asian Bangladeshi	2,461	0.7	2,574	0.7	2,854	0.8	3,013	0.8
Asian Chinese	3,477	0.9	3,353	0.9	3,570	1.0	3,594	1.0
Asian Indian	15,317	4.1	15,910	4.4	16,590	4.6	17,024	4.7
Asian Pakistani	9,124	2.4	9,482	2.6	9,944	2.8	10,223	2.8
Other Asian	4,581	1.2	4,553	1.3	4,606	1.3	4,699	1.3
Black African	7,687	2.1	7,061	2.0	7,091	2.0	7,517	2.1
Black Caribbean	4,832	1.3	4,547	1.3	4,540	1.3	4,370	1.2
Other Black	2,296	0.6	2,431	0.7	2,517	0.7	2,724	0.8
White	315,137	84.4	300,927	83.8	299,620	83.2	298,395	82.7
Other ethnic backgrounds	6,367	1.7	6,346	1.8	6,749	1.9	7,171	2.0
Total with known ethnic backgrounds	373,276	100.0	359,182	100.0	360,080	100.0	360,730	100.0
Unknown	27,048	—	32,404	—	30,610	—	30,361	—
Total including unknown	398,327	—	389,588	—	388,691	—	389,091	—

	2001		2002		2003	
Ethnic Group	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Asian Bangladeshi	3,278	0.9	3,074	0.8	3,272	0.9
Asian Chinese	3,783	1.0	3,754	1.0	3,799	1.1
Asian Indian	17,234	4.7	16,309	4.4	16,402	4.6

	2001		2002		2003	
Ethnic Group	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Asian Pakistani	11,040	3.0	10,202	2.8	10,735	3.0
Other Asian	4,450	1.2	4,544	1.2	4,706	1.3
Black African	8,546	2.3	8,992	2.4	10,856	3.0
Black Caribbean	4,823	1.3	4,676	1.3	4,926	1.4
Other Black	1,072	0.3	1,060	0.3	1,237	0.3
White	302,636	82.6	304,366	82.9	290,769	81.2
Other ethnic backgrounds[1]	9,729	2.7	10,159	2.8	11,241	3.1
Total with known ethnic backgrounds	366,591	100.0	367,136	100.0	357,943	100.0
Unknown	33,054	—	34,718	—	31,179	—
Total including unknown	399,645	—	401,854	—	409,968	—

	2004		2005		2006	
Ethnic Group	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Asian Bangladeshi	3,538	0.9	3,684	0.9	3,964	1.0
Asian Chinese	4,069	1.1	4,029	1.0	3,935	1.0
Asian Indian	16,471	4.3	17,110	4.1	16,977	4.1
Asian Pakistani	11,066	2.9	11,661	2.8	11,705	2.9
Other Asian	4,591	1.2	5,339	1.3	5,289	1.3
Black African	12,206	3.2	15,572	3.7	16,120	3.9
Black Caribbean	5,194	1.3	5,984	1.4	6,321	1.5
Other Black	1,251	0.3	1,564	0.4	1,536	0.4
White	314,251	81.5	339,781	80.7	328,013	79.9
Other ethnic backgrounds[1]	12,920	3.4	16,263	3.9	16,503	4.0
Total with known ethnic backgrounds	385,557	100.0	420,987	100.0	410,363	100.0
Unknown	27,777	—	23,643	—	21,833	—
Total including unknown	413,334	—	444,630	—	432,196	—

[1] Other ethnic backgrounds includes mixed white/Asian, white/black African, white/black Carribean and other mixed backgrounds. *Note:* Percentages are in terms of the number of students with known ethnic backgrounds.

UK Domiciled Acceptances by Ethnic Group and Qualification Aim, UK Higher Education Institutions, Year of Entry 1997 to 2006

	1997				1998			
	Degree		*HND*		*Degree*		*HND*	
Ethnic Group	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Asian Bangladeshi	1,527	0.6	222	0.9	1,627	0.6	181	0.8
Asian Chinese	2,444	0.9	288	1.2	2,448	1.0	245	1.1
Asian Indian	10,154	3.9	1,506	6.3	10,669	4.2	1,431	6.4
Asian Pakistani	5,487	2.1	865	3.6	5,745	2.3	853	3.8
Other Asian	3,055	1.2	288	1.2	3,049	1.2	244	1.1
Black African	4,249	1.6	538	2.3	3,962	1.6	542	2.4
Black Caribbean	2,745	1.1	437	1.8	2,580	1.0	368	1.7
Other Black	1,338	0.5	188	0.8	1,437	0.6	205	0.9
White	224,448	86.4	19,140	80.1	216,882	85.9	17,746	79.9
Other ethnic backgrounds	4,213	1.6	416	1.7	4,213	1.7	397	1.8
Total with known ethnic backgrounds	259,660	100.0	23,888	100.0	252,612	100.0	22,212	100.0
Unknown	16,843	—	2,927	—	19,728	—	3,668	—
Total including unknown	276,503	—	26,815	—	272,340	—	25,880	—

	1999				2000			
	Degree		HND		Degree		HND	
Ethnic Group	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Asian Bangladeshi	1,817	0.7	232	1.0	2,051	0.8	239	1.0
Asian Chinese	2,618	1.0	258	1.2	2,746	1.0	253	1.1
Asian Indian	11,446	4.4	1,521	6.9	12,253	4.7	1,416	6.2
Asian Pakistani	6,030	2.3	1,042	4.7	6,486	2.5	976	4.3
Other Asian	3,137	1.2	262	1.2	3,453	1.3	246	1.1
Black African	4,201	1.6	519	2.3	4,604	1.8	489	2.1
Black Caribbean	2,605	1.0	400	1.8	2,609	1.0	416	1.8
Other Black	1,545	0.6	204	0.9	1,697	0.6	225	1.0
White	219,922	85.3	17,284	78.1	222,046	84.4	18,080	79.2
Other ethnic backgrounds	4,602	1.8	420	1.9	5,112	1.9	489	2.1
Total with known ethnic backgrounds	257,923	100.0	22,142	100.0	263,057	100.0	22,829	100.0
Unknown	19,417	—	3,583	—	18,752	—	4,080	—
Total including unknown	277,340	—	25,725	—	281,809	—	26,909	—

	2001				2002			
	Degree		HND		Degree		HND	
Ethnic Group	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Asian Bangladeshi	2,148	0.8	295	1.3	2,239	0.8	217	1.2
Asian Chinese	2,935	1.1	250	1.1	3,002	1.1	192	1.1
Asian Indian	13,030	4.7	1,417	6.2	12,812	4.5	1,000	5.6
Asian Pakistani	7,424	2.7	1,057	4.6	7,259	2.5	798	4.4
Other Asian	3,283	1.2	235	1.0	3,462	1.2	159	0.9
Black African	5,494	2.0	518	2.3	5,940	2.1	465	2.6
Black Caribbean	3,058	1.1	433	1.9	3,141	1.1	350	1.9
Other Black	686	0.2	84	0.4	735	0.3	68	0.4
White	231,370	83.6	18,052	78.9	238,351	83.7	14,312	79.6
Other ethnic backgrounds[1]	7,182	2.6	533	2.3	7,793	2.7	422	2.3
Total with known ethnic backgrounds	276,610	100.0	22,874	100.0	284,734	100.0	17,983	100.0
Unknown	21,447	—	4,541	—	24,726	—	4,282	—
Total including unknown	298,057	—	27,415	—	309,460	—	22,265	—

	2003				2004			
	Degree		HND		Degree		HND	
Ethnic Group	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Asian Bangladeshi	2,381	0.8	167	1.1	2,681	0.9	124	1.1
Asian Chinese	3,067	1.0	132	0.9	3,311	1.1	106	0.9
Asian Indian	13,178	4.5	785	5.4	13,147	4.4	555	4.8
Asian Pakistani	7,618	2.6	713	4.9	7,999	2.7	513	4.5
Other Asian	3,491	1.2	151	1.0	3,427	1.1	105	0.9
Black African	7,305	2.5	467	3.2	8,076	2.7	355	3.1
Black Caribbean	3,379	1.1	285	1.9	3,584	1.2	208	1.8
Other Black	883	0.3	53	0.4	843	0.3	54	0.5
White	244,302	83.1	11,452	78.3	247,992	82.4	9,147	79.6
Other ethnic backgrounds[1]	8,509	2.9	426	2.9	9,878	3.3	320	2.8
Total with known ethnic backgrounds	294,113	100.0	14,631	100.0	300,938	100.0	11,487	100.0
Unknown	22,129	—	3,069	—	19,599	—	2,271	—

	2003				2004			
	Degree		HND		Degree		HND	
Ethnic Group	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Total including unknown	316,242	—	17,700	—	320,537	—	13,758	—

	2005				2006			
	Degree		HND		Degree		HND	
Ethnic Group	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Asian Bangladeshi	2,774	0.8	117	1.2	3,058	1.0	89	1.2
Asian Chinese	3,311	1.0	78	0.8	3,257	1.0	54	0.7
Asian Indian	13,781	4.2	492	4.9	13,688	4.3	378	5.2
Asian Pakistani	8,458	2.6	455	4.6	8,635	2.7	377	5.2
Other Asian	3,995	1.2	87	0.9	3,929	1.2	86	1.2
Black African	10,114	3.1	382	3.8	10,673	3.4	300	4.2
Black Caribbean	4,233	1.3	220	2.2	4,571	1.4	154	2.1
Other Black	1,064	0.3	52	0.5	1,071	0.3	39	0.5
White	271,394	81.8	7,724	77.4	257,059	80.7	5,448	75.6
Other ethnic backgrounds[1]	12,476	3.8	371	3.7	12,546	3.9	280	3.9
Total with known ethnic backgrounds	331,600	100.0	9,978	100.0	318,487	100.0	7,205	100.0
Unknown	17,248	—	1,418	—	18,451	—	1,421	—
Total including unknown	348,848	—	11,396	—	336,938	—	8,626	—

[1] Other ethnic backgrounds includes mixed white/Asian, white/black African, white/black Carribean and other mixed backgrounds. *Note:* Percentages are in terms of the number of students with known ethnic backgrounds.

Departments: Discrimination

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make a statement on his policy on positive discrimination. [148202]

Ian Pearson: The Department believes that mainstreaming diversity into its talent and performance management policies is the most effective form of positive action. Over the past five years, the Department has developed two internal development schemes of positive action. Positive discrimination is unlawful and is not departmental policy.

Departments: Early Retirement

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many of his staff took early retirement in the last five years; at what cost; what grades of staff took early retirement; and what percentage of each grade took early retirement. [148812]

Mr. Lammy: The information is not available in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In the former DFES, there have been voluntary early severance and retirement releases. For the 2002-03 financial year to the end of the 2006-07 financial year, the total number and cost for such releases from the former DFES were as follows:

Financial year	Number of early releases (from former DFES)	Total cost (to former DFES) (£ million)
2002-03	57	5.57
2003-04	28	2.54
2004-05	332	17.1
2005-06	204	15.1
2006-07	156	10.55

Departments: Flint Bishop

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies has made payments to Flint Bishop solicitors since its establishment. [151380]

Mr. Lammy: I can confirm that the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and its predecessor, the Department for Education and Skills have no record of any payments to Flint Bishop solicitors during the last seven years. The Department does not hold data prior to financial year 1999-2000.

The Department does not have any Executive agencies.

Departments: Legislation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which Bills in policy areas for which his Department is responsible introduced in the last five years contained sunset clauses; and what plans he has for the future use of such clauses. [151831]

Mr. Lammy: In policy areas for which the Department is responsible, there have been no Bills introduced in the last five years which have contained sunset clauses. The appropriateness of a sunset clause for the whole or part of any proposed legislation is considered on a case by case basis. It is also addressed when a regulatory impact assessment relating to legislation is being prepared.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which Bills introduced by his Department and its predecessors in areas within his Department's responsibility in the last five years did not contain sunset clauses; and if he will make a statement. [152496]

Bill Rammell: The following Bills introduced by the Department and its predecessors in areas within the Department's responsibility in the last five years have not contained sunset clauses:

The Higher Education Act 2004

The Patents Act 2004

The Further Education and Training Bill

Departments: Manpower

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many employees in his Department were employed by *(a)* the Department for Education and Skills and *(b)* another Department prior to 27 June 2007. [147880]

Mr. Lammy: The information is as follows.

(a) 560 employees were employed by the DFES and

(b) 1,294 by an other Department prior to 27 June 2007.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the total cost is of all private finance initiative projects for which his Department has responsibility completed since 1997; and what the projected cost is of such projects commissioned or underway. [148014]

Mr. Lammy: Information on all signed private finance initiative contracts, including balance sheet treatment and future unitary charges, is included in HM Treasury's PFI Signed Projects List, which is available through

www.hm.treasury.gov.uk/documents/
public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.

The information covers the unitary charge payment projections up to 2033-34. (A unitary charge can frequently include capital repayments, service provision, inflation and major refurbishment).

This is a working document containing information on current signed PFI projects. It is updated on a six-monthly basis to reflect the updates HM Treasury receives from Departments at Budget and pre-Budget report.

An announcement will be made in the autumn on the amount of PFI credits likely to be available in the comprehensive review period from 2008 to 2011.

Departments: Recruitment

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department paid in fees to recruitment agencies for *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent staff in each year since 1997. [151683]

Mr. Lammy: In 2004-05, the cost of fees to recruitment agencies for temporary staff was £2,485,158. In 2005-06, the cost was £2,585,392 and in 2006-07, it was £2,076,348. The cost of temporary staff via recruitment agencies for 2007 to date is £2,210,740.

Information for fees paid in other financial years from 1997 through to 2004 for temporary staff and in each year since 1997 for permanent staff is not collected in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Redundancy Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent by his Department on redundancy payments in the last 12 months. [153230]

Mr. Lammy: There have been no compulsory redundancies in the period.

Departments: Taxis

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent by his Department on taxis in the last 12 months. [153239]

Mr. Lammy: Details of expenditure on taxis incurred by the Department over the last financial year are set out as follows:

2006-07: £268,857.79

The expenditure is based on staff travel claims and approved invoices received from taxi companies paid via the Department's Integrated Financial Information System.

This figure does not include expenditure for taxi fares incurred abroad or claims by staff that do not have access to the on-line system. To extract this information would involve disproportionate cost.

The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) was established under Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007. This response only related to those areas of responsibility held by its predecessor the Department for Education and Skills.

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* staff and *(b)* communication training in the last 12 months. [153232]

Mr. Lammy: Costs for staff and communication training for the former DFES are available from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 in the following table:

Budget	Cost (£)
Communications training	49,204
Learning and Development	2,259,991

Departments: Travel

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent by his Department on first class train tickets in the last 12 months. [153236]

Mr. Lammy: The spend from departmental officials for travel within the UK on first class rail tickets for the 12 month period July 2006 to June 2007 for the former Department for Education and Skills was £3,923,948.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* first class and *(b)* business flights in the last 12 months. [153237]

Mr. Lammy: The spend form departmental officials on *(a)* business class flights in the 12 month period July 2006 to June 2007 for the former Department for Education and Skills was £295,593 and *(b)* first class flights in the 12 month period July 2006 to June 2007 for the former Department for Education and Skills was £13,146.

The annual list of Cabinet Ministers overseas travel for 2006/07 was published on 25 July 2007.

Further Education: Curriculum

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent representations he has received on the post 16 curriculum; and if he will make a statement. [152749]

Bill Rammell: I have not received any representations on this subject. There is no statutory post 16 curriculum. Individual colleges work with partner agencies including local authorities, the LSC, their learners and employers to deliver a curriculum which meets the needs of the community they serve.

Further Education: Mature Students

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has to give new responsibilities to *(a)* the Higher Education Funding Council for England, *(b)* the regional development agencies and *(c)* sector skills councils in the provision of further education for people aged over 19 years; and if he will make a statement. [152432]

Bill Rammell: We set out in "World Class Skills: Implementing the Leitch Review of Skills in England" our plans to consider how best to deliver the functions and services that support the further education system, building on the progress made with the Learning and Skills Council over recent years in developing a demand-led approach. In taking forward these changes, the Government will work closely with key stakeholders, including the LSC, HEFCE, RDAs and Sector Skills Councils, to ensure any necessary new arrangements are introduced with minimal impact to learners, employers and providers. We will announce in due course proposals for how we will review the funding and accountability framework to best support initiative and high performance.

As regards the brokerage service offered as part of the Train to Gain programme, the Sub-National Review published on 17 July made clear the Government's view that a single brokerage service is the simplest way for business to access government support. However, the Government are currently consulting on business support simplification. The conclusions of this consultation will be available to the Government by the time of the Comprehensive Spending Review, allowing the Government to give effect to any changes on the provision of brokerage services by April 2009.

Graduates: Debts

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the average amount of time needed for a university graduate to repay debts incurred during study. [151222]

Bill Rammell: We estimate that a student who entered higher education in 2006/07 will take an average of 13 years to repay their student loan. This period is counted from the statutory repayment due date, which is the April following the year of graduation.

Hertfordshire University: Finance

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what additional funding *(a)* Hertfordshire University has received from his Department and *(b)* his Department intends to provide to Hertfordshire University as a business facing university. [150237]

Bill Rammell: The Department provides no direct funding to the institution, and information is not held centrally on whether the university has used its grant funding from HEFCE, or funding from other sources, to support its shift towards becoming overtly 'business-facing'.

However, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has provided project funding for the University of Hertfordshire to develop its employer engagement activities. The university received £2.93 million under the third round of the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF) to support engagement with a range of knowledge transfer activities with business, public sector and community partners, for direct or indirect economic benefit. It received Strategic Development Fund money to: take forward its employer engagement strategy through projects aiming to secure an effective and sustainable relationship with a substantial pool of employers and enable it to address the skill needs of employers, students and its graduates (£2.2 million); re-engineer the institution to meet the needs of small and medium-sized employers (£2.0 million).

Higher Education

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what percentage of *(a)* male and *(b)* female students in socio-economic groups (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four, (v) five, (vi) six and (vii) seven studying (A) physics, (B) chemistry, (C) biochemistry, (D) a European modern language, (E) a non-European modern language and (F) all subjects at (x) Russell Group, (y) non-Russell Group universities and (z) departments awarded 5 or 5* in the last research assessment exercise in each of the last 10 years. [149493]

Bill Rammell: Information on the number of students who were awarded 5 or 5* in the RAE exercise are not held by the Department.

Higher Education: Admissions

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people from *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the south west and *(c)* England applied to a higher education establishment in each year since 1997. [148612]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is shown in the table. The figures are taken from data collected by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) which are limited to students who apply to full-time undergraduate courses via the UCAS application system. The figures do not therefore cover part-time students, nor those full-time students who apply directly to higher education institutions.

Details of applicants by local authority are not held by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), therefore applicants from Cornwall are not available.

Number of applicants from the south west and England UK higher education institutions: year of entry 1997 to 2006

Year of entry	Number of applicants from	
	South West	England[1]
1997	33,081	329,413
1998	32,190	322,579
1999	31,716	323,141
2000	32,286	321,343
2001	33,004	330,856
2002	33,340	331,350
2003	33,198	337,187
2004	34,081	339,600
2005	37,351	367,741
2006	34,743	357,431

[1] Includes applicants from the south west.

Source:
Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

The latest figures released by UCAS show that by 30 June, the number of students applying to enter higher education in 2007 was up by 6.3 per cent. on the same point in 2006, and was also up on the bumper year of 2005. This means that applicants are the highest ever at this point in the application cycle.

Higher Education: Adult Education

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make a statement on the role and contribution of the adult residential colleges designated under section 28 of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 [152335]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 25 July 2007]:* The adult residential colleges designated under section 28 of the further and Higher Education Act 1992 are a small, distinct group of colleges which were brought into the further education (FE) sector in 1993 in order to be eligible to receive public funding alongside other further education colleges.

The role of these colleges, which are all registered charities, differs according to their historical background but all focus primarily on helping adults who currently have either no or few qualifications often due to financial, personal or social barriers experienced in the past and who are seeking a return to learning. The residential facilities provide a network for personal and learning support encouraged through events and activities outside the formal timetable.

Courses range widely from those designated to develop personal skills and the basic skills necessary for employability to those resulting in formal academic and vocational qualifications. Some colleges also offer higher education courses or help prepare students for progression to university.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the terms of reference are of the Learning and Skills Council's review of the adult residential colleges; and when he expects the review to report. [152336]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 25 July 2007]:* The Learning and Skills Council has commissioned work from RCU Market Research Unit which will comprise a wide ranging review of the four adult residential colleges (Hillcroft, Fircroft, Ruskin and Northern) in England. The review is underway and is looking at the following areas:

the curriculum offer, student profile and achievements, mission and ethos of the colleges;

value for money;

the residential bursary scheme managed by Ruskin college on behalf of the four colleges;

the profile of the teaching and other staff in the four colleges;

other resources of funding that the four colleges receive;

the socio-economic benefits of the four colleges;

the Capital and disability Discrimination Act support the colleges receive.

The final report from the review is due in October 2007. It is not intended for publication as it will contain commercially sensitive data from which the individual colleges could be identified. The report will be used as intended by the LSC and the colleges to take work forward and review future funding and other arrangements for this provision.

Higher Education: Business

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which universities make their core mission business facing. [150238]

Bill Rammell: In 'World Class Skills: Implementing the Leitch Review of Skills in England' we have said that 'business-facing' should be a description with

which any higher education institution feels comfortable. An increasing number of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) already seem comfortable being recognised as responsive to the needs of employers and their workforces, in ways that are consistent with their mission.

A group of five universities are being supported by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) as 'third stream as second mission' institutions (Brighton, Central England in Birmingham, DeMontfort, Sheffield Hallam, and Hertfordshire Universities) and these are exploring how such institutions can address issues relating to the country's productivity and competitiveness, in addition to pursuing their widely-recognised teaching activity.

Beyond this, currently a further seven HEIs are funded under HEFCE's 'employer engagement pilots' initiative and exploring links with work force development. The Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF)—£238 million for 2006/07—is an important source of support for all HEIs, helping the sector to engage in a broad range of knowledge transfer activities with business, public sector and community partners, for direct or indirect economic benefit.

HEFCE's latest annual HE Business Community Interaction survey illustrates the wide range of HEIs forging links with business and the community (including via the Skills for Business Network) and raising income from various activities, such as business-funded research, consultancy contracts and continuing professional development courses.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 10 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1407W, on higher education: business, which universities have expressed an intention to make their core mission business facing. [150239]

Bill Rammell: Individual higher education institutions (HEIs) will decide whether they should best be described as 'business-facing', and in which contexts. However, several have undertaken action that should make them more clearly 'business-facing'. The university of Hertfordshire is one that has recently done so. Government wishes to see many more institutions becoming comfortable with this term, or alternative ones, that accurately describe their significant level of collaboration with business and their wider communities and the value that they and their partners perceive in such links.

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Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much additional funding his Department has provided to support business facing universities in each of the last three years; and how much such funding his Department will be providing in each of the next three years. [150240]

Bill Rammell: The Department has a policy of encouraging universities to increase their interaction with business. The Higher Education Innovation Fund, which provides funding to all Higher Education Institutions in England, is a key incentive. The funding for this programme has increased from £187 million for the two academic years 2004/05-2005/06 to £238 million for 2006/07-2007/08. The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has allocated £60 million of its research funding (QR) in 2007/08 by reference to research grants and contracts from business. And HEFCE fund a range of projects that respond to, and increase, employer demand for workforce development. Future funding allocations will be announced at the appropriate time.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether his Department intends to take measures to recognise achievement by leading business facing universities. [150241]

Bill Rammell: The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and officials will continue to monitor the levels of interaction between higher education institutions (HEIs) and employers as indicated by HEFCE's annual 'HE: Business and Community Interaction' survey of HEIs (HE-BCIS).

What is important is that HEIs recognise the value of, scope for, and ways to establish, more and better ways to collaborate with this wider community for their mutual benefit.

Although many HEIs are playing a significant role in fostering productivity and economic growth, through activities as diverse as contracted research for businesses and the provision of continuing professional development (CPD) courses, numerous ones are in receipt of specific funds from HEFCE to support projects, which in itself gives some recognition of progress and achievements in this area.

This funding includes £238 million for the third round of the Higher Education Innovation Fund. One portion of this was allocated by competition to large-scale collaborative initiatives including partners from business and community organisations and another recognised the extent of HEIs' existing business interactions as indicated by the HE-BCIS survey.

HEFCE supports a range of project activity exploring ways to grow and respond to employer demand for HE-level skills within their work forces, notably three regional 'Higher level Skills Pathfinders' and, currently, eight single-institution 'employer engagement pilot' projects. There are also five 'third stream' HEI projects to demonstrate the potential economic benefits of such a focus by institutions.

The council also funds 74 Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETLs) that recognise and reward excellent teaching practice, and several involve HEIs, or substantial parts of them, working closely with business in areas such as work-based learning.

Higher Education: Great Yarmouth

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students in Great Yarmouth went on to higher education in each of the last 10 years. [151963]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is shown in the table. Figures for 2006/07 will be available in January 2008.

Entrants[1, 2] to undergraduate courses from Great Yarmouth parliamentary constituency, UK Higher Education Institutions[3], academic years 1996/97 to 2005/06

Academic year	Number
1996/97	340
1997/98	340
1998/99	390
1999/2000	405
2000/01	415
2001/02	550
2002/03	445
2003/04	530
2004/05	515
2005/06	555

[1] Covers students on full-time and part-time modes of study.
[2] Position at 1 December each year.
[3] Excludes The Open University.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), all figures are rounded to the nearest five.

The figures are based on students enrolled at 1 December in each year because these are the only figures available on a comparable basis in each year since 1997.

Higher Education: Manpower

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many members of staff were employed by *(a)* the Higher Education Funding Council for England, *(b)* the Learning and Skills Council and *(c)* each sector skill council in each of the last 10 years; and what the expenditure on salaries was by each organisation in each year. [150156]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is provided in the following tables:

Higher education funding council for England

Financial year	Number of staff as full-time equivalent	Salary costs[1] (£000)
1997-98	194	4,828
1998-99	180	4,878
1999-2000	201	6,049
2000-01	240	6,898
2001-02	245	7,301
2002-03	240	7,749
2003-04	254	8,863
2004-05	264	9,388
2005-06	242	10,367
2006-07	240	10,861

[1] Includes salary costs, national insurance payments and pensions payments.
Source:
HEFCE Annual Accounts

Learning and skills council

Year ended 31 March	Total staff	Admin pay (£000)
2002	4,694	144,245
2003	4,797	135,291
2004	4,786	141,291
2005	4,306	140,344
2006	4,451	137,857
2007[1]	3,741	133,067

[1] Provisional figures.
Note:
Admin pay covers salaries, social security payments, pension costs and consultancy costs.
Source:
LSC Annual report and Accounts

The Learning and Skills Council became operational in April 2001. The figures provided are for the average number of staff employed by the LSC each year and include temporary staff and agency staff. The reduction in the average number of staff in post between 2006 and 2007 is a consequence of the announcement in September 2005 by Mark Haysom, the Learning and Skills Council's chief executive, of proposals for a new structure for the organisation. This process is expected to result in a reduction in the LSC's overall establishment figure (that is the number of posts required to run the organisation) from around 4,700 to around 3,630—a reduction of almost 1,100 posts. This will achieve estimated savings of up to £40 million, which could be released to the front line for the further benefit of learners. As a result, the LSC will have a strong regional and local capacity, spending less time on transactional processes and more time developing relationships with key partners and stakeholders.

Sector Skills Councils are not funded by the Department and, in the main, are independent private sector organisations. Accordingly, the information requested is not held by the Department.

Higher Education: Mental Health

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many young people gave up a university first degree course for mental health reasons in each of the last five years; [152719]

(2) how many students abandoned a university first degree course in each of the last five years; [152720]

(3) how many students had their university course terminated prematurely by the university they attend in each of the last five years. [152721]

Bill Rammell: The available information is shown in the table.

UK-domiciled students on first degree courses at English higher education institutions, who left their course

Year student left course	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Academic failure/left in bad standing/ not permitted to progress[1]	8,080	8,535	8,750	9,150	9,705
Exclusion[2]	705	395	620	1,125	1,330
Health reasons	1,165	1,215	1,240	1,140	1,150
Abandoned the course[3]	14,100	14,620	15,285	15,840	16,145

[1] Academic failure/left in bad standing/not permitted to progress indicates a fail at any stage, or students who unsuccessfully completed their qualification aim.
[2] Exclusion is the breaking of institutional rules, either behavioural or financial.
[3] "Abandoned the course" indicates the following categories: financial reasons other personal reasons and dropped out, inactive students written off after lapse of time, gone into employment.
Note:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

A further breakdown of "health reasons" to show those who terminated their course due to mental health reasons is not available. Separate information on students, who have been turned away due to the course no longer being taught, is not available.

The Performance Indicators In Higher Education, published by the High Education Statistic Agency (HESA) include an indicator which shows the proportion of UK-domiciled entrants to full-time first degree courses at higher education institutions in England, who are projected to neither obtain an award no transfer to another course. This information is shown in the table.

Proportion of UK-domiciled entrants to full-time first degree courses at higher education institutions in England, who are projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another course

	Percentage
2000-01	15.0
2001-02	13.8
2002-03	13.9
2003-04	14.4
2004-05	13.8

Source:
Performance indicators in Higher Education, published by HESA

Higher Education: NHS

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent on the *(a)* NHS University, *(b)* NHS Institute for Learning Skills and Innovation and *(c)* NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05 and (iii) 2005-06, including redundancy payments to staff following closure. [150530]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

NHS University (NHSU) expenditure for the period 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004 was £27 million. NHSU expenditure for the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005 was £38.194 million. NHSU expenditure for the period 1 April to 31 July 2005 was £15.953 million.

The NHSU dissolved as a special health authority on 31 July 2005, and the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement was the successor body.

NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement expenditure for the period 1 July 2005 to 31 March 2006 (including redundancy payments to staff following NHSU closure) was £42.450 million.

Higher Education: Research

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much the charitable sector spent on research in universities in each of the last five financial years. [152961]

Bill Rammell: Research income received by higher education institutions in England from UK-based charities for the last five academic years for which date are available is shown in the table. The information is not collected by financial year.

	Income (£ million)
2001/02	504
2002/03	542
2003/04	577
2004/05	586
2005/06	610

Source:
Higher Education Funding Council for England.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of the full economic costs of research is covered by the Charity Research Support Fund. [152964]

Bill Rammell: The Charity Research Support Fund does not aim to cover a fixed percentage of the full economic cost of projects. It is a contribution by the Government to the joint efforts of charities and higher education institutions to make charity-funded research financially sustainable by the end of this decade. In the 2007/08 academic year, the Charity Research Support Fund will be worth £180 million. Allocation of that money by the Higher Education Funding Council for England will be based on charity funding of eligible projects in 2005/06, which totalled £599.85 million.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has for funding for the Charity Research Support Fund. [152965]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 19 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 550w.

Higher Education: Science

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many and what proportion of university students studying *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry and *(c)* biochemistry in each of the last 10 years had an A or A* in (i) mathematics, (ii) physics and (iii) chemistry GCSE; [150525]

(2) how many and what proportion of university students studying *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry and *(c)* biochemistry had a mathematics A level in each of the last 10 years. [150531]

Bill Rammell: The information is not collected centrally.

Higher Education: Student Wastage

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of A-Level students from each local education authority continued their education to university level in each of the last 10 years. [151153]

Bill Rammell: The latest available figures on participation in higher education by local authority based on students entering courses were published by the Higher Education Funding Council for England in January 2005 in "Young Participation in England", which is available from their website at http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2005/05_03/ This report shows participation rates for young people who enter higher education aged 18 or 19, disaggregated by local authority, for the years 1997 to 2000. The figures cover all 18 or 19-year-olds, not just those with A-levels. HEFCE have not produced participation rates beyond 2000.

The main measure for tracking progress on increasing participation is currently the higher education initial participation rate (HEIPR). This is the sum of the HE initial participation rates for individual ages between 17 and 30 inclusive. It covers English-domiciled first-time entrants to HE courses, which are expected to last for at least six months, at UK higher education institutions and English, Scottish and Welsh further education colleges, and who remain on their course for at least six months. The latest provisional figure for 2005/06 is 43 per cent. The HEIPR is not calculated at local authority level.

The HEIPR is available from the academic year 1999/2000. It is the sum of the age specific initial participation rates for ages 17 to 30. The age specific initial participation rate for 18-year-olds is shown in the table. The figures cover the whole population not just those completing their A-levels.

	Number of initial entrants	*HEIPR for 18-year-olds (Percentage)*
1999/2000	115,100	19.3
2000/01	114,000	19.5
2001/02	118,200	19.6
2002/03	122,400	19.7
2003/04	124,700	19.2
2004/05	127,200	19.6
2005/06	141,700	21.3

Note:
Numbers are rounded to the nearest 100.

Learning and Skills Council for England: Finance

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of Learning and Skills Council (LSC) funding will be diverted to local authorities as a result of changes to the machinery of Government announced on 28 June; what assessment he has made of the likely effect this will have on the number of staff the LSC employs; and if he will make a statement. [152438]

Bill Rammell: As set out in "Machinery of Government: Departmental Organisation", in order to provide strong strategic leadership for the 14-19 phase, overall planning responsibilities for that phase will transfer to the Department for Children, Schools and Families, as will all funding for 14-19 learners. Subject to consultation on the details and timing, to ensure there is no disruption to schools, colleges and training providers and the introduction of new diplomas, and the need to pass the necessary legislation, funding for school sixth forms, sixth form colleges and the contribution of FE colleges to the 14-19 phase will transfer from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to local authorities' ring-fenced education budgets. No decisions have yet been made about the proportion of LSC funding which will transfer to local authorities' ring-fenced education budgets and I estimate that it will be 2010/11 when the necessary legislative changes can take effect. In the three years until then, the LSC retains the legal responsibility for securing and funding all forms of post-16 education and training outside higher education, including 16-19 provision. We will be working closely with the LSC and other national partners, along with schools, colleges and training providers, to ensure that the changes are well managed, including any impact on the deployment of staff.

Mature Students

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of people in *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time employment enrolled on college courses in England in the last five years. [151826]

Bill Rammell: We do not have information on the employment status of all people enrolling on college courses throughout the year. However, the Labour Force Survey (LFS) allows us to take a snap-shot estimate of the proportion of people in full-time and part-time employment who are enrolled on college courses at the time they are interviewed. The following table shows the estimates from the LFS winter quarter between 2001 and 2005.

Percentage

	Proportion of adults[1] in full-time employment enrolled on college courses[2]	*Proportion of adults[1] in part-time employment enrolled on college courses[2]*
2001	3.2	6.2
2002	3.2	5.8
2003	3.0	5.5
2004	2.8	5.3
2005	2.6	4.9

[1] Adults are defined as men aged 19-64 and women aged 19-59.
[2] College courses are defined as courses studied at colleges of further education, adult education centres, and independent colleges or universities.

Mature Students: Student Wastage

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many mature students withdrew from their higher education course in each year since 2003; and for what reasons they withdrew. [152284]

Bill Rammell: The Performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), include an indicator showing the proportion of UK-domiciled mature (aged 21 and over) entrants to full-time first degree courses at higher education institutions in England, who did not continue into higher education after their first year. A similar indicator is available for mature entrants to full-time other undergraduate courses. The available information is shown in the table.

Proportion of UK-domiciled mature (aged 21 and over) entrants to full-time higher education courses at higher education institutions in England, who did not continue into higher education after their first year

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
First degree	15.1	15.4	14.0
Other undergraduate courses	14.5	14.3	14.8

Source:
"Performance Indicators in Higher Education", published by HESA

The specific reasons for these groups of students withdrawing from their courses are not given.

Nanotechnology: Finance

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) if he will increase the budget allocated in 2006-07 to support managed nanotechnology programmes; [152855]

(2) what mechanisms he has used to assess the potential effect of nanotechnology on economic development and societal change. [152856]

Ian Pearson: The Technology Strategy Board (TSB) and the research councils have the responsibility to determine both the detailed distribution of funding between their specific R and D and research priorities and the relevant funding mechanism.

More recently, the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) has undertaken studies on the socio-economic issues of nanotechnology:

"Nanotechnology: from the science to the social" was published in 2007 and follows up ESRC's earlier analysis "The social and economic challenges of nanotechnology" published in 2003 9both available on ESRC website

http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/).

In addition, Research Councils UK has commissioned a study into developing a robust methodology for assessing future impact from Research Council investments. This should report by the end of the year.

The Engineering and physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) is implementing a programme in nanoscience through engineering to application, in order to build on the platform of earlier investments and to realise the benefits of the technology for society and the economy Key features will be:

strong partnerships with the TSB to achieve pull-through to a range of sectors;

the participation of the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) and other research councils where relevant;

a grand challenge approach to identify the highest impact research areas;

leadership and co-ordination by a senior strategy advisor from the community.

Officials also sit on a new OECED working party on nanotechnology which will address a number of topics including impacts and business environment and the contribution of nanotechnology to addressing global challenges.

Overseas Students

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of students at universities in England were from overseas in each year since 1990-91. [150669]

Bill Rammell: The available information is given in the tables:

Proportion of overseas students[1] in higher education in the UK 1990/91 to 1993/94

Academic year	*UK domiciled students*	*Non UK domiciled students*	*Proportion of non UK domiciled students (percentage)*
1990/91	1,094,935	80,630	6.9
1991/92	1,211,385	88,655	6.8
1992/93	1,333,355	110,295	7.6
1993/94	1,450,425	128,510	8.1

[1] Includes HE level students taught in higher education and further education establishments.
Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.
Source:
The Universities Statistical Record (USR) and the education departments of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Proportion of overseas students in UK higher education institutions 1994/95 to 2005/06

Academic year	*UK domiciled students*	*Non UK domiciled students*	*Proportion of non UK domiciled students (percentage)*
1994/95	1,380,620	153,745	10.0
1995/96	1,497,185	184,625	11.0
1996/97	1,532,205	186,705	10.9
1997/98	1,558,585	200,965	11.4
1998/99	1,598,945	207,130	11.5
1999/2000	1,604,520	211,840	11.7
2000/01	1,643,865	219,725	11.8
2001/02	1,699,885	227,270	11.8
2002/03	1,764,945	255,235	12.6
2003/04	1,832,975	275,480	13.1
2004/05	1,870,715	288,430	13.4
2005/06	1,880,230	296,105	13.6

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.
2. Proportions are based upon figures calculated on a snapshot basis as at the 1 December to maintain a consistent time series across all years.
3. Figures cover postgraduate and undergraduate students on full-time and part-time courses.
Source:
The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Postgraduate Education: Science

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of state-supported doctoral students beginning their courses in each of the last 10 years studied *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry, *(c)* a physical science, *(d)* a biological science and *(e)* biochemistry. [149096]

Bill Rammell: The latest information for all entrants to doctorate courses by subject of study are given in the following table. A new classification for recording subject of study was introduced in 2002/03 and so figures from 2002/03 onwards are not comparable to earlier years.

UK domiciled doctorate entrants to higher education institutions in England—1996/97 to 2001/02

Subject of study	*1996/97*	*1997/98*	*1998/99*	*1999/2000*	*2000/01*	*2001/02*
Number						
Physical sciences	995	1,015	1,045	1,080	980	1,025
of which:						
Chemistry	560	510	475	515	450	495
Physics	230	270	285	300	270	290
Biological sciences	1,085	1,085	1,295	1,275	1,235	1,315
of which:						
Biochemistry	125	110	150	140	120	160
Other subjects	4,130	4,190	5,030	5,255	5,400	5,325
Total	6,210	6,290	7,370	7,605	7,620	7,660
Percentage						
Physical sciences	16	16	14	14	13	13
of which:						
Chemistry	9	8	6	7	6	6
Physics	4	4	4	4	4	4
Biological science	17	17	18	17	16	17
of which:						
Biochemistry	2	2	2	2	2	2
Other subjects	67	67	68	69	71	69
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Notes:
1. Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1st December excluding those writing up, on sabbatical or dormant. Students from the Open University are also excluded from the analysis.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record

UK domiciled doctorate entrants to higher education institutions in England—2002/03 to 2005/06

Subject of study	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*
Number				
Physical sciences	980	1,010	980	1,020
of which:				
Chemistry	445	430	400	400
Physics	295	300	290	320
Biological sciences	1,260	1,500	1,460	1,555
of which:				
Molecular biology, biophysics and biochemistry	115	170	165	190
Other subjects	5,435	5,545	5,570	5,610
Total	7,680	8,055	8,005	8,185
Percentage				
Physical sciences	13	13	12	12

UK domiciled doctorate entrants to higher education institutions in England—2002/03 to 2005/06

Subject of study	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*
of which:				
Chemistry	6	5	5	5
Physics	4	4	4	4
Biological sciences	16	19	18	19
of which:				
Molecular biology, biophysics and biochemistry	1	2	2	2
Other subjects	71	69	70	69
Total	100	100	100	100

Notes:
1. Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December excluding those writing up, on sabbatical or dormant. Students from the Open University are also excluded from the analysis.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record

In addition to monies paid to institutions in England, the Department provides financial support to English domiciled undergraduate students in the form of loans and grants through the Student Loans Company. Postgraduate students however are not entitled to student support, other than Disabled Students' Allowances.

Student Numbers

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students there were on non-prescribed higher education courses in each of the last 10 years, broken down by course type. [149095]

Bill Rammell: The available information is given in the tables.

Enrolments at English Higher Education Institutions[1] Academic Years 1996/97 to 2005/06

Qualification Aim	*1996/97*	*1997/98*	*1998/99*	*1999/2000*	*2000/01*
Total prescribed courses	1,204,615	1,226,300	1,244,505	1,249,595	1,275,890
Total non-prescribed courses Of which:	95,850	97,455	110,405	107,220	107,305
Of which:					
Professional qualifications[2]	15,235	15,945	18,930	18,355	16,320
Foundation courses at HE level	4,385	4,075	4,650	4,345	4,880
Other formal HE qualifications below degree level	10,620	7,950	8,755	5,555	6,065
Qualified Teacher Status only (licensed teachers)	0	0	20	5	10
NVQ level 5	455	290	225	105	40
NVQ level 4	1,375	920	570	235	380
Institutional undergraduate credit	47,585	50,955	58,705	62,440	62,010
Institutional postgraduate credit	4,890	5,750	5,510	5,650	6,785
No formal undergraduate qualification	9,755	10,380	11,690	9,455	9,610
No formal postgraduate qualification	1,550	1,185	1,345	1,080	1,205
Total all courses	1,300,465	1,323,755	1,354,910	1,356,815	1,383,200

Qualification Aim	*2001/02*	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*
Total prescribed courses	1,320,565	1,404,635	1,452,700	1,473,215	1,514,010
Total non-prescribed courses	105,765	94,310	94,370	95,925	93,190
Of which:					
Professional qualifications[2]	13,145	11,320	12,725	10,930	10,280
Foundation courses at HE level	3,560	0	0	0	0
Other formal HE qualifications below degree level	4,465	2,880	3,980	3,630	3,485
Qualified Teacher Status only (licensed teachers)	25	125	160	285	240
NVQ level 5	25	30	40	15	0
NVQ level 4	520	505	500	635	70
Institutional undergraduate credit	68,215	62,085	60,955	56,835	60,890

Qualification Aim	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Institutional postgraduate credit	4,600	6,970	6,355	7,880	6,620
No formal undergraduate qualification	9,570	8,820	8,295	14,285	9,040
No formal postgraduate qualification	1,640	1,580	1,360	1,435	2,560
Total all courses	1,426,335	1,498,950	1,547,070	1,569,140	1,607,200

[1] Figures exclude the Open university due to changes in their methodology of coding the qualification aim of a student since 1997/98.
[2] Includes professional qualification at undergraduate level, including those for serving school teachers.
Note:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December (excluding those writing up, on sabbatical or dormant) and are rounded to the nearest 5.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record.

Student Wastage

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what percentage of students at each relevant institution did not complete their degrees in each of the last 10 years. [149091]

Bill Rammell: The available information on the proportion of UK-domiciled entrants to full-time first degree courses who are projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another course is taken from table T5 of the Performance Indicators in Higher Education and has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

This information was published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) for academic years 2001/02 to 2003/04 and by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) for 1996/97 to 2000/01. HESA will publish the figures for 2004/05 on 19 July 2007.

The information is also available at the following websites:

HEFCE (1996/97 to 2000/01):

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/learning/perfind/default.asp

HESA (2001/02 to 2003/04):

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/pi/home.htm

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the non-completion rate was of *(a)* part-time, *(b)* full-time students and *(c)* mature full-time students, broken down by institution in each of the last five years. [149786]

Bill Rammell: The available information on the proportion of UK-domiciled entrants to full-time first degree courses who are projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another course is taken from table T5 of the Performance Indicators in Higher Education and has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

This information was published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) for academic years 2001/02 to 2003/04 and by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) for 1996/97 to 2000/01. HESA will publish the figures for 2004/05 on 19 July 2007.

Projected non-completion rates are not split by age group. However, the non-continuation indicators, taken from table T3a of the Performance Indicators in Higher Education, are available for young and mature age groups. These give the proportion of UK-domiciled entrants to full-time first degree courses who do not continue in higher education after their first year.

Neither the non-completion nor the non-continuation indicators are available for part-time students.

The information is also available at the following websites:

HEFCE (for figures up to 2001/02 inclusive):

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/learning/perfind/default.asp

HESA (for figures since 2002/03 inclusive):

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/pi/home.htm

Information on non-continuation indicators for all full-time first degree students is also available at these websites.

Students: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time students registered for higher education courses at universities in East Sussex in each year since 1997. [151358]

Bill Rammell: The available information is given in the table. The University of Sussex is the only Higher Education Institution with its headquarters in East Sussex local authority.

Enrolments at the University of Sussex, 1997/98 to 2005/06

	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Postgraduates									
Full time	1,525	1,490	1,420	1,610	1,650	1,680	1,900	1,880	1,855
Part time	680	875	820	870	910	805	785	915	940

Enrolments at the University of Sussex, 1997/98 to 2005/06

	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Total	2,205	2,365	2,240	2,480	2,560	2,485	2,690	2,790	2,795
Undergraduates									
Full time	6,945	6,985	6,805	6,900	6,945	6,905	6,775	6,815	6,985
Part time	2,350	2,400	1,855	1,535	1,575	1,690	1,640	1,735	1,590
Total	9,295	9,385	8,660	8,435	8,520	8,595	8,415	8,550	8,575
All HE students									
Full time	8,470	8,475	8,225	8,505	8,595	8,585	8,675	8,695	8,840
Part time	3,025	3,275	2,675	2,405	2,485	2,495	2,430	2,650	2,530
Total	11,495	11,750	10,900	10,915	11,080	11,080	11,105	11,345	11,370

Note:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December, excluding those writing up on sabbatical or dormant. This is so that the figures are comparable across all the years. Snapshot figures will exclude students who are not in attendance on the 1 December, i.e. those on non-traditional academic years. Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Students: Finance

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many people receiving education maintenance allowance do not qualify for maintenance grants but would do so under the new student support proposals; [149089]

(2) how many people are receiving education maintenance allowance, broken down by age; and what level of grant they will be eligible for under his new student support proposals. [149090]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

In the 2006-07 academic year 521,650 students were in receipt of EMA. This includes:

257,680 aged 16.

197,230 aged 17.

64,860 aged 18.

1,880 aged 19.

The threshold for EMA support is lower than the threshold for HE student support. Therefore under current arrangements all students in receipt of EMA would be eligible for some level of HE student support if their household incomes did not increase. We do not currently have information on how many more students would qualify for HE maintenance support under the new proposals.

Under the new proposals all 16-year-olds who receive EMA will be guaranteed a minimum level of support if they undertake a higher education course even if their household incomes increase. All 16-year-olds who receive the maximum level of EMA will be guaranteed the maximum level of maintenance grant (currently 2,700). This financial security will allow young people to look ahead to progressing to HE with confidence and no doubts about the finance support they will receive.

Students: Grants

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what percentage of university level students receive education grants; [151154]

(2) how many university level students receive education grants. [151223]

Bill Rammell: Data on maintenance and higher education grants for students in England 2006/07[1] applying for support through the Student Loans Company are given in the tables.

Maintenance grants were introduced for new full-time English domiciled students entering higher education in 2006/07, and replaced the higher education grant. The maximum amount of support available is £2,700 a year, and how much a student receives depends on their income and that of their household.

[1] Data for 2006/07 are provisional

Distribution of maintenance grants

	Student numbers (thousand)[1, 2]	Percentage of total
Students in receipt of a full maintenance grant	80	29
Students in receipt of a partial maintenance grant	61	22
Students in receipt of a nil maintenance grant	133	49
Total	275	100

[1] Includes the Special Support Grant which is payable to vulnerable groups of students who are eligible for Department for Work and Pensions benefits.
[2] Student numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand
Source:
Student Loans Company (SLC)

Students who entered higher education in 2004/05 and 2005/06 may be eligible for a means-tested higher education grant of up to £1,000.

Distribution of higher education grants

	Student numbers (thousand)[1]	Percentage of total[2]
Students in receipt of a full HE grant	115	26
Students in receipt of a partial HE grant	26	6
Students in receipt of no HE grant	309	69

Distribution of higher education grants

	Student numbers (thousand)[1]	Percentage of total[2]
Total	451	100

[1] Student numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand.
[2] Totals may not add due to roundings.
Source:
Student Loans Company (SLC)

We have just announced improvements to the student finance package which will help students and graduates manage their finances better. For entrants to HE from 2008/09, the maintenance grant income thresholds have been raised making one third of students eligible for a full grant and another third eligible for a partial grant.

Students: Loans

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum student loan was in (i) Eastbourne and (ii) East Sussex in each year since 1997. [151356]

Bill Rammell: The available data is given in the following table:

Average value of income-contingent student loan, students domiciled in East Sussex, Academic years 1999/00 to 2005/06

Academic year[2]	Average value of income-contingent loan[1], East Sussex local authority (£)
1999/2000	3,280
2000/01	3,230
2001/02	3,270
2002/03	3,320
2003/04	3,350
2004/05	3,400
2005/06[3]	3,480

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.
[2] Data are not available prior to 1999/2000
[3] Provisional
Source:
Student Loans Company.

Separate data are not available for Eastbourne.

The maximum amount of maintenance loan to which a student is entitled is dependent upon where they are living during their study, rather than their domicile. The rates are given in the following table:

Maximum student loans for maintenance in 2006/07

£

Location of study	Full year rates up to	Final year rates[1] up to
Students living away from their parents' home and studying in London	6,170	5,620
Students living away from their parents' home and studying elsewhere	4,405	4,080
Students living at their parents' home (London and elsewhere)	3,415	3,085

[1] The amounts of loan are lower in the final year as students leave higher education at the end of the summer and will not need financial support over the summer holiday.

Training: Finance

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the *(a)* core budget and *(b)* total amount of funding received from Government sources was for the (i) Adult Learning Inspectorate, (ii) Basic Skills Agency, (iii) British Educational Communications and Technology Agency, (iv) Business Link Network, (v) Connexions, (vi) the Learning and Skills Council, (vii) the Learning and Skills Network, (viii) the Sector Skills Development Agency, (ix) Skills for Business Network, (x) Office for Fair Access, (xi) Quality Assurance Agency, (xii) Quality Improvement Agency, (xiii) University for Industry and Learndirect and (xiv) National Education Business Partnership Network in (1) 2003-04, (2) 2004-05, (3) 2005-06 and (4) 2006-07; and which of these have Civil service terms and conditions for their staff. [150555]

Mr. Denham: The information requested is set out in the following table. The vast majority of funding is spent on programme expenditure that directly funds learning or other services, for example improving the quality of provision. This funding is included in the category of 'other/programme expenditure'.

The category 'core funding' refers to administrative costs which are the costs of staff salaries as well as other non-pay costs such as accommodation, computer facilities and stationary.

The notes set out where it has not been possible to separate out administrative costs and programme costs or where figures are simply not available.

None of the following organisations have civil service terms and conditions for their staff, though some staff are members of the civil service pension scheme.

Funding from public sources

£ million

Organisation	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Adult Learning Inspectorate				
Core budget	26.63	27.72	26.81	21.83
Other/ programme expenditure	—	—	—	—
Total	26.63	27.72	26.81	21.83
Basic Skills Agency[1]				
Core budget	5.41	5.47	5.71	5.85
Other/ programme expenditure	6.32	1.28	0.6	0.6
Total	11.73	6.75	6.31	6.45
British Educational Communications and Technology Agency				
Core budget	11.85	15.46	10.56	12.1
Other/ programme expenditure	20.20	26.00	23.50	21.60
Total	32.05	41.46	34.06	33.7

Funding from public sources

£ million

Organisation	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Business Link Network[1]				
Core budget[2]	—	—	—	—
Other/ programme expenditure	55.90	73.46	152.13	148.13
Total	55.90	73.46	152.13	148.13
Connexions[3]				
Core budget	—	—	—	—
Other/ programme expenditure	451	458	445	407
Total	451	458	445	407
Learning and Skills Council[4, 5]				
Core budget	269.30	244.09	289.59	239.42
Other/ programme expenditure	8,308.94	8,722.31	9,842.01	10,316.23
Total	8,578.24	8,966.40	10,131.61	10,555.64
Learning and Skills Network[6]				
Core budget	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other/ programme expenditure	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sector Skills Development Agency				
Core budget	4.93	6.11	6.58	7.63
Other/ programme expenditure	29.97	64.14	61.73	67.22
Total	34.90	70.24	68.31	74.85
Skills for Business Network[7]				
Core budget	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other/ programme expenditure	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Office for Fair Access[8]				
Core budget	n/a	0.41	0.5	0.5
Other/ programme expenditure	n/a	—	—	—
Total	n/a	0.41	0.5	0.5
Quality Assurance Agency[9]				
Core budget	—	—	—	—
Other/ programme expenditure	—	—	—	—
Total	2.30	4.14	4.12	3.02

Funding from public sources

£ million

Organisation	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Quality Improvement Agency[10]				
Core budget	n/a	n/a	n/a	5.94
Other/ programme expenditure	n/a	n/a	n/a	87.20
Total	n/a	n/a	n/a	93.14
University for Industry and Learndirect[11]				
Core budget	—	—	—	—
Other/ programme expenditure	239	182	201	171
Total	239	182	201	171
National Education Business Partnership Network[12]				
Core budget	—	—	—	—
Other/ programme expenditure	0.12	0.14	0.23	0.27
Total	0.12	0.14	0.23	0.27

[1] The core budget figures cover both programme and administration costs and it is not possible to separate these out. Other/programme expenditure relates to fixed term or tendered contracts.
[2] It is not currently possible to split out the funding for the Business Link Network into core expenditure and programme expenditure.
[3] Only programme funds are provided to Connexions Partnerships, the majority of which pays for the salary costs of Connexions Personal Advisers. The figures exclude funding for Connexions routed via Local Area Agreements to local authorities since this does not go to Connexions Partnerships. Figures only cover grant from the former DFES. We do not hold figures for any funds brought in by Connexions Partnerships which may include some public sector funding.
[4] These figures include some of the funding identified separately for the University for Industry.
[5] Subject to the successful passage of the Further Education and Training Bill, the LSC is expecting to reduce administration expenditure in 2007-08 through restructuring and the associated reductions in staffing, property and related costs. Expenditure on LSC administration is expected to reduce from £239 million (2.2 per cent. of LSC's budget) in 2006-07 to planned expenditure of £219 million (1.9 per cent. of LSC's budget) in 2007-08.
[6] The LSN is a private company competing for contracts through competitive tender. It receives some public funding from the QIA which is included separately in the figures quoted for the QIA. Many colleges and other providers in the FE system subscribe to LSN services using public funds, but this is an indirect relationship with government and the funds are not shown here.
[7] The Skills for Business Network is the brand under which the 25 Sector Skills Councils and the SSDA come together for marketing purposes. It is not a separately funded body or a legally constituted body of any description.
[8] The Office for Fair Access was established on 14 October 2004 but expenditure was incurred from 1 July 2004.
[9] Figures cover the HEFCE contract with the QAA only. HEFCE is not the sole source of income for the Quality Assurance Agency which also receives subscriptions from institutions and funding from other UK funding councils. It is not currently possible to provide the breakdown between core and programme expenditure.
[10] The Quality Improvement Agency was only formed in 2006 so figures have only been provided for that year.
[11] We have not included a breakdown of Ufi administration costs as they are not available in the format required.
[12] The National Education Business Partnerships Network is the umbrella organisation and national voice for the 126 local Education Business Partnerships working in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Since 2003-04 DFES has grant-funded NEBPN to manage national networks for local and national practitioners of (a) work experience, (b) teachers' professional development, placements in business, (c) enterprise education. It is not possible to separate out core costs from the programme expenditure.

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many local

Train to Gain budgets are *(a)* overspent, *(b)* on target or *(c)* underspent. [152350]

Mr. Lammy: Train to Gain is an ongoing service and as such, performance is updated on a regular basis. Detailed operational information is not held centrally by the Department but is collected by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and Mark Haysom, the LSC Chief Executive will write directly to the hon. Member with the available information. A copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

Vocational Training

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) which employers who signed up to the Skills Pledge have been awarded Government contracts in the last five years; [149084]

(2) which employers who signed up to the Skills Pledge receive *(a)* all, *(b)* more than 50 per cent. and *(c)* any relevant funding from the public sector. [149085]

Mr. Lammy: On 14 June the Government launched the Skills Pledge with commitments from 157 employers with more than 1.7 million employees. Since the launch, employers have continued to register their interest in the Skills Pledge through the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) Train to Gain website and helpline. The Learning and Skills Council is responsible for the operational aspects of the Skills Pledge, including recording which of those employers making a Skills Pledge are from the public sector. Mark Haysom will write to the hon. Member and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House. Employers who make a commitment to a Skills Pledge are able to access the support of a skills broker. These independent, impartial experts will help employers identify the skills needed to meet their business needs and any sources of public funding available. Those employers who have already committed to the Skills Pledge are now working through how best to fulfil their commitment, including any requirement for public funding.

Information on which of these employers hold a contract with Government agencies is not held centrally.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 31 July 2007:

As the Learning and Skills Council is responsible for the operational aspects of the Skills Pledge the Minister for Skills, David Lammy, has asked me to respond to your recent parliamentary question; which employers who signed up to the Skills Pledge receive a) all, b) more than 50 per cent. and c) any relevant funding from the public sector.

When a company or organisation registers its intention to make the Skills Pledge, it will have the option of accessing support and advice from a Skills Broker through Train to Gain. In respect of Central Government Departments, we are currently liaising with Government Skills to agree Skills Pledge support and advice arrangements. We are also working with DIUS to finalise criteria for Government Departments and their Agencies accessing public funding through Train to Gain/Skills Pledge.

Of the 156 employers who made the Skills Pledge on the 14th June 2007 those which could be classified as public sector bodies include: 21 Central Government employers, 15 Non-Departmental Public Bodies, 8 Regional Development Agencies, 6 Local Authorities and 8 other public sector bodies.

I hope this information is helpful and please do not hesitate to contact my colleague Gail Bailey on 02476 823269 or by email gail.bailey@lsc.gov.uk if you would like to discuss further.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what proportion of businesses that have participated in the Train to Gain scheme have five employees or fewer; and what percentage of the Train to Gain budget is allocated to those businesses; [153464]

(2) how many and what proportion of each level of qualification have been achieved under the Train to Gain scheme in the last 12 months; [153465]

(3) what proportion of training conducted under the Train to Gain scheme has resulted from the use of skills brokers. [153466]

Mr. Lammy: Train to Gain is an ongoing service and as such performance is updated on a regular basis. Detailed operational information is not held centrally by the Department but is collected by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Mark Haysom, the LSC Chief Executive will write directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 7 August 2007:

I am writing in response to your recent Parliamentary Questions regarding Train to Gain. I have answered them in turn below.

What proportion of businesses that have participated in the Train to Gain scheme have five employees or less; and what percentage of the Train to Gain budget is allocated to those businesses:

LSC collects employer data by the following size bands: 1-49 employees, 50-249 employees, 250-4,999 employees and 5,000 plus employees. In the first 16 months of Train to Gain, 67% of organisations engaged are from the 1-49 band.

The Train to Gain budget is not allocated by these employer size bands. Instead, Skills Brokers are currently required to achieve a target of 51% of employers engaged being 'hard to reach' which means they have not supported their employees to participate in vocational training leading to qualifications in the previous 12 months and are not an Investors in People recognised company. Typically, micro and very small organisations are most likely to be 'hard to reach' so a high proportion of employers engaged to date will have fewer than 50 employees.

How many and what proportion of each level of qualification have been achieved under the Train to Gain scheme in the last 12 months.

The following achievements have been secured the period April 2006-June 2007.

Level 2/3 47,880

Basic Skills 11,680

While it is relatively early in the life cycle of Train to Gain and success rates will change in the next few months as providers submit success data, the current evidence indicates success rates of about 70% for both programme areas.

What proportion of training conducted under the Train to Gain scheme has resulted from the use of skills brokers:

It is early in the life cycle of Train to Gain and the LSC is still collecting and analysing data from providers and brokers. However, early indications are that 30% of learners have arisen from skills brokers who are targeting "Hard to Reach" employers that tend to be small organisations. This percentage is in line with original DfES and LSC planning assumptions.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what qualifications are required for employment as a skills broker as part of the Train to Gain scheme. [153467]

Mr. Lammy: Train to Gain is a new service that reached national coverage in August 2006 and is a critical part of the drive to make this country's skills world class. Skills brokers are contracted for and performance managed by the Learning and Skills Council. It is a contractual requirement that, within 12 months of their appointment, every skills broker meets the new independently assessed City and Guilds accredited skills broker standard as part of the business support profession.

Young People: Parents

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of teenage parents aged 16 to 19 are in education, employment or training. [152181]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

According to data collected in the 2006 Annual Population Survey, 29 per cent. of teenage parents aged 16 to 19 in England were in education, employment or training at the time they were surveyed.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Acid Rain

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* effects of acid rain and *(b)* trends in those effects in (i) the UK and (ii) internationally. [152611]

Mr. Woolas: Over the last two decades, the Government have supported an extensive research programme to investigate and understand the effects of acid rain on the environment.

The research has provided us with a greater understanding of the impacts of acid rain on both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and there is now evidence of recovery in some of the most acid-sensitive sites in the UK.

Most recent assessments of impacts on terrestrial ecosystems have also shown that there is a continuing reduction, over the last decade, in the areas of sensitive ecosystems across the UK, at risk from damage from acidification.

No direct assessment has been undertaken by the Government of the trends or effects of acid rain at an international level. However, the UK contributes significantly financially, and through provision of scientific expertise, to the work of the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. The ongoing review of one of the Protocols under the Convention (the Gothenburg Protocol) has highlighted significant reductions in sulphur deposition and consequent impacts on ecosystems across the UNECE region. Aquatic and forest ecosystems have also become less acidified.

Aggregates Levy

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the future of the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund. [152262]

Jonathan Shaw: The future of the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund beyond March 2008 is being decided in the current Comprehensive Spending Review.

Aggregates Levy: High Peak

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which projects in High Peak have been funded by the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund; and what the value is of each project. [152263]

Jonathan Shaw: The following projects have been funded by the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund in Derbyshire. We do not have a breakdown by constituency.

Project title	*Finish date*	*Grant (£)*
Aston on Trent Memorial Hall—Extension and Refurbishment	31 March 2007	50,000
Bamford Methodist Church and Hall—Replacement Windows	31 March 2007	13,600
Birchover Mires Restoration Project	31 March 2004	10,632
Bonsall Field Barn Restoration Project (Phase I)	31 March 2005	14,049
Bonsall Field Barn Restoration Project (Phase II)	31 March 2007	50,000
Brierlow Bar Drystone Wall Repairs	31 March 2007	19,890
Bugsworth Basin—Repair of Wharf Walls	31 March 2007	46,501
Burbage Institute Improvements	11 January 2006	7,400
Buxton and High Peak Golf Club Tree Planting Scheme	31 March 2005	5,100
Buxton Cricket, Bowling and Tennis Club—Restoration of Pavilion	31 March 2007	34,000
Buxton for Youth—Conversion of Premises	31 March 2007	30,434
Creswell Social Centre Kitchen Refurbishment	31 March 2007	12,518
Crich War Memorial Tower	1 April 2004	34,361
Cromford Hill Walling Project	31 March 2004	10,383
Cromford Hill Walling Scheme (Phase II)	31 March 2005	9,394
Cromford North Street Design Study	31 March 2007	14,250
Cromford Via Gelia Ponds and Footpaths Project	31 March 2007	38,750
Cromford Via Gelia Woodlands Stone Walling Scheme	31 March 2007	19,745
Dene Quarry—Dry Stone Wall Restoration (Phase II)	31 March 2007	15,750
Derwent Gardens Restoration, Matlock Bath	31 March 2007	10,000
Dove Holes Community Amenity Access Project	31 March 2005	14,419
Dove Holes Cricket Club—Provision of Cricket Practice Facility and Landscaping	31 March 2007	28,000
Dove Holes Drystone Walling	31 March 2004	2,045
Dove Holes Methodist Church—Repair of Wall	27 October 2005	3,528
Dove Holes Play Area	31 March 2007	26,200
Egginton Memorial Hall Roof Repairs	1 April 2004	38,915
Establishment of Deep Dale Nature Reserve, King Sterndale	31 March 2005	13,881
Fairfield Liberal Club Improvements	31 March 2007	5,693
Floodlighting of Sports Pitch at Buxton Community School	31 March 2004	46,500
Harpur Hill Club Improvements	31 March 2007	6,826
Harpur Hill Methodist Church—Provision of Disabled Toilet	31 March 2007	2,500
Hayfield Skate Park	31 March 2004	19,000
Hodthorpe Play Area	1 April 2004	25,568
Hope St. Peter's Church—Repairs	31 March 2007	5,000
Improvements to National Stone Centre	1 April 2004	31,614

Project title	Finish date	Grant (£)
Improvements to Stoney Wood, Wirksworth	31 March 2004	12,074
Improving Access and Biodiversity on Former Aggregates Sites	31 March 2004	32,384
Installation of Pathway in Cromford Playground	31 March 2005	3,825
Middleton Millennium Garden Improvements	31 March 2007	6,875
Newton Solney Church Re-Roofing	31 March 2007	25,000
Peak Dale Bowling Club—Surfacing of Car Park and Landscaping	22 December 2005	25,598
Pennine Bridleway—Perry Dale	1 April 2004	21,800
Pennine Bridleway, Perry Dale (Phase II)	31 March 2004	28,200
Pilot Boundary Stone Wall Restoration Project in Stoney Middleton and Wormhill	31 March 2004	7,500
Provision of Drainage and Water Supply to Vestry of St. Martin's, Stoney Middleton	31 March 2005	9,300
Rebuilding Drystone Walls on Boundary of Dene Quarry, Cromford	31 March 2005	11,500
Rebuilding Stone Walls in Wormhill	31 March 2005	5,526
Rebuilding Walls in Stoney Middleton	31 March 2005	3,786
Restoration of Sterndale Moor Club, Near Buxton	31 March 2005	12,952
Restoration of the "Bear Pit", Cromford	31 March 2005	1,418
Shardlow Village Hall Kitchen Refurbishment	31 March 2004	5,887
Slinter Pond and Tail Race Project, Cromford	31 March 2005	41,938
Slinter Project	1 April 2004	42,564
Soundproofing and Recladding of Middleton Village Hall	31 March 2005	24,057
Stanton Church Bell and Clock Restoration	1 April 2004	5,000
Stanton in Peak Village Hall, Kitchen Improvements	1 April 2004	4,235
Stanton in the Peak Holy Trinity Church—Replacement Heating System	31 March 2007	10,000
Stanton in the Peak Village Green Boundary Wall Replacement	31 March 2004	7,020
Sterndale Moor Play Area	31 March 2004	43,000
Stoney Middleton Conservation Area Drystone Wall Restoration	31 March 2007	5,015
Stoney Middleton Parish Church of St. Martin—Extension of Vestry (Phase II)	31 March 2007	27,570
Stoney Middleton Play Area Improvements	30 September 2006	36,168
Toothbrush Woodland Scheme, Tearsall Quarry, Bonsall Moor	31 March 2004	6,374
Train Ride to History—Wirksworth Mineral Railway Incline (Phase II)	31 March 2005	32,260
Train Ride to History—Wirksworth Mineral Railway Incline	1 April 2004	22,000
Tunstead Walling	31 March 2004	6,432
Watergate Footbridge, Hope	31 March 2007	58,500
Weston on Trent Village Hall Refurbishment	1 April 2004	19,437
Whitwell Footpath 18 Improvements	1 April 2004	3,825
Willington Tennis Court Restoration	28 November 2005	9,750
Wirksworth Community Park Redevelopment	31 March 2007	40,000

Agriculture: Subsidies

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost of *(a)* administration of and *(b)* payments under the Single Payment Scheme has been since its introduction. [148722]

Jonathan Shaw: The cost of administering the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) in financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07 was £67.6 million and £75.1 million respectively. Costs include payroll, accommodation, travel and corporate overheads. IT investment costs have been excluded.

Payments to farmers under the scheme for the period to 30 June 2007 are as follows:

	£ million
SPS 2005	1,550
SPS 2006	1,489

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department expects to pay to farmers in North Yorkshire in 2007 in common agricultural policy payments; and how many farms will receive payments. [151516]

Jonathan Shaw: I am unable to make predictions about common agricultural policy payments this year. As far as the main CAP scheme, the single payment scheme (SPS) is concerned, the Rural Payments Agency has paid as at 18 July a total of £1.49 billion. Detailed analysis of all the payments made under the SPS is not yet available. Once the remaining scheme payments have been completed, a decision will be taken on the level of detail that will be published. The validation of claims under the 2007 SPS is at an early stage.

Agriculture: Wastes

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what incentives are in place to encourage farmers to work with the Government to provide renewable sources of energy from agricultural waste. [150607]

Joan Ruddock: A specific technology that the Government are keen to promote is anaerobic digestion (AD). This is an effective source of renewable energy that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture by capturing methane from manures and slurries, as well as from the decomposition of other organic materials, such as food wastes. The UK Biomass Strategy and the Waste Strategy for England include details of how we will work with stakeholders to drive a faster growth in the use of AD by local authorities, businesses and farmers.

The electricity derived from anaerobic digestion is eligible for market support through Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROCs). Alongside the Energy White Paper, the Government launched a consultation on differentiated support levels for different renewables technologies. Under these proposals, anaerobic digestion of agricultural wastes would receive additional support in the form of 2.0 ROCs/MWh. We are also examining the case and prospective mechanisms for long term support for the renewable heat sector and possible means to support the development of local infrastructure and supply chains.

The treated liquid from anaerobic digestion plants, known as digestate, has the potential for use as a fertiliser and soil conditioner. The Environment Agency and the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) aim to develop a standard and protocol for digestate by spring 2008. These would

provide regulatory clarity and confidence in its recovery on land. WRAP will support the development of the market for digestate alongside its work to establish markets for waste-derived compost.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take in response to the June 2007 report of the Independent Scientific Group on Cattle Tuberculosis. [151568]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 19 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 505-06W.

British Waterways Board

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what extra work has been carried out by British Waterways as a result of the recent floods; and what estimate he has made of the extra costs of this work to British Waterways over the last two months. [153710]

Jonathan Shaw: Additional work carried out by British Waterways during the recent floods included keeping gullies, weirs and spillways clear to ensure that flood waters could disperse more easily and lowering of water in some canals to enhance capacity to take flood water from some of the more severely affected rivers.

British Waterways is still estimating the costs of repairs associated with the most recent flooding in the West Midlands and South West. Assessments of costs incurred in repairs, dredging and staff time for the floods that affected parts of Yorkshire and the East Midlands at the end of June currently stand at approximately £1.5 million.

Carbon Emissions: Electricity Generation

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will reconcile the carbon emission factor for grid electricity shown in the Carbon Dioxide Calculator, Public Trial Version, Data, Methodology and Assumptions Paper of June 2007 of 0.527 Kg carbon dioxide/KWh and that shown in the Government's Standard Assessment Procedure for Energy Rating of Dwellings 2005 edition of 0.422 Kg carbon dioxide/KWh. [152968]

Mr. Woolas: There is no current intention to reconcile these two factors as they have been produced for different purposes.

In general terms, the carbon emission factor for grid electricity will vary from minute to minute as the fuel mix (e.g. renewables, gas, oil, coal, nuclear) and availability varies. To derive a factor for the purpose of calculations, it is therefore necessary to determine a period over which to average.

For the Act On CO_2 calculator, the purpose is to get as accurate a measure as possible for *current* CO_2 emissions. The factor of 0.527 kg carbon dioxide/kWh is the most recently available figure based on 2005 data from the DTI DUKES electricity supply data for major power producers and CO_2 emissions from the UK greenhouse gas inventory.

For the Government's Standard Assessment Procedure for Energy Rating of Dwellings 2005 edition consistency of comparison over a longer period of time is important. A longer averaging period has been used. The factor of 0.422 kg carbon dioxide/kWh is based on the 2000 DTI projections for expected mix of electricity supply for the average of the Central Growth/Low Price and Central Growth/High Price scenarios between 2000 and 2010.

Carbon Emissions: Equipment

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make an estimate of the annual carbon emissions produced by *(a)* lawnmowers, *(b)* trimmers, edgers and bush cutters, *(c)* leaf blowers and vacuums, *(d)* chain saws of less than four brake horse power, *(e)* shredders of less than five brake horse power, *(f)* lawn and garden tractors, *(g)* wood splitters, *(h)* snow blowers, *(i)* wood chippers and tree stump grinders, *(j)* other lawn and garden equipment and *(k)* other small two and four stroke petrol engine fuelled machinery. [153741]

Mr. Woolas: My Department does not currently have estimates for emissions attributable to the energy used by these types of products. The Market Transformation Programme covers the most significant products in terms of electricity and gas consumption and there are no plans to widen its coverage into these areas. Similarly, there are no estimates of the quantities of liquid fuels used by these types of products, as distinct from the major uses attributable to road transport.

Carbon Emissions: Manufacturing Industries

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on (i) the balance of carbon emissions of UK imports and exports and (ii) the effect on the carbon intensity of UK economic activity of relocating manufacturing processes overseas. [153746]

Mr. Woolas: My Department is currently undertaking a research project considering the development of an "Embedded Carbon Emissions Indicator". This will enable more accurate measurement of embedded carbon emissions in supply chains outside the UK.

The work is not yet complete and the potential application of an indicator is still to be considered. The data development needed for a full evaluation model would be substantial, as much of the necessary data do not exist in a compatible form, especially outside the European Union.

Carbon Emissions: Power Stations

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what volume of carbon dioxide was emitted in the UK by *(a)* coal, *(b)*

oil, *(c)* gas and *(d)* nuclear power stations in 2005-06; and if he will make a statement. [152929]

Mr. Woolas: In 2005, 173 million tonnes of carbon dioxide were emitted from UK power stations. This accounted for 31 per cent. of the total carbon dioxide emissions in the UK in that year. A more detailed breakdown of emissions by fuel is included in the table as follows.

Fuel	*CO_2 Emissions (Mt)*
Coal	114.12
Oil	2.51
Natural Gas	54.40
Other	2.04

There are no direct emissions of carbon dioxide from nuclear power stations.

Cereals

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the weight in tonnes was of the UK grain reserves in each of the last 12 quarters for which data are available. [153538]

Jonathan Shaw: The amounts of grain held in storage in the UK under Regulation (EC) No. 824/2000 and stored by the Rural Payments Agency as a result of market intervention measures under the common agricultural policy are set out in the following table:

Quarter ending	*Grain Levels*[1]
2004	
September	0
December	4,064
2005	
March	8,994
June	16,022
September	15,422
December	17,440
2006	
March	29,361
June	30,308
September	30,308
December	27,969
2007	
March	28
June	0

[1] Rounded to nearest tonne.

Common Land: Devon

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to settle the outstanding annual payment due to the Holne Commoners for the year ending 31 August 2007 in accordance with the Environmentally Sensitive Agreement 1999. [153660]

Joan Ruddock: I can confirm that the outstanding annual payment due under the Holne Commoners' Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) agreement was processed on 9 July 2007.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has made to the European Commissioner responsible for environmentally sensitive schemes on the EU's financial obligations to commoners in Dartmoor National Park. [153661]

Joan Ruddock: None. The financial arrangements for the Rural Development Programme for the period 2007-13 were announced on 29 March 2007. This provides for £2.9 billion for agri-environment schemes, over double the expenditure spent in the last programme. This will enable all existing agri-environment agreements, including those for Dartmoor Commoners, to be maintained, and in addition allows for new agreements under Environmental Stewardship to be set up when the existing agreements expire.

Dartmoor National Park

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on the growth of bracken in Dartmoor National Park and the lack of provision of access for ramblers and riders in accordance with the Dartmoor National Park Act 1983. [153662]

Jonathan Shaw: My officials have informally discussed bracken encroachment on occasion with stakeholders, including Dartmoor commoners, along with other uplands land management issues. The Dartmoor Commons Act 1985 provides land management powers to deal with vegetation such as bracken. In addition, voluntary agri-environment schemes provide options for bracken control measures.

Departments: Air Conditioning

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on the hire of mobile air conditioning units in each of the last five years. [151744]

Mr. Woolas: The Department is unable to provide figures for the last five years but can provide figures for financial year 2005-06 and spend to date for financial year 2006-07.

	Amount (£)
2005-06	160,232.68
2006-07	61,395.56

All air conditioning units used now conform to the following Government environmental standards:

<12 kW—EU Energy Label class C or better

>12 kW—coefficient of performance of 2.85, or better (EGA)

Legislation prohibits the use of CFCs and HCFCs as refrigerants.

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* first class and *(b)* business flights in the last 12 months. [153095]

Jonathan Shaw: From information held centrally, the core-Department spent *(a)* £34,690 on first class and *(b)* £1,100,623 on business flights between July 2006 and June 2007.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Departments: Catering

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of *(a)* beef, *(b)* sheep meat, *(c)* pork and *(d)* dairy products used in his Department in the most recent period for which figures are available were imported products. [150799]

Jonathan Shaw: My right hon. Friend the then Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs told the House on 8 March 2007 that he would commission work to determine the proportion of publicly procured food which is British, and place the information in the Library of the House by late autumn 2007 or sooner. My right hon. Friend the current Secretary of State will advise the House when this information is deposited in the Library of the House.

Departments: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of people employed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are disabled. [153576]

Jonathan Shaw: The latest available data on the disability status of civil servants in Departments and agencies are as at 30 September 2006 and are published in "Civil Service Statistics 2006" at Table P. This document is produced by the Office for National Statistics and can be accessed from the following website addresses:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/2006CivilServiceStatistics.pdf

Declaration of a disability is voluntary.

Departments: Early Retirement

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of his staff took early retirement in the last five years; at what cost; what grades of staff took early retirement; and what percentage of each grade took early retirement. [148816]

Mr. Woolas: In the current financial year to date and the previous four financial years, 577 DEFRA employees have left the Department and its agencies under early retirement arrangements. The total cost to the Department of these exits was £56.820 million, including provision made at the time of each departure to meet related liabilities in future years. The following table sets out the breakdown of leavers by grade. Due to the fluctuating population of each grade at any given time figures expressing the listed totals for each grade as percentages of the totals for the Department would be unreliable.

	Number
Administrative Assistant	72
Administrative Officer	119
Executive Officer	92
Higher Executive Officer	73
Senior Executive Officer	48
Veterinary Officer	1
Grade 7	62
Grade 6	16
Senior Civil Service	21
Unidentifiable by Grade	73
Total	577

Departments: Employment Agencies

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Department paid in fees to recruitment agencies for *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent staff in each year since 1997. [151677]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA came into being in June 2001.

From information held centrally, the core-Department's VAT inclusive expenditure on personnel engaged through employment agencies since 2001 is shown in the following table.

Financial year	*Expenditure (£)*
2002-03	10,536,828
2003-04	9,383,419
2004-05	9,623,459
2005-06	9,890,898
2006-07	6,665,696

From information held centrally, the core-Department's VAT inclusive expenditure on recruitment consultants in each financial year commencing with 2002-03 is shown in the following table.

Financial year	*Expenditure (£)*
2002-03	684,795.34
2003-04	1,106,361.08
2004-05	447,712.00
2005-06	999,207.53
2006-07	1,418,359.43

Recruitment agency fees are captured within the expenditure figures shown but could be identified separately only at disproportionate cost. The fees vary from assignment to assignment dependent on the factors relevant to a particular engagement including but not limited to the nature and complexity of the task specification; the personal skills set of the individual required; the state of the labour market; and regional factors.

Information for the financial year 2001-02 and expenditure by DEFRA's Executive Agencies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Flint Bishop Solicitors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have made payment to Flint Bishop solicitors since 1997. [151397]

Mr. Woolas: No payments have been made by my Department or its Agencies to Flint Bishop solicitors since 1997.

Departments: Flowers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by his Department on flowers in the last 12 months. [153096]

Jonathan Shaw: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what legislative provisions introduced by his Department and its predecessor since 1997 have not yet been brought into force. [149568]

Jonathan Shaw: My Department and its predecessors have been responsible for the introduction of 20 Acts since 1997 of which some provisions of the following Acts have still to be brought into force:

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

Water Act 2003

Commons Act 2006

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

Animal Welfare Act 2006

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what legislative provisions introduced by his Department and its predecessors since 1997 have been repealed. [149586]

Jonathan Shaw: My Department and its predecessors have been responsible for the introduction of 20 Acts since 1997. Some provisions of the following Acts have been repealed.

Birds (Registration of Charges) Act 1997

Plant Varieties Act 1997

Animal Health (Amendment) Act 1998

Water Industry Act 1999

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

Water Act 2003

Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which Bills introduced by his Department in the last five years have contained sunset clauses; and what plans he has for the future use of such clauses. [151841]

Jonathan Shaw: The following Bill, introduced by my Department in the last five years, has contained sunset clauses:

Water Bill (which became the Water Act 2003)

The appropriateness of a sunset clause for the whole or part of any proposed legislation is considered on a case-by-case basis. It is also addressed when a regulatory impact assessment relating to legislation is being prepared.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which Bills introduced by his Department in the last five years did not contain sunset clauses; and if he will make a statement. [152487]

Jonathan Shaw: The following Acts, introduced as Bills by my Department in the last five years have not contained sunset clauses.

Animal Health Act 2002

Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003

Hunting Act 2004

Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

Commons Act 2006

Animal Welfare Act 2006

The appropriateness of a sunset clause for the whole or part of any proposed legislation is considered on a case by case basis. It is also addressed when a regulatory impact assessment relating to legislation is being prepared.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many press officers are employed by his Department. [153100]

Jonathan Shaw: The press office for core DEFRA consists of 23 full-time permanent press officer posts. Currently these posts are filled by 21 full-time permanent press officers and two temporary press officers.

Departments: Paper

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many reams of paper his Department *(a)* used and *(b)* recycled on average in weeks when Parliament was sitting in 2006-07. [150875]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 19 July 2007]:* From information held centrally, between 1 November 2006 and 30 June 2007 the Department and its executive agencies used 129,028 reams of paper.

In financial year 2006-07, the Department and its executive agencies recycled 859,881 kilograms of paper.

Departments: Postal Services

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what volume of correspondence his Department sent *(a)* by Royal

Mail and *(b)* by other commercial delivery services in each of the last five years; and what the reasons were for the use of other commercial delivery services. [150446]

Jonathan Shaw: From information held centrally, the core-Department has not used commercial delivery services other than Royal Mail.

The core-Department has issued the following volumes of correspondence by Royal Mail since 2003.

	Volume
2003	4,848,627
2004	9,668,341
2005	9,909,773
2006	9,749,716
2007 to date	3,228,676

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to which periodicals his Department subscribes. [153092]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department currently takes 10 newspaper titles and 171 periodical titles through its library services. I am placing a copy of the full title listing of these in the Library of the House of Commons. Newspaper and periodical requirements are reviewed annually to ensure their continuing relevance to the Department's changing business needs. As a result, some titles are cancelled and new ones subscribed to.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by his Department on newspapers and magazines in the last 12 months. [153093]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA's expenditure on newspapers and periodicals through its library services for the financial year 2006-07 was £72,000.

This figure excludes the spend on newspapers and periodicals by DEFRA local offices and the Department's executive agencies. These figures could be compiled only at a disproportionate cost.

Departments: Railways

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by his Department on first class train tickets in the last 12 months. [153094]

Jonathan Shaw: From information held centrally, the core-Department spent £1,242,196 as first class train tickets between July 2006 and June 2007.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Departments: Recycling

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what provision is made within his Department for the recycling of *(a)* paper, *(b)* glass and *(c)* plastics. [152901]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 26 July 2007]:* The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has a wide range of recycling provisions for paper, glass and plastics across its estate. Recycling of these materials is closely monitored and reported quarterly against the government's Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) targets.

In addition recycling provision for each of these materials is audited, both internally and externally, through our Environmental Management System (EMS) programme.

Latest figures (2006-07) confirm that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs recycled 860 tonnes of paper, 38 tonnes of glass and 16 tonnes of plastic.

Departments: Taxis

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by his Department on taxis in the last 12 months. [153097]

Jonathan Shaw: From information held centrally, the core-Department's VAT inclusive expenditure on taxis in the last 12 months was £194,840. Additionally, the core-Department spent £48,770 with the Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA).

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by his Department on staff away days in the last 12 months. [153089]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not held centrally and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many overseas visits were made by *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers within his responsibility, and at what cost, in each year since 1997. [151655]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA came into being in June 2001. From information held centrally, 199 tickets were booked for ministerial visits overseas between April 2006 and March 2007 at a cost of £112,774. Between April 2006 and June 2007, 6,906 tickets were booked for officials' visits overseas at a cost of £2,413,437.

Management information for visits overseas by Ministers and officials prior to April 2006 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Departments: Westmoreland

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will

consider locating or relocating additional departmental jobs to Westmorland and Lonsdale. [152843]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has no plans to relocate additional departmental jobs to Westmorland and Lonsdale. Under the Lyons agenda, DEFRA has a target to relocate 390 posts out of the south-east and to accomplish this target without incurring significant costs, DEFRA's strategy is to use existing accommodation outside the south-east. DEFRA already has accommodation in York and Worcester where the majority of posts will be relocated.

Departments: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many jobs his Department and its agencies had *(a)* in York and *(b)* at the Central Science Laboratory site at Sand Hutton in each year since 2006. [151518]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of staff employed in each year by DEFRA and its agencies in the locations requested was as follows:

Location	*2006*	*2007*
City of York	582.66	592.65
Sand Hutton	599.50	598.10

Note:
All figures are full-time equivalents.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will consider *(a)* relocating additional departmental jobs to and *(b)* locating additional departmental jobs in York. [151519]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has a target, under the Lyons agenda, to relocate 390 posts out of the south-east. As DEFRA already has existing accommodation in York, the strategy is to relocate over 50 per cent. of the posts to York. To date 96 posts have already been relocated with plans for a further 116 to be relocated by 2010.

The Shared Services Directorate, which brings together the delivery of corporate services to core DEFRA and a number of DEFRA family organisations, was launched on 1 April 2007 and the majority of staff working for the SSD will be based in York. However, as the organisational structure has not yet been finalised it is difficult to give the exact staff numbers at this stage, these are expected to be finalised by September 2007.

Dog Control Orders

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what consultation process will be undertaken by local authorities prior to the introduction of dog control orders; [153338]

(2) how many dog control orders have been implemented; [153340]

(3) whether his Department has consulted KC Dog in relation to the maintenance of records relating to dog control orders. [153341]

Jonathan Shaw: Although Dog Control Orders do not need confirmation by the Secretary of State, local authorities can only introduce them after completing the procedure prescribed in the Dog Control Order (Procedures) Regulations 2006. The procedure includes a period of local consultation and notification in the local press. This gives dog owners and local residents the opportunity to make representations to the local authority on the proposed controls.

In our guidance to local authorities on this issue, we have strongly advised them to consider any representations prior to making Dog Control Orders. Authorities should also provide details of alternative areas in the vicinity where owners can exercise their dogs. Failure to take into consideration the views of the local community could lead to the Order being challenged in the courts.

My Department does not hold central records of Dog Control Orders made, neither have we consulted with KC Dog, a group set up by the Kennel Club, on maintenance of such records.

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what obligations local authorities are under to consult local access forums prior to the introduction of dog control orders. [153339]

Jonathan Shaw: When a local authority is considering making a Dog Control Order that would affect open access land (land subject to Part 1 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000), it must consult the appropriate access authority, the relevant authority, Forestry Commission or Natural England and, if it is not also the access authority, the local access forum.

There are already comprehensive dog control provisions which may be applied to access land including, if necessary, the banning of dogs. An authority should therefore pay particular attention to the views of these bodies in deciding whether any proposed order affecting open access land is necessary.

Guidance on making Dog Control Orders under powers enacted under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 has been issued to all local authorities and is available from the DEFRA website.

Dogs: Syringomyelia

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps the Government are taking to eradicate syringomyelia among pedigree dogs; [152478]

(2) what representations he has received on the eradication of syringomyelia among pedigree dogs. [152479]

Jonathan Shaw: My Department has received a number of representations on syringomyelia and other conditions which can afflict some pedigree dogs. My officials have recently initiated discussions with the Kennel Club to look at what practical steps have been taken, or could be taken, by breeders of pedigree dogs to eradicate or ameliorate conditions such as these. I have asked to be kept informed on the outcomes of discussions.

Environment Agency: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will review the decision not to increase the Environment Agency's budget before 2010-11. [152880]

Jonathan Shaw: The Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR07) settlement is not expected from Her Majesty's Treasury until the autumn. No final decision has been made on the level of grant in aid to the Environment Agency over the next three financial years. However, the Secretary of State has confirmed that spending across Government on flood and coastal erosion risk management will increase to £800 million by 2010-11. Indicative allocations for flood and coastal erosion risk management over the next three financial years will be determined from an assessment of priorities across the Department following the CSR07 settlement.

Environment Agency: Meteorology

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Environment Agency was notified by the Meteorological Office of the warning of severe weather with regard to the weather events on and around 20 July; and what information was provided. [153729]

Jonathan Shaw: On 18 July, the Met Office contacted the Environment Agency's National Flood Warning Duty Officer to provide early warning of a severe rainfall event expected between 19 and 21 July. A number of severe weather warnings were then issued by the Met Office during this period.

Typically, these warnings provided information on the geographical areas and watercourses likely to be affected by the severe weather, the amount of rainfall expected, the timing of the anticipated severe weather event, and the Met Office's degree of confidence in the forecast.

The following extracts are examples of the information provided by the Met Office in its severe weather warnings.

Date	*Time*	*Event*
19 July	05.37	Event 0900 to 2000 on 19/7. Low confidence for Welsh Mountains, Welsh/Shropshire Hills, Severn Lowlands, Central, Staffs and High Peak, Trent Lowland, Avon/Soar Headwaters of 10mm or more in 1 hour, 15 or more in 6 hours, 20 mm or more in 12 hours.
19 July	20.25	Event 0900 to 2000 on 19/7. High confidence for Welsh Mountains, Welsh/Shropshire Hills, Severn Lowlands, Central, Staffs and High Peak, Trent Lowland, Avon/Soar Headwaters of 15mm or more in 6 hours, 20 mm or more in 12 hours.
20 July	16.56	Event 2100 on 19/7 to 0900 on 21/9. High confidence for Welsh Mountains, Welsh/ Shropshire Hills, Severn Lowlands, Central, Staffs and High Peak, Trent Lowland, Avon/ Soar Headwaters of 15mm or more in 6 hours, 20 mm or more in 12 hours.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the policy is of the Environment Agency on acting upon forecasts of bad weather received from the Meteorological Office. [153731]

Jonathan Shaw: The Environment Agency has procedures in place to ensure that Regional Forecasting Duty Officers translate the Met Office heavy rainfall warnings into forecasts of river levels and flows.

These are used to inform decisions on whether to issue flood warnings and/or carry out specific operational activities.

Eunomia: Research

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* research and *(b)* consultancy work his Department has commissioned from Eunomia. [153726]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 15 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1364W, by the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for DEFRA, my hon. Friend for Exeter (Mr. Bradshaw) to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman).

Fisheries: Protection

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 648-50W, on fisheries: protection, why the Royal Navy Fishery Protection Service contracted days have been reduced to 700 up to a maximum of 750. [153475]

Jonathan Shaw: As part of negotiations of the new agreement to apply from 1 April 2008, officials of the Marine and Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Defence and Royal Navy reviewed the operational requirements and budget implications for future patrol activity at sea. It was decided that the operational needs could be delivered through the provision of 700 patrol days for 2008-09, and with the agreement providing for a minimum of 600 and maximum of 750 patrol days per year, using the more modern and efficient River Class Patrol vessels. The existing arrangements are based on a mixture of River and Hunt Class vessels.

Flood Control: Agriculture

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of the recommendations of the August 1998 Agriculture Select Committee Report on flood and coastal defences (HC 707) have been implemented. [153702]

Jonathan Shaw: All 22 of the recommendations taken forward in the Government Response to the 1998 Agriculture Select Committee Report have been implemented and in many instances additional actions completed.

Copies of the full list of Government actions against recommendations have been placed in the House Library.

Flood Control: EU Grants and Loans

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what money has been received in the last 10 years from the European Union for *(a)* flood defences and *(b)* compensation to (i) agencies and (ii) individuals affected by flooding. [152910]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 26 July 2007]:* The Environment Agency (EA) have received £5.9 million in total in relation to flood risk management work (including flood defences) over the last 10 years from the European Union (EU) and will continue to look at the possibility of applications to the EU for flood defence.

Details of the projects, the amount of funding received and the European fund it came from are provided in the following table:

Project name	*Project topic*	*Amount received by Environment Agency in EU grant*[1]	*Source of EU funding*
ACTIF	Achieving technological innovation in flood forecasting (ACTIF)	35,000	Framework Programme for Research and Development (DG Research)
FRaME (Alkborough)	Engineering and public consultation work to produce multiple-benefit wetland area (i.e. has flood benefits but also recreation and wildlife benefits and others)	645,000	Interreg III (DG Regio)
FLOWS	Looks at risk-based planning and development control in low-lying zones at risk of flooding.	70,000	Interreg III (DG Regio)
COMRISK	Flood defence planning in coastal lowlands	103,000	Interreg III (DG Regio)
COMCOAST	Develop and demonstrate an innovative solutions for flood risk management in coastal areas in the East of England	100,000	Interreg III (DG Regio)
Floodscape	Flood risk management engineering work and public participation work on the River Thames	400,000	Interreg III (DG Regio)
New Forest LIFE	Flood risk management through re-shaping streams and rivers in the New Forest	300,000	LIFE (DG Environment)
Llandovery Flood Alleviation Scheme	Creating a flood alleviation scheme	66,000	Objective 1 European Regional Development Fund (2000-06) (DG Regio)
Flood Risk Management Wales	A large project comprising a number of elements. Focused on flood defence works	2,718,000	Objective 1 European Regional Development Fund (2000-06) (DG Regio)
Flood Forecasting Wales	Implementing flood forecasting.	359,000	Objective 1 European Regional Development Fund (2000-06) (DG Regio)
Flood Defence Improvements Scheme Bungay	Flood defence work.	1,100,000	Objective 2 European Regional Development Fund (2000-06) (DG Regio)
Total		5,896,000	

[1] Grant received in euro but amount converted to sterling for reporting here. The money was received in the form of EU funding grants awarded to projects that the EA were involved in either as a partner or a lead partner. The EA have only included here the amount of ED funding received by the Environment Agency for their own work.

I am not aware of any other funding applied for, or received from the European Union for flood defences, or to compensate those affected by flooding.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has made an application to the European Solidarity Fund for funding for areas of England affected by recent flooding. [149131]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

No such application has yet been made as we are currently collecting all the information necessary for us to assess the full financial effect of the damage caused by the June and July floods before deciding whether such an application could meet the strict criteria laid down for mobilising the Fund.

Flood Control: Expenditure

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Environment Agency spent on *(a)* capital expenditure and *(b)* expenditure on maintenance in relation to flood defence in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [152881]

Jonathan Shaw: The figures reflect Environment Agency spend on flood risk management funded by DEFRA and exclude spend funded from other sources (e.g. levies on local authorities, beneficiary contributions, charges). Capital figures reflect spend on new and improved capital measures to reduce flood risk, including on flood warning infrastructure. Maintenance figures reflect spend on maintenance of existing assets. Other Flood Risk Management (FRM) spend covers the cost of delivering flood warning services, flood mapping, development control, data management such as the National Flood and Coastal Defence Database, regional flood defence committees and other associated costs such as investment in and provision of information systems (IS), accommodation and overheads.

£ million

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Capital	151	202	162
Maintenance	162	163	176
Other FRM Spend	61.9	152.9	115

The additional spend in 2005-06 was largely funded from financial balances. These had been held by

Regional Flood Defence Committees to meet the cost of unforeseen events such as severe flooding, as at the time the Agency's spend on flood risk management was largely funded from levies on local authorities. Since 2004, this spend has primarily been funded by DEFRA and such balances are no longer maintained.

The Environment Agency is the principal operating authority with responsibility for flood risk management in England. However, Government-funded works are also carried out by local authorities and, in areas with special drainage needs, internal drainage boards. The Agency incurs spend on other activities related to flood risk management such as operational costs, advising on plans for new development.

Flood Control: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will instigate an immediate review of the Environment Agency's planned expenditure on *(a)* capital projects and *(b)* regular maintenance in respect of flood defence in each of the next three years. [152882]

Jonathan Shaw: The Environment Agency produces annual Medium Term Plans setting out their proposed flood risk management capital schemes for the following five years. This year's exercise is due to be completed in the autumn and will be reviewed by the Department. It will inform targets and funding allocations for the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR07) period (2008-09 to 2010-11).

The Environment Agency currently develop a maintenance programme each year based on their assessment of the condition of its flood defences. Outcome Measures for flood risk management have recently been defined and it is anticipated that these will be used to set targets progressively during the CSR07 period, starting with the capital programme in 2008-09 and extending to maintenance and other flood risk management activities from 2009-10. This should enable a direct comparison of, and more efficient allocation between, capital and maintenance works.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs by what mechanism internal drainage boards are funded by the public purse. [153701]

Jonathan Shaw: The legislative framework for internal drainage board (IDB) funding is the Land Drainage Act 1991. Under the Act, there are three mechanisms by which IDBs can receive public funding to support their flood risk management and associated activities.

IDBs may impose special levies on local authorities (district and unitary authorities) to fund their work in the district. This is not permissive (or discretionary) expenditure and the levies must be paid. Relevant councils do sit on the IDBs and while these members are not appointed to represent local authority interests on the IDB, they are in a position to have some influence on the sums raised through special levies.

All properties within a drainage district are deemed to derive benefit from the activities of an IDB. Every property is therefore subject to a drainage rate paid annually to the Board.

For the purposes of rating, properties are divided into (a) agricultural land and buildings and (b) other land (such as domestic houses, factories, shops etc). Occupiers of all "other land" pay council tax or non-domestic rates to the local council who then are charged by the Board under the special levy arrangements above. The Board, therefore, only imposes drainage rates direct on agricultural land and buildings.

The basis of this is that each property has been allotted an "annual value" which were last revised in the early 1990s. The annual value is an amount equal to the yearly rent, or the rent that might be reasonably expected if let on a tenancy from year to year commencing 1 April 1988.

The annual value remains the same from year to year. Each year the Board lays a rate "in the £" to meet its estimated expenditure. This is multiplied by the annual value to produce the amount of drainage rate due on each assessment. A breakdown of the rate in the £ is shown on the reverse of the demand note to show how money is spent.

DEFRA funds individual capital improvement projects promoted by IDBs, subject to relevant economic, social, environmental and prioritisation criteria.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much public funding was allocated to the internal drainage boards in each year since 1997-98. [153728]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows details of public funding allocated to internal drainage boards (IDBs) in each year from 1999-2000. Figures prior to this year are not held centrally by DEFRA. Please note that not all income is included in the 2005-06 figure.

Income received by internal drainage boards

£ million

	Agricultural drainage rates[1]	*Special levies*[2]	*EA cont*[3]	*Devp cont*[4]	*Other beneficiary contributions*[5]	*Government grant*[6]	*Loans received*[7]	*Other*[8]	*Total*
1999-2000	11.3	18.8	2.1	—	0.8	0.5	0.6	6.4	40.5
2000-01	11.1	19.5	2.0	1.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	7.5	42.0
2001-01	11.7	20.2	2.3	1.3	0.2	2.0	0.6	6.7	45.0
2002-03	12.4	21.3	2.6	1.4	0.8	2.0	0.5	6.8	47.8
2003-04	12.8	22.1	2.5	1.9	0.2	1.3	1.0	5.2	47.0
2004-05	13.4	23.7	2.5	2.1	0.8	1.1	1.4	6.4	51.5
2005-06	13.4	24.7	2.8	—	—	—	—	—	40.9

[1] Agricultural drainage rates collected by the IDB from agricultural land and buildings within the drainage district.
[2] Special levies collected by the IDB—local authorities pay special levies to internal drainage boards which fall entirely or partly within their boundaries to take account of works the boards do in relation to flood risk management, for example in urban areas.
[3] Contributions from the Environment Agency.
[4] Contributions from developers.
[5] Contributions from other beneficiaries.
[6] Government grant—DEFRA funds individual capital improvement projects promoted by IDBs subject to relevant economic, social, environmental and prioritisation criteria.
[7] Loans raised from the public works loans board to fund balance of grant costs etc.
[8] All other income (including contributions from local authorities, income from rechargeable works undertaken for others, and interests received on deposits).
Note:
In financial year 2005-06, not all information on income and expenditure was collected centrally by DEFRA. As such the figure represented in the total column does not equal all income received by IDBs in that financial year.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* capital and *(b)* resource departmental expenditure limit for flood defence grant in aid was in each year since 1997 for (i) England and (ii) each region; and if he will make a statement. [153590]

Jonathan Shaw: The Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) has only applied to the Environment Agency since 2004 when flood risk funding was provided directly rather than through the local authority levy.

The DEL for Flood Defence Grant-in-Aid (FDGIA) is provided to the Agency and is not split across regions. The Environment Agency seeks to ensure that funding is moved flexibly across regions within the DEL total to ensure the best value for spend.

The following table shows the figures for the Environment Agency FDGIA from 2004 to 2008.

				£ million
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08 (Budget)*
Capital	189	189	195	189
Revenue	166.6	261.3	223.9	246.9
Total	355.6	450.3	418.9	435.9

The Agency also receives other income from charges, precepts, contributions and residual local levies. In addition to the FDGIA made available to the Environment Agency, DEFRA also provides capital grants to local authorities and Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs).

The table shows DEL from 1997 to 2008.

	£ million
1997-98	n/a
1998-99	n/a
1999-2000	n/a
2001-02	n/a
2002-03	48.7
2003-04	49
2004-05	45.8
2005-06	73.4
2006-07	84.4
2007-08	67.3

2007-08 (Budget)

Local authorities and IDBs receive revenue funding from the Department of Communities and Local Government, which contributes to the cost of operation. They also receive other income from charges, contributions and levies.

Flood Control: South West Region

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many zones at risk of flooding have been highlighted by the Environment Agency in *(a)* Poole and *(b)* the south west region. [151571]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency have flood warning areas, each of which relates to a discrete area at risk that receives the flood watch, flood warning and severe flood warning services.

Within the south west region of the Agency, there is one tidal flood warning area specifically for Poole. There are 202 fluvial and 37 tidal flood warning areas for the whole region, a total of 239 risk zones.

Flood Control: Tewkesbury

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Environment Agency on the number of sandbags which are *(a)* available and *(b)* in position for use when flooding occurs in Tewkesbury constituency; and if he will make a statement. [152886]

Jonathan Shaw: I have not had focused discussions on this specific aspect of the flooding that occurred in Gloucestershire.

The Environment Agency has produced guidance on the use of sandbags with the Local Government Association. Sandbags must only be seen as an emergency response. There are more robust solutions that resist flooding of individual domestic properties such as flood-boards and airbrick covers.

I understand from the Environment Agency that approximately 2,500 sandbags were available in Tewkesbury and all were deployed.

Floods: Gloucestershire

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what extra help has been supplied by agencies stationed outside Gloucestershire to that county during the recent flooding; and if he will make a statement. [152888]

Jonathan Shaw: Mutual aid arrangements exist between the different areas of each organisation such as local authorities and the police so that resources can be switched to wherever they are most needed. In addition, procedures are also in place for central resources to be provided on request by local emergency responders. This can include assistance from the armed services, as for example we have seen in Gloucester in recent days.

Additional help for Gloucestershire during the recent flooding has also, for example, included the provision of a number of high volume pumps, brought into the area to assist in the pumping out of flood water.

Floods: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what flood prevention measures were put into place in each London borough in each of the last five years. [153567]

Jonathan Shaw: The Environment Agency is the principal authority with responsibility for flood risk management in England, although local authorities also carry out works on less critical watercourses. The following tables show capital improvement works carried out by the agency only and exclude maintenance and operational work.

1. Projects to renew or improve fluvial (non-tidal) defences on northern and southern tributaries of the River Thames.

1.1 North East Thames

	Flood Prevention Renewals	Location	London Borough	Cost (£)
2004-05	Prince Edward Playing Field Flood storage area on the Edgware Brook.	Cannons Park	Harrow	1,200,000
2004-05	Sixgates Bank and retaining walls repair works on the River Roding.	Barking	Barking and Dagenham	800,000
2005-06	Priory Park Increase size of Flood Storage Reservoir.	Stanmore	Harrow	800,000
2005-06	Stonywood lake FSA Reconstruction of dam and increase size of Flood Storage Area on the Deans Brook	Mill Hill	Barnet	1,400,000
2005-06	River Lee FRC Walthamstow Major repair of existing channel of the River Lee Flood Relief channel	Walthamstow	Walthamstow	1,200,000
2005-06	Pymmes Brook Culvert. Removal of a culvert which presented a threat to blocking the Pymmes Brook	Edmonton	Enfield	1,300,000
2004-05	Low Hall Trash Screen. Reconstruction of trash screen	Walthamstow	Walthamstow	100,000
2004-05	Field End Road Trash Screen Reconstruction of trash Screen	Eastcote	Hillingdon	100,000
2005-06	Wealdstone Brook Bank works Repair to banks to prevent collapse and blockage of the Wealdstone Brook	Kenton	Harrow	100,000
2004-06	Mayes Brook Sluices Reconstruction of the Sluice gate and control structure for the flood storage area	Barking	Barking and Dagenham	900,000
2005-06	River Pinn Diversion Removal of culvert, on the river Pinn.	Hatch End	Harrow	200,000
2004-05 2006-07	Washlands Flood Storage Reservoir Reconstruction of the flood storage reservoir and increase in capacity	Dagenham	Barking and Dagenham	4,400,000
Total				12,500,000

1.2 South East Thames

	Flood Prevention Renewals	Location	London Borough	Cost (£)
2002-07	River Quaggy Flood Alleviation Scheme	River Quaggy	Greenwich and Lewisham	18,000,000
2007-08	Refurbishment of three trash screen sites on the Beverley Brook	Ashlone Warf, Putney, Richmond Park, and New Malden	Richmond and Merton	150,000
2007-08	Refurbishment of EA Trash screen -Upper Elmers End	Beckenham, St James Stream	Bromley	15,000
2007-08	Refurbishment of EA Trash Screen	Kyd Brook	Bromley	51,000
2007-08	Refurbishment of EA Trash Screen	Ravensbourne	Bromley	34,000
2005-07	Channel reprofiling and increased flood storage	Hogsmill near A240	RB Kingston upon Thames	120,000
2006-07	Channel reprofiling, creation of flood banks and increased flood storage	Ladywell Fields Lewisham	Lewisham	100,000
2002-04	Channel reprofiling, creation of flood banks, increased flood storage and flood warning improvements	Chinbrook Meadows	Lewisham	250,000
2002	Channel reprofiling and increased flood storage	Shaftesbury Park	London borough of Bromley	90,000
2002-03	Channel reprofiling and increased flood storage	Norman Park	London borough of Bromley	180,000

1.2 South East Thames

	Flood Prevention Renewals	Location	London Borough	Cost (£)
2005-07	Channel reprofiling, creation of flood banks, increased flood storage, construction of new trash screen and flood warning improvements	Upstream of Hayes Lane Bromley	London borough of Bromley	450,000
2003-06	Channel reprofiling and increased flood storage	Crayford Marshes Erith	London borough of Bexley	250,000
2005-06	Raising of flood defences, improvements in capacity of structure and flood warning improvements	Flood Siphon on River Graveney at Colliers Wood	London borough of Merton	900,000
2004-05	Banks stabilisation and weir removal	River Wandle outside Garrett Lane Depot	London borough's of Merton and Wandsworth	120,000
Total				20,710,000

2. Projects to renew or improve Thames Tidal defences along the northern and southern banks of the River Thames.

	Flood Prevention Renewals	Location	London Borough	Cost (£)
2002-03	Strengthening and renewal of masonry flood defence wall (tidal)	Strand on the Green	Hounslow	782,000
2004-05	Renewal of a deficient flood defence wall (tidal)	Upstream of Barking Barrier	Barking and Dagenham	92,000
2005-06	Renewal of tidal flood defence wall	New England Wharf	Barking and Dagenham	1,300,00
2005-06	Renewal of tidal flood defence wall	Frognore Estate	Barking and Dagenham	425,000
2005-06	Renewal of tidal flood defence wall	Anchor Bay Wharf	Bexley	770,000
2006-07	Renewal of tidal flood defence wall	Old British Gas Site	Barking and Dagenham	35,000
2006-07	Renewal of masonry flood defence wall (tidal)	Four Gates Sluice	Barking and Dagenham	460,000
2006-07	Renewal of tidal flood defence earth embankments	Dartford Creek Frontages	Bexley	2,600,000
2006-07	Renewal of tidal flood defence steel sheet pile wall	Marley Water Proofing Frontages	Barking and Dagenham	600,000
2007-08	Renewal of tidal flood defence steel sheet pile wall	Marley Water Proofing Frontages	Barking and Dagenham	700,000
2007-08	Renewal of tidal flood defence earth embankments	Dartford Creek Frontages	Bexley	2,500,000
2007-08	Renewal of tidal flood defence walls	Isle of Dogs Frontages	Tower Hamlets	1,000,000
Total				11,264,000

Floods: Helicopters

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many helicopters are available to the Environment Agency to implement emergency flood protection; and what evaluation he has made of the adequacy of these aircraft for such transportation work. [153483]

Jonathan Shaw: The Environment Agency is able to call upon military assistance during a crisis where there are lives at risk. The availability of these assets is dependent on military deployment at the time and is managed through Royal Air Force Kinloss.

Helicopters would be used only when land-based emergency flood protection measures cannot be undertaken safely. The Ministry of Defence determines the adequacy of these aircraft for transportation of sandbags and other materials.

Floods: Publicity

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what methods the Environment Agency uses to alert householders without access to the internet to flood warnings; and if he will make a statement. [151145]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency uses a number of methods to alert householders. Floodline Warnings Direct alerts householders via an automated message system using phone, mobile, and pagers to send voice messages, faxes and SMS (Short Message Service). Sirens, loudhailers and media broadcasts are also used.

In addition, police officers and other officials have provided 'door to door' information to significant numbers of people throughout the period of flooding in a heroic and successful exercise. These warnings have been undertaken as a result of the civil resilience planning under the auspices of the 2004 Civil Contingencies Act, which requires all Category 1 responders to maintain arrangements to warn the public, and to provide information and advice to the public, if an emergency is likely to occur or has occurred.

Floods: Tewkesbury

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of households in Tewkesbury constituency which are without *(a)* water and *(b)* electricity as a result of the recent floods; when he expects those supplies to be restored; and if he will make a statement. [152889]

Jonathan Shaw: The following answer is current at 11:00 on Thursday, 26 July.

Flooding has rendered the Mythe water treatment works inoperable. Current estimates are that 140,000 premises are currently without tap water across the region and that it could take between seven and 14 days to restore services. It is estimated that 10,000 of these premises are in the Tewkesbury area.

A temporary solution has been devised by Severn Trent Water which will allow some water from the Strensham treatment works to be directed to the piped system serving Tewkesbury. Pumping is planned to start on 26 July and should build up to 20 megalitres a day. However, this supply will be intermittent and discoloured and customers will be advised that it should not be used for drinking. Customers that do get this water should continue to rely upon bottled water and, after boiling, water from bowsers for drinking purposes.

The priority is to increase the supply of drinking water. Across the region, over 900 water bowsers and tanks have been deployed. More are being obtained and the number is expected to increase to 1,800. Some 75 road tankers are filling the bowsers every day and more have been sourced. Bottled water distribution points have been set up and up to 5 million litres of water are being provided every day. A list of vulnerable people and isolated communities has been collated.

We understand few households are now lacking power. Emergency measures to prevent flooding of Walham electricity switching station have so far been successful in ensuring continued operation of this major component of the power supply system.

Floods: Warnings

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Environment Agency took recently to warn the public about possible flooding; when the flood warnings were issued; what other steps the Environment Agency took in response to the Meteorological Office warning and information; and when these steps were taken. [153730]

Jonathan Shaw: The Environment Agency has worked closely with the Met Office, receiving a number of flood specific weather and rainfall warnings, which helped to inform the agency's flood forecasting systems. In total, the Met Office issued 214 flood warnings, including 19 severe flood warnings, from 18 July.

In response to this, the Environment Agency issued warnings to an estimated 145,000 people via its free Floodline Warnings Direct system. This provides information to the public, the emergency services, local authorities, and the media via email, telephone, mobile, fax or pager.

Forestry: Flood Control

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effects of large-scale tree felling on the risk of flooding in flood-prone areas. [153421]

Mr. Woolas: Flood risk management is a devolved responsibility and this answer relates to England only. Changes in the way land is used can impact on the speed and volume of flood water run-off. However, deforestation is not a significant factor increasing flood risk in England.

There has been research on the impacts of woodlands and forestry on flood run-off. Mature forests can reduce the rate of run-off. New plantations can in fact increase it though this can depend on the nature of any drainage infrastructure installed in connection with them. Evidence to date suggests that, while there can be a significant impact on smaller flood events at the local scale, effects are likely to be much less for more extreme floods at the wider catchment level.

The developing cross-Government Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy, "Making Space for Water", promotes a whole-catchment approach to flood alleviation, drawing on opportunities provided by rural land use and land management practices.

Hill Farming: Closures

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many hill farms went out of business in each of the last five years. [152893]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 26 July 2007]:* Information on the number of holdings is collected in the annual June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture. No information is collected on the number of holdings leaving the business. The figures in the table show the number of registered holdings in England in less favoured areas at June each year. These figures show net change only and therefore include gains as well as losses. The Survey does not specifically identify a category of "hill farms" but the figures for less favoured areas include this sector.

	Holdings in severely disadvantaged areas	*Holdings in disadvantaged areas*	*Total holdings in less favoured areas*	*Total holdings*
2002	16,771	8,803	25,574	187,871
2003	16,830	7,632	24,462	190,687
2004	16,456	7,563	24,019	192,824
2005	16,749	8,196	24,945	195,908
2006	16,244	15,257	31,501	200,381

Notes:
1. All holdings are allocated one grid reference only, farm boundaries are not mapped. All land on a holding is allocated to this single gird reference point although it is possible that the whole holding may not fall wholly inside or outside the less favoured area.
2. Due to a change in classification procedures for holdings in less favoured areas 2006 data are not directly comparable with earlier years.
3. The introduction of the Single Payment Scheme in 2005 has led to an increase in the number of registered holdings. These registered holdings need not necessarily have agricultural production but should meet the definition of having land in "good agricultural and environmental condition"

Source:
June Agriculture Survey

Landfill: Expenditure

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of the expenditure by local authorities on the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme on expenditure on other areas of sustainable waste management; [151729]

(2) how much revenue was received from each local authority under the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme in each year since the scheme has been operational. [151730]

Joan Ruddock: The Landfill Allowances Trading Scheme (LATS) is not a revenue raising measure. It is a flexible scheme intended to ensure that England meets, as cost effectively as possible, its share of the national limits in the European Union Landfill Directive on landfilling of biodegradable municipal waste.

LATS encourages local authorities with the lowest diversion costs, to landfill less than their allowances permit and sell the surplus to authorities that face higher costs of diversion. Conversely, authorities with higher costs of diversion may prefer to meet their obligations under the scheme by buying allowances at a lower cost than actually undertaking the diversion themselves.

The Government takes account of all the costs of waste management when allocating local government funding. It is the responsibility of each individual local authority to plan its own expenditure. No assessment has been undertaken on the effect of local authority compliance with LATS obligations on other areas of sustainable waste management.

To date no waste disposal authorities have been issued with financial penalties, as all have met their obligations under the scheme.

Livestock: MRSA

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1381W, on livestock: MRSA, what testing has been carried out to detect MRSA in farm animals in the last 12 months; and what methodology was employed for the testing. [152697]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has initiated a study undertaken by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency to test *Staphylococcus aureus* (*S. aureus*) isolates obtained from bovine clinical submissions for methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* (MRSA). This project commenced in autumn 2006.

The methodology employed in the study involves determination of the minimum inhibitory concentration of oxacillin using the agar dilution method of the British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy. All isolates are also examined using the disc diffusion method of the British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy and a 10 microgram cefoxitin disc. Two different susceptibility testing methods are therefore used to check for the presence of methicillin resistance in the isolates.

Additionally, all isolates are also examined using a molecular technique (polymerase chain reaction) for the presence of the mecA gene (the gene which confers resistance to methicillin in MRSA).

Finally, a latex agglutination test is used to check for the altered penicillin binding protein of MRSA in any isolates which are not susceptible or which possess the mecA gene.

The latest available figures are that 658 bovine S. aureus isolates from cases of clinical disease in cattle in England and Wales (mainly cases of mastitis for which milk samples are collected) have been tested and no MRSA isolates have been detected.

Livestock: Transport

Gwyn Prosser: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the ability of un-weaned calves to drink from devices installed in livestock vehicles for that purpose; and if he will make a statement; [153412]

(2) what devices for supplying liquid to un-weaned calves are in use on livestock vehicles to enable them to be given liquid on board the vehicle after nine hours travel; and if he will make a statement. [153413]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has funded many research projects into the welfare aspects of animal transportation. Of these, there has been one specific project assessing the devices installed in vehicles to provide liquid to un-weaned calves. This study confirmed that calves can use mechanical systems to satisfy their fluid requirements, but may need time to become familiar with such systems.

All member states are required to approve vehicles for long journeys. This approval involves an assessment of the vehicle equipment for providing water to animals. In the UK, there is a detailed checklist to ensure an inspector systematically assesses and thoroughly checks the vehicle and equipment, including the means of provision of feed and water.

Vehicles must be equipped with a water supply from which the attendant can provide water instantly when needed. Watering devices must be of suitable design, be positioned for access to water by each animal, and carry a water supply of a capacity 1.5 per cent. of the of the maximum payload. Attendants must be able to check the water level of the tank, and drain and clean it after the journey.

There are a wide range of devices used on livestock vehicles to provide liquid to un-weaned calves. At a basic level there are systems with buckets or bowls which can be fixed at a suitable height to ensure they are not overturned. Troughs are used on some vehicles, which are either fixed in place or fitted temporarily at the appropriate rest period. There are also more elaborate systems with nipple drinkers and other variations which allow calves to obtain liquid.

No particular mode of delivery is specified in Regulation 1/2005EC. It does, however, require that water and feed be presented in a way that minimises contamination and that due regard is paid to the need of animals to become accustomed to the mode of feeding and watering.

Animal Health assesses vehicles at markets, during roadside checks, at ports and at supervised loadings. If suitable equipment is not carried on a vehicle the journey can be prevented by the service of a notice requiring the correction of the problem, or additional requirements before the journey is started. The type and number of water delivery mechanisms, their height and location within the vehicle, and the calves' familiarity with them are assessed.

Animal Health also issues and approves journey logs as required by Regulation 1/2005EC and ensures that any failure to comply with the welfare aspects of the legislation are investigated. When appropriate, enforcement action is considered, together with notification of the non-compliance to the appropriate member state if the transporter is registered outside Great Britain.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Minister of State will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 15 June 2007, in reply to DEFRA Reference: MC24643/JH. [153494]

Mr. Woolas: I apologise for the delay. A reply was sent on 10 July 2007.

Meteorology: Manpower

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for *(a)* Innovation, Universities and Skills and *(b)* Defence on the number of meteorologists which will be required over the next 20 years. [153665]

Mr. Woolas: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has had no discussions with the Secretary of State for *(a)* Innovation, Universities and Skills or *(b)* Defence.

Nanotechnology

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many submissions the Government have received from *(a)* industry and *(b)* academia under its voluntary reporting scheme for engineered nanoscale materials since its launch in September; what steps the Department is taking to encourage submissions under the Voluntary Reporting Scheme; and what other steps the Government are taking to improve understanding of where nanoscale materials are being used or could be used in the future; [152770]

(2) when the Government plans to review the merits of the Voluntary Reporting Scheme for engineered nanoscale materials; and what the timescale is for such a review. [152771]

Mr. Woolas: My Department launched the UK Voluntary Reporting Scheme for engineered nanoscale materials in September 2006. To date (July 2007) we have received a total of nine submissions, seven from industry and two from academia.

We have been working with a variety of stakeholders to encourage further awareness and uptake of the Scheme. Regular updates on the Scheme are presented to the Nanotechnologies Stakeholder Forum which meets quarterly; the Nanotechnology Industries Association (NIA) and the European Nanotechnology Trade Alliance (ENTA) have raised the Scheme with their members and have offered assistance with completion of the paperwork; and we are addressing the research community via the Research Councils.

We have also been seeking additional advice on ways in which we may improve participation. The UK Advisory Committee for Hazardous substances (ACHS) recently reviewed the Scheme and made suggestions for clarifying the guidance for participants, particularly in defining how the data submitted will be used and what information might be relevant. My Officials will take these recommendations forward. We are also working with international partners, including members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials to share experiences of implementation of similar Schemes.

The Voluntary Reporting Scheme is intended to operate for two years. Therefore my Department will undertake a thorough review of the process in September 2008.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Government will respond to the Council for Science and Technology review of the Government's nanotechnologies policies. [152772]

Mr. Woolas: The Government responded to the Council for Science and Technology's review of its progress on nanotechnologies policies on 17 May 2007.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will increase the funding provided for research into the environmental and health impacts of nanotechnology. [152773]

Mr. Woolas: Funding for research into potential Environment, Health and Safety impacts of Nanomaterials is co-ordinated across Government Departments, their Agencies and the Research Councils through the Nanotechnology Research Coordination Group. Direct funding from Departments up to the end of 2006 amounted to around £13 million. This was supported by responsive mode funding through the Research Councils' Interdisciplinary Research Collaboration on Nanotechnology of £19.8 million between 2002 and 2007.

At this stage there are no plans to increase funding levels however, in order to maximise the use of available funding, my Department is working to achieve greater cooperation and collaboration between the above funding bodies and will seek more joint working with the nanotechnologies industries. DEFRA is working closely with the Research Councils to influence more funding in 'directed mode', in an approach similar to that adopted by the DEFRA co-funded Environmental Nanoscience Initiative and we will be working with the Department for Innovation Universities and Skills' Technology Strategy Board and National Measurement Systems Programme to identify further opportunities. In this way we would seek to encourage the development and safe use of nanotechnologies in universities and the nanotechnologies industries.

National Fruit Collection

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received from the Friends of Brogdale Horticultural Trust on the future of the

National Fruit Collection; and if he will make a statement. [152624]

Jonathan Shaw: A number of letters have been received from the Friends of Brogdale. These representations support retaining the collections at Brogdale.

Office of Climate Change: Manpower

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff are employed by the Office of Climate Change, broken down by salary band; and what the staff equivalent or annual cost is of *(a)* employment agency temporary staff, *(b)* consultants and *(c)* contractors being employed by that office. [151741]

Mr. Woolas: There are 29.6 full-time equivalent staff currently in post. It is our policy not to comment on staff grades where individuals could be identified.

As at 30 June 2007, the Office of Climate Change is employing three temporary staff. It has also employed two consultants on a part-time basis over the past four months. No contractors have been employed.

Office of Climate Change: Publications

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the title is of documents produced by the Office of Climate Change for *(a)* publication, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* other purposes. [153743]

Mr. Woolas: The Office of Climate Change (OCC) published the Draft Climate Change Bill in March 2007 (Cm 7040). This was accompanied by "A brief summary of the scientific case for action", following the OCC's audit of UK analysis on climate change. This document was placed in the House Libraries.

As part of its role in providing internal advice to Ministers, the OCC produces various documents and reports. The OCC is in the process of setting up a website where appropriate documentation will be published.

Recycling: Schools

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding has been allocated for school recycling projects in each London borough in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [153545]

Joan Ruddock: No specific funding has been provided by my Department for school recycling projects in London. If recycling services are provided to schools, these would be funded directly by the local authority.

However, the Waste and Resources Action Programme, which is funded by DEFRA, is developing a programme of support for schools as part of its 'Recycle Now' campaign aimed at helping them minimise, reuse, recycle and compost their waste.

DEFRA also provides financial support for the operation of Eco-Schools, an international programme developed by the Foundation of Environmental Education (FEE) and managed in England by Environmental Campaigns (ENCAMS). Eco-Schools promotes environmental awareness around nine main themes, one of which is waste minimisation and recycling. DEFRA will be providing a total of £65,000 for Eco-schools in 2007-08. £100,000 is also provided from non-grant sources, mainly from other sponsorship.

Shellfish: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 383W, on shellfish: Colchester, what progress has been made in determining the application for a Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) for the Colchester Native Oyster; when he expects to announce the issuing of a PGI; and if he will make a statement. [152967]

Jonathan Shaw: Following a constructive meeting in May between officials and representatives of the applicant group, an announcement regarding the next stage of this process was expected to be made in June.

However, officials are still waiting for further information from the applicant, including confirmation of the exact geographical area for the production of this product.

Squirrels

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take action against the organisation www.squirrels.info, which suggests on its website moving grey squirrels about the country contrary to law. [153438]

Joan Ruddock: The website www.squirrels.info was brought to the attention of Natural England some months ago. Natural England sent an e-mail to the website on 23 March 2007 to make them aware of their legal responsibilities under the Destructive Imported Animals Act 1932 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). They have since responded, indicating that they no longer 'take in' squirrels and apologised for giving an incorrect impression through their outdated website. A further e-mail has been sent by Natural England to the website asking for clarification as it is not completely clear that they no longer do so. The licensing application process which can allow the legal captivity of grey squirrels has been explained to them.

DEFRA and Natural England do not have the power to take action, or indeed prosecute anyone regarding the possible failure to apply for licences to possess and release grey squirrels. This is the responsibility of the police, who are the primary enforcement agency of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Natural England have already referred this matter to the Wildlife Crime Officer (WCO) of Hampshire police.

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take to ensure that his Department's regional officers in England are all operating the same policy on red squirrel protection. [153440]

Joan Ruddock: The England Squirrel Forum has responsibility for co-ordinating the delivery of those parts of the Red Squirrel Species Action Plan (RSSAP)

that relate to England. The forum is made up of representatives from conservation bodies, woodland management organisations and woodland owners and is chaired by the Forestry Commission.

The RSSAP is being implemented through a broad partnership of Government, statutory conservation agencies and the private and voluntary sectors.

Implementation of the RSSAP is not the same in all regions as the threat to red squirrel populations, where they remain, is different across the country. For example in the south east, where there are secure populations of red squirrel on the Isle of Wight and Poole Harbour Islands, the focus is on ensuring that grey squirrels do not arrive on the islands and are controlled if they do. In northern England the focus of attention is on 16 reserves designated for red squirrels and preventing or reducing the impact of grey squirrels in these areas. Delivery here depends on a combination of factors including the level of engagement of the private and voluntary sectors.

Water: Conservation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of the effect on demand for water of the likely change in the use of domestic power showers over the next 10 years; [153742]

(2) if he will estimate the *(a)* increase over the last decade and *(b)* predicted future increase over the next decade of the number of (i) swimming pools, (ii) jacuzzi and other water spa pools and (iii) decorative domestic water features and ponds; and what assessment he has made of the likely impact of these changes on per capita demand for water. [153747]

Mr. Woolas: The Government's Market Transformation Programme (MTP) allows us to assess the impact of a range of products on water use, including toilets, taps, showers and baths. The MTP is also undertaking a scoping study to determine which other products use significant amounts of water. This will include an assessment of the amount of water consumption associated with swimming pools, hot tubs and spa baths. There is currently no evidence to show that ornamental garden water features involve significant levels of water consumption.

The MTP will shortly be setting out, for public consultation, the Government's current evidence and analysis on showers. This consultation is part of a wider annual review and policy development process, supporting delivery of the Government's objectives for energy, water and for sustainable consumption and production.

The paper includes indicative targets and eco-design standards for showers which are sold and used in the UK. The MTP work indicates that if no new policy actions are taken, and current underlying trends continue, water consumption by showers is expected to rise by 48 per cent. by 2020 compared to the 2006 baseline. The policy actions proposed in the document show how this projected increase can be constrained.

Water: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 15 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1374W, on water: fees and charges, which *(a)* public sector organisations and *(b)* private sector consultants or research companies are assisting with updating this research. [153723]

Jonathan Shaw: This research is looking at the distributional impacts of a range of measured and unmeasured tariffs and has involved a large number of organisations. The public sector organisations that have been involved in this work are DEFRA, Ofwat, the Consumer Council for Water and HM Treasury. Private sector companies include the water companies of England and Wales and their research organisation UK Water Industry Research (UKWIR). The contractors carrying out this work are ICF consulting with assistance from WRc.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female under-age offenders were convicted of drunk and disorderly behaviour in each London borough in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [153539]

Mr. Coaker: Data on the number of defendants aged 10 to 17 years who were found guilty at all courts for the offence of being drunk and disorderly, broken down by gender and London court area for the years 1996-2005, are provided in the table.

Additionally, suspects age 16 or over may be issued with a Penalty Notice Disorder (PND) for drunk and disorderly behaviour. Paying the penalty discharges all liability to conviction of the offence.

In Greater London there were 51 PNDs issued to males aged 16 to 17 in 2004 for being drunk and disorderly in a public place, with four issued to females. These figures rose to 74 for males and 10 for females in 2005. Detailed information on court proceedings including convictions, cautions and PNDs for 2006 will be published in the autumn of 2007.

Number of defendants aged 10 to 17 found guilty at all courts for being guilty while drunk of disorderly behaviour, by London court area 1996-2007[1,2,3]

	Male									
London court area	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
City of London police										
Guildhall Justice Rooms	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total City of London police	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Number of defendants aged 10 to 17 found guilty at all courts for being guilty while drunk of disorderly behaviour, by London court area 1996-2007[1,2,3]

Male

London court area	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Metropolitan police										
Inner London										
Bow Street	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Camberwell Green/Tower Bridge	—	—	1	2	—	2	6	2	1	1
Greenwich and Woolwich	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Highbury Corner	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Western	—	—	—	—	2	2	3	—	—	—
Thames	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	3	2	—
West London	—	—	1	4	1	3	6	4	5	—
Inner London Juvenile Courts	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Outer London										
Barking and Dagenham	1	4	—	—	1	—	2	5	1	—
Barnet	—	—	—	1	—	2	3	—	—	—
Bexley	3	2	1	1	5	1	3	10	3	1
Brent	1	1	2	—	2	2	—	2	—	—
Bromley	—	2	—	—	2	11	4	5	1	1
Croydon	—	3	1	3	5	2	2	3	2	—
Ealing	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	3	1
Enfield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Haringey	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—
Harrow	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—
Havering	2	1	3	2	1	4	9	7	7	—
Hillingdon	—	—	4	2	4	5	5	3	7	1
Hounslow	2	4	4	2	2	2	1	2	2	—
Kingston-upon-Thames	1	4	—	1	2	3	2	4	1	3
Merton	6	3	1	3	—	7	4	2	2	—
Newham	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—
Redbridge	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Richmond upon Thames	1	1	2	8	5	11	2	—	3	—
Sutton	1	2	3	4	5	2	3	2	—	3
Waltham Forest	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total Metropolitan police	29	31	25	36	40	63	56	61	42	12
Total Greater London	29	31	26	36	40	63	56	61	42	12

Female

London court area	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
City of London police											
Guildhall Justice Rooms	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total City of London police	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan police											
Inner London											
Bow Street	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Camberwell Green/Tower Bridge	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Greenwich and Woolwich	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Highbury Corner	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
South Western	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thames	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West London	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Inner London Juvenile Courts	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Outer London											
Barking and Dagenham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	Female										
London court area	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Barnet	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—
Bexley	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	2	1	—
Brent	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bromley	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Croydon	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ealing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enfield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haringey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Harrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Havering	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1
Hillingdon	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	1	—
Hounslow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Kingston-upon-Thames	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
Merton	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
Newham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Redbridge	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Richmond upon Thames	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Sutton	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	2
Waltham Forest	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Metropolitan police	1	1	2	2	3	5	3	6	8	9	7
Total Greater London	1	1	2	2	3	5	3	6	8	9	7

[1] Source: Court proceedings database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.
[2] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females were (i) charged with, (ii) prosecuted for and (iii) convicted of (A) drunk and disorderly behaviour, (B) driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs and (C) causing death by dangerous driving when under the influence of drink or drugs in each London borough in each of the last five years. [153541]

Mr. Coaker: Information on charging is not held centrally.

Information on the number of males and females prosecuted, and convicted for (A) drunk and disorderly behaviour, (B) driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs and (C) causing death by dangerous driving when under the influence of drink or drugs in each London borough, for the years 2001 to 2005 can be viewed in tables A to C respectively.

In addition, penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) may be issued for the offence of being drunk and disorderly. No admission of guilt is required and payment of the penalty discharges all liability to conviction of the offence.

PND data held centrally are at Metropolitan and City of London Police Force area level only. The number of PNDs issued in these two areas for being drunk and disorderly was 3,928 to males and 499 to females in 2004, and 2,768 to males and 392 to females in 2005.

Detailed information on court proceedings including convictions, cautions and PNDs for 2006 will be published in the autumn of 2007.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates court and found guilty at all courts for the offence of any person who in any public place is guilty, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour, by gender, and London borough(s) for the years 2001 to 2005[1,2,3,4]

	Male									
	Prosecuted					*Found guilty*				
London borough	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Guildhall Justice Rooms	39	51	60	49	46	23	38	43	43	38
Bow Street	262	701	610	147	63	217	590	534	140	57
Camberwell Green/Tower Bridge	31	51	80	42	58	23	43	66	26	46
Greenwich and Woolwich	37	117	84	41	35	35	112	80	33	32
Highbury Corner	24	32	106	62	45	16	30	95	52	37
Horseferry Road	139	276	259	181	207	124	239	229	161	178
Marylebone	2	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	1
South Western	23	25	38	13	15	20	21	28	10	13
Thames	21	41	44	25	26	18	31	37	21	21
West London	90	151	166	77	68	72	119	116	61	55
Inner London Juvenile Courts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barking and Dagenham	13	24	38	8	8	9	17	29	8	8
Barnet	10	21	24	11	10	9	15	22	9	9

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates court and found guilty at all courts for the offence of any person who in any public place is guilty, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour, by gender, and London borough(s) for the years 2001 to 2005[1,2,3,4]

Male

	Prosecuted					*Found guilty*				
London borough	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Bexley	13	28	105	41	7	9	24	73	28	5
Brent	22	26	37	24	23	16	21	29	19	20
Bromley	85	87	78	29	10	61	69	68	18	8
Croydon	147	115	34	38	7	82	69	28	27	7
Ealing	26	75	36	40	18	23	62	33	35	14
Enfield	23	7	11	11	10	18	5	7	7	6
Haringey	8	22	25	14	8	6	15	19	11	7
Harrow	17	23	16	15	9	13	18	14	10	7
Havering	65	85	62	39	10	57	74	57	33	7
Hillingdon	63	79	72	32	31	54	70	62	27	26
Hounslow	42	52	38	35	19	29	39	30	28	15
Kingston-upon-Thames	31	22	34	15	16	26	20	24	15	15
Merton	41	35	61	32	4	40	34	51	28	4
Newham	23	35	23	20	32	17	23	20	17	29
Redbridge	8	34	23	9	7	7	28	21	7	6
Richmond upon Thames	40	45	35	14	14	38	33	20	11	10
Sutton	57	59	82	24	12	48	51	72	23	8
Waltham Forest	2	5	8	6	6	1	5	8	6	6
Total	1,404	2,327	2,291	1,096	825	1,113	1,917	1,917	915	695

Female

	Prosecuted					*Found guilty*				
London borough	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Guildhall Justice Rooms	5	2	10	4	5	5	0	6	2	5
Bow Street	23	48	51	22	9	20	36	38	19	9
Camberwell Green/Tower Bridge	2	3	8	10	8	0	1	5	3	7
Greenwich and Woolwich	2	10	5	2	9	2	9	5	1	6
Highbury Corner	5	9	18	10	8	4	6	17	8	6
Horseferry Road	21	29	28	17	16	16	24	22	10	16
Marylebone	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Western	2	2	2	4	0	1	2	2	3	0
Thames	3	3	3	1	4	3	1	1	1	2
West London	7	9	20	13	14	3	5	14	9	14
Inner London Juvenile Courts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barking and Dagenham	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Barnet	4	5	7	1	1	4	4	7	1	1
Bexley	0	2	4	5	0	0	2	2	4	0
Brent	1	2	4	4	1	0	2	4	3	1
Bromley	8	11	14	4	4	3	9	10	3	4
Croydon	11	11	5	2	1	8	7	3	2	1
Ealing	3	4	2	2	4	2	4	1	2	3
Enfield	0	1	2	2	3	0	1	2	2	2
Haringey	2	3	3	3	1	2	3	3	3	1
Harrow	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	0	2	1
Havering	1	5	11	3	2	1	2	8	3	2
Hillingdon	6	7	6	5	2	6	4	4	4	2
Hounslow	3	5	0	3	2	3	2	0	1	2
Kingston-upon-Thames	1	3	4	3	1	1	2	4	2	0
Merton	5	1	8	7	2	4	1	4	5	2
Newham	1	2	4	3	30	1	2	4	3	16
Redbridge	0	1	3	1	1	0	1	3	1	1
Richmond upon Thames	3	1	7	2	1	3	0	6	2	1
Sutton	8	8	10	3	3	8	6	7	2	3
Waltham Forest	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Total	131	189	245	139	134	100	138	185	102	108

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Statute for offence is as follows:
The Criminal Justice Act 1967 Sec.91
[4] Source: Court proceedings database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform
Source:
RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice
Our ref: IOS 290-07 [Table A]

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates court and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to Driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs, by gender, and London borough(s) for the years 2001 to 2005[1,2,3,4,5]

Male

	Prosecuted					*Found guilty*				
London borough	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Guildhall Justice Rooms	139	207	197	151	183	129	181	187	130	152
Bow Street	145	197	235	202	174	134	187	216	183	160
Camberwell Green/Tower Bridge	866	955	984	1,014	983	753	871	904	935	936
Greenwich and Woolwich	851	821	845	713	745	769	747	782	684	689
Highbury Corner	547	579	553	603	563	482	504	487	541	527
Horseferry Road	347	349	289	297	308	303	314	253	267	292
Marylebone	20	39	32	47	21	12	25	20	33	19
South Western	340	421	398	318	291	303	371	362	289	283
Thames	552	647	614	561	643	501	588	549	521	594
West London	541	591	576	524	525	491	535	517	469	468
Inner London Juvenile Courts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barking and Dagenham	260	362	388	299	291	246	332	346	279	268
Barnet	339	337	312	345	316	315	302	291	325	299
Bexley	285	314	241	249	207	259	290	224	228	196
Brent	483	520	538	433	428	404	458	488	392	395
Bromley	307	332	347	360	359	273	302	319	332	333
Croydon	401	470	429	448	437	382	415	377	386	384
Ealing	535	741	583	607	523	468	664	513	543	488
Enfield	376	353	304	323	314	331	308	267	286	270
Haringey	396	425	412	464	419	339	393	367	432	396
Harrow	232	233	240	287	254	203	210	223	262	235
Havering	230	293	264	328	267	206	264	239	310	255
Hillingdon	377	426	479	462	467	311	386	394	438	447
Hounslow	313	357	294	337	374	255	308	256	313	341
Kingston-upon-Thames	254	269	223	281	246	230	239	205	263	240
Merton	221	236	248	271	244	215	227	238	262	237
Newham	403	489	554	507	638	325	418	456	468	574
Redbridge	303	306	337	360	305	279	274	292	325	292
Richmond upon Thames	205	312	272	233	204	185	286	247	222	187
Sutton	242	243	205	231	188	215	215	185	219	173
Waltham Forest	273	350	353	285	286	239	317	316	267	268
Total	10,792	12,174	11,746	11,540	11,183	9,557	10,931	10,520	10,604	10,398

Female

	Prosecuted					*Found guilty*				
London borough	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Guildhall Justice Rooms	18	28	20	15	12	18	27	20	15	11
Bow Street	16	22	23	29	21	16	22	21	28	20
Camberwell Green/Tower Bridge	75	84	168	90	107	66	76	93	74	102
Greenwich and Woolwich	75	85	89	94	73	66	79	86	86	69
Highbury Corner	56	77	73	76	73	47	70	61	70	68
Horseferry Road	48	51	48	48	48	45	47	46	43	43
Marylebone	2	—	6	4	5	2	—	4	2	5
South Western	53	54	46	48	32	46	50	43	47	32
Thames	48	55	45	47	31	40	50	43	45	29
West London	80	92	80	101	95	78	84	73	93	85
Inner London Juvenile Courts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barking and Dagenham	7	27	22	20	19	7	26	22	20	18
Barnet	42	45	41	35	42	38	41	38	32	38
Bexley	35	37	29	30	33	31	35	25	28	29
Brent	43	29	31	39	18	41	26	28	37	17
Bromley	33	44	53	67	60	30	42	49	63	57
Croydon	47	58	51	60	64	45	55	46	48	58

Female

London borough	Prosecuted 2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Found guilty 2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Ealing	32	61	33	36	36	28	59	31	34	33
Enfield	33	39	28	39	34	31	31	26	38	31
Haringey	31	34	33	42	49	28	26	30	39	49
Harrow	25	17	25	29	13	23	17	22	27	13
Havering	25	23	36	28	51	20	21	32	27	51
Hillingdon	37	50	44	48	44	29	44	41	46	43
Hounslow	22	41	32	33	40	18	37	27	29	38
Kingston-upon-Thames	35	27	29	37	48	31	24	28	33	45
Merton	28	27	25	43	34	26	24	25	42	32
Newham	26	23	23	25	28	22	20	20	22	26
Redbridge	30	26	34	33	19	28	24	31	33	19
Richmond upon Thames	20	29	39	46	32	19	26	36	45	31
Sutton	32	33	25	36	30	27	31	23	34	27
Waltham Forest	22	20	28	25	21	20	18	23	24	20
Total	1,076	1,238	1,199	1,303	1,212	966	1,132	1,093	1,204	1,139

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the Figures presented are accurate and complete.
However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces.
As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Statutes are as follows:
The Road Traffic Act 1988 Sections4(1), 4(2), 5(1)(a),5(1)(b),6(4),7(6), and 7a as added by the Police Reform Act 2002 5.56, S.57. Transport and Works Act 1992 S.31A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 S.58(4).
[4] Offences under the Acts are as follows:
Driving or attempting to drive a motor vehicle whilst unfit through drink or drugs (impairment) only to be used where it is unclear whether it is drink or drugs—see 803/09 or 803/10.
Driving or attempting to drive a motor vehicle while having a breath, blood or urine alcohol concentration in excess of the prescribed limit.
Driving or attempting to drive a motor vehicle and failing to without reasonable excuse provide a specimen for a laboratory test or 2 specimens for analysis of breath.
Being in charge of a mechanically propelled vehicle while unfit to drive through drink or drugs, (impairment) only to be used where it is unclear whether it is drink or drugs—see 803/11 or 803/12
In charge of a motor vehicle while having a breath, blood or urine alcohol concentration in excess of the prescribed limit.
In charge of a motor vehicle and failing without reasonable excuse to provide a specimen for a laboratory test or two specimens for analysis of breath.
Failing without reasonable excuse to provide a specimen of breath for a preliminary test.
Failing to allow specimen of blood to be subjected to laboratory test.
Driving or attempting to drive a motor vehicle while unfit through drink or drugs (impairment) Drink
Driving or attempting to drive a motor vehicle while unfit through drink or drugs (impairment) Drugs
Being in charge of a mechanically propelled vehicle while unfit to drive through drink or drugs. (Impairment) Drink
Being in charge of a mechanically propelled vehicle while unfit to drive through drink or drugs, (impairment) Drugs
[5] Source: Court proceedings database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform
Source:
RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice
Our ref: IOS 290-07 [Table B]

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates court and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Criminal Justice Act 1967 Sec.91., by gender, and London borough(s) for the years 2001 to 2005[1,2,3,4]

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates court and found guilty at all courts for the offence of Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs., by gender, and London borough(s) for the years 2001 to 2005[1,2,3,4]

Male

London borough	Prosecuted 2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Found guilty 2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Camberwell Green/Tower Bridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Greenwich and Woolwich	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Highbury Corner	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horseferry Road	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Marylebone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thames	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
West London	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Barnet	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Bexley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Brent	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bromley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Croydon	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ealing	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Enfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Haringey	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Harrow	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Havering	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
Hillingdon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Hounslow	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Merton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates court and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Criminal Justice Act 1967 Sec.91., by gender, and London borough(s) for the years 2001 to 2005[1,2,3,4]

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates court and found guilty at all courts for the offence of Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs., by gender, and London borough(s) for the years 2001 to 2005[1,2,3,4]

Male

	Prosecuted					*Found guilty*				
London borough	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Newham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Redbridge	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Richmond upor Thames	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Waltham Forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Total	4	1	2	3	2	3	2	4	6	6

Female

	Prosecuted					*Found guilty*				
London borough	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Camberwell Green/Tower Bridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenwich and Woolwich	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Highbury Corner	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Horseferry Road	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marylebone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thames	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West London	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barnet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bexley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bromley	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Croydon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ealing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Haringey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Havering	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hillingdon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hounslow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Redbridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Richmond upon Thames	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Waltham Forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.
However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces.
As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Statute is as follows:
The Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec 3A as added by the Road Traffic Act 1991 Sec 3 and amended by CJA 1993, Sec 67.
[4] Source: Court proceedings database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform
Source:
RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice
Our ref: IOS 290-07 [Table C]

Animal Experiments

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to reduce the number of animals used in scientific procedures; and if she will make a statement. [153301]

Meg Hillier: The licensing system under the Animals (Scientific procedures) Act 1986 is demand-led and provides the Home Office, as regulator, with no mechanism for reducing animal use. Instead the Act requires that the procedures authorised must cause the minimum possible suffering to the smallest number of animals of the least sentience. The Act also requires that, before a project licence is issued, we must weigh the benefits to humans, other animals, or the environment against the costs to the animals involved. A licence cannot be granted if the work could be carried out without using animals. The overall amount of animal research which takes place is determined by a number of factors, including the economic climate and global trends in scientific endeavour.

We are, however, fully committed to encouraging the development and use of alternatives to animal experimentation where this is possible. The establishment of the national Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) by the Government in May 2004 and continued contributions to its funding by the Home Office demonstrates our ongoing commitment in this area. The NC3Rs provides the opportunity to

co-ordinate and stimulate research and good practice in the 3Rs (reduction, replacement and refinement). It is able to fund high-quality research and facilitate the exchange of information and ideas, the identification of knowledge gaps, and the translation of research findings into practice to benefit both animals and science. The Centre submits an annual report to the Minister for Science and Innovation on its activities and that report is available on their website at www.nc3rs.org.

Animal Welfare

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* Animal Concern, *(b)* the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and *(c)* People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals on animal welfare matters. [153299]

Meg Hillier: There have been no recent discussions held between Ministers and Animal Concern or the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) concerning animal welfare matters.

Officials from the Home Office have had discussions with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) on matters relating to animal welfare within the context of the use of animals in scientific procedures. These topics have, for example included, discussions on regulatory testing and the use of rodents in carcinogenicity (cancer) studies, the use of non-human primates in testing and research; and a number of matters relevant to the ongoing revision of European Directive 86/609/EEC which is transposed into United Kingdom law through Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

Animal Welfare: Protests

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps are being taken to combat groups that use violence as a means of protesting against cruelty towards animals; [153013]

(2) if she will make a statement on the Government's policy on tackling animal rights extremism. [153300]

Mr. Coaker: The Government are committed to eradicating the threat of animal rights extremism and have in place a robust inter-departmental strategy to achieve this. The strategy is centred on an improved law enforcement approach, with additional resources provided to the police to tackle animal rights extremism, a central team set-up to drive forward police action nationally and legislation enacted to protect animal research organisations. The result has been a significant fall in illegal extremist activity, and many significant convictions of animal rights extremists in the past 18 months, with others awaiting sentence and other major investigations ongoing. The Government will maintain pressure on animal rights extremists and, in co-operation with law enforcement agencies and extremist targets, will continue to develop protective measures against the extremist threat.

While the Government are clear that cruelty to animal is unacceptable, it is equally clear that the targets of animal rights extremism in the vast majority of cases are involved in wholly lawful activities. The UK bioscience and medical research sector, the main target of animal rights extremists, complies with the most rigorous regime in the world for animal testing, designed to minimise suffering and ensure the highest welfare standards, and is at the forefront of developing new medicines and treatments for life-threatening conditions including cancer, malaria and cystic fibrosis.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment the Government have made of whether the Animal Liberation Front should be proscribed as a terrorist organisation. [153302]

Mr. McNulty: We do not normally comment on organisations which are not on the list of proscribed terrorist organisations. The sufficiency of the list is kept under review.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the maximum number is of recorded breaches of a single antisocial behaviour order; [151724]

(2) what the current breach rate is of antisocial behaviour orders. [151725]

Mr. Coaker: The figure for the maximum number of recorded breaches of a single antisocial behaviour order is not available. The ASBO breach rate for the period 1 June 2003 to 31 December 2005 (latest available) was 47 per cent.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were issued in each London borough to *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) under 12-years-old, (ii) 13-years-old, (iii) 14-years-old, (iv) 15-years-old, (v) 16-years-old, (vi) 17-years-old and (viii) 18-years-old and over in each of the last five years. [153543]

Mr. Coaker: The information is not provided by London borough, the available information is in the following table.

Number of antisocial behaviour orders ISSUED at all courts in the Greater London Criminal Justice System (CJS) area, by gender, age group and year

Gender and age group	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*Total issued*
Females						
10-17	1	0	8	6	17	32
18 and over	2	6	24	55	42	129
Age not known	—	2	—	1	5	8
Total females	3	8	32	62	64	169
Males						
10-17	9	5	33	100	172	319
18 and over	3	6	73	267	279	628
Age not known	—	2	1	12	13	28
Total males	12	13	107	379	464	975

Number of antisocial behaviour orders ISSUED at all courts in the Greater London Criminal Justice System (CJS) area, by gender, age group and year

Gender and age group	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total issued
Total persons	15	21	139	441	528	1,144

Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
As reported to the Home Office by the Court Service.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many breaches of antisocial behaviour orders resulted in custodial sentences in each London borough in each of the last five years. [153544]

Mr. Coaker: The latest data available for breaches of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) and custody are for 2003. The figures show that only 134 people in total in England and Wales between 2000 and 2003 were sentenced to custody for breach of ASBOs alone. In all other cases, they were convicted for other offences at the same time.

Armley Prison: Asylum

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers were detained in Armley Prison in each of the last eight months; how many are being so detained; and how many cells are occupied by failed asylum seekers. [151202]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not centrally recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Any failed asylum seekers detained in prisons are serving criminal sentences. Figures relating to the number of foreign national detainees at any given prison change regularly for a number of different reasons including, for example, removal from the UK, or on transfer to other prison establishments or, upon completion of their custodial sentence, to Immigration Removal Centres.

Banaz Mahmod Babakir Agha

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the police are taking to investigate the actions of police officers preceding the murder of Banaz Mahmod Babakir Agha. [153707]

Mr. McNulty: On 13 June 2007 the Independent Police Complaints Commission undertook to conduct an Independent investigation of the Metropolitan Police Service's response to matters involving Ms Banaz Mahmod Babakir Agha. The IPCC will, where appropriate, make their findings public at the conclusion of their investigation.

Departments: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of people employed by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies are disabled. [153594]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is set out in the following table.

	Proportion of staff with disability—30 June 2007 (percentage)	Total number of staff
Central Home Office	1.75	3,691
Border and Immigration Agency	3.54	19,710
Criminal Record Bureau	2.40	395
Identity and Passport Agency	5.74	3,939

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in her Department have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for (i) inappropriate use of the internet while at work and (ii) using work telephones to access premium rate telephone numbers in the last 12 months. [149190]

Mr. Byrne: The total number of Home Office staff, including those within the Border and Immigration Agency, the Identity and Passport Service and the Criminal Records Bureau, who were disciplined for misuse of the internet between 1 July 2006 and 30 June 2007 is 26. This includes any misuse of IT including misuse of the internal e-mail system. As fewer than five members of staff were dismissed for inappropriate use of the internet, specific information about those individuals is withheld on confidentiality grounds.

Fewer than five members of staff were disciplined for inappropriate use of the telephone during the same period and this information is also withheld on the grounds of confidentiality.

Departments: Employment Agencies

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Department paid in fees to recruitment agencies for *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent staff in each year since 1997. [151668]

Mr. Byrne: The Department inclusive of its Executive agencies; the Borders and Immigration Agency, the Criminal Records Bureau and the Identity and Passport Service, does not hold this information centrally for *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent staff and to provide this information would be at disproportionate cost.

In relation to temporary staff, recruitment fees are not uniform across recruitment agencies and are incorporated within daily rates. It is not always possible to identify these as a discrete element of the daily rate.

Departments: Flint Bishop Solicitors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have made payments to Flint Bishop Solicitors since 1997. [151390]

Mr. Byrne: There are no records of any payments to Flint Bishop Solicitors by the Home Office or its agencies for the period requested.

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what legislative provisions introduced by her Department since 1997 have not yet been brought into force; [149561]

(2) what legislative provisions introduced by her Department's predecessors since 1997 have been repealed. [149590]

Jacqui Smith: Of the legislation introduced by the Home Office since 1 May 1997, for which Home Office Ministers retain responsibility, only one Act (the Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) Act 1998) has been totally repealed. Many of the others have been repealed or amended in part (as is normal in the ongoing legislative process). But a list of all the provisions repealed since 1997 is not held centrally, and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The following table lists provisions of Acts for which the Home Office currently has policy responsibility which received Royal Assent since 1 May 1997 which have not yet been brought into force.

Table A

Act	*Sections not in force*
Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003	(85(5) Sch 2(2)
Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001	78
Asylum and Immigration(Treatment of (Claimants, etc.) Act 2004	16
Crime (International Co-operation Act 2003	10-12,20-25, 54-75, Sch three, Sch 4
Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001	78(7), 80(2) and (4), Sch six para 21, Sch seven para 6
(Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004	19, 12 and Schedules 10, 11 and 12 (in part)
Drugs Act 2005	2
Identity Cards Act	1(1)-(4), 1(5)-(8), 2-24, 27-29, 30, 31-34, 35, 39, 41, 42, 43, Sch 1
Immigration and Asylum Act 1999	16 and 17, 117(5)
Immigration Asylum and Nationality Act 2006	4, 15-18, 20-22, 24-26, 31-39, 44, 47, 50(3) to (6)
Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002	10(5)(a), 17 and 18 (for certain purposes), 19-34, 35(1) (a)-(g)(i) and (2) and (3), 36, 37, 39, 40(2) and (3), 41(2) and (3), 44-47, 51 to 53, 124
Police and Justice Act 2006	7(1), 14, 7, 19(1)-(9) and (11), 20, 21, 34-38, 39(1)-(3), (5)-(7), 40(1)-(3), (5)-(7), 41 (in part), 43(1), 46 (part) and Schedules three, eight, nine, 11 and 12, and Schedules one, two, five, 13, 14, and 15 (all in part)
Police Reform Act 2002	45
Private Security Industry Act 2001	17, 21
Proceeds of Crime Act 2002	Sch 11 paras 17 and 21, Sch 12
Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006	No provisions commenced
Serious Organised Crime and Police Act	120, 114(9), 117(part), 162(3), Sch four (part), Sch four(part), Sch nine (part), Sch 10 (part), Sch 14 (part)
Vehicle (Crimes) Act 2001	8, 34, 35, 36, Sch paras one and 2
Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006	1-14, 15-20, 21-22, 27, 31-34, 36-39, 40-41, 43-44, 47, 50 (part, 59, 61, 64, Sch two (part), Sch five (part)

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) which Bills introduced by her Department in the last five years have contained sunset clauses; and what plans she has for the future use of such clauses; [151833]

(2) which Bills introduced by her Department in the last five years did not contain sunset clauses; and if she will make a statement. [152484]

Mr. McNulty: The following Acts were introduced during the last five years and are still the responsibility of the Home Office:

Nationality Immigration and Asylum Act 2002
Sexual Offences Act 2003
Crime (International Co-operation) Act 2003
Extradition Act 2003
Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003
Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004
Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004
Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005
Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005
Drugs Act 2005
Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006
Identity Cards Act 2006
Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006
Terrorism Act 2006
Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006
Police and Justice Act 2006.

Of these, the following contained sunset clauses (i.e. provisions that the proposed legislation or part thereof would cease to have effect automatically after a particular period):

Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (section 13)
Terrorism Act 2006 (section 25).

As regards the use of such clauses in future: the appropriateness of a sunset clause for the whole or part of any proposed legislation is considered on a case by case basis. It is also addressed when a regulatory impact assessment relating to legislation is being prepared.

Departments: Passports

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the impact of her Department's practice of holding

passports in files for periods of time on the owners of those passports. [152628]

Mr. Byrne: Passports are required to establish the identity and status of the applicant and so that the immigration decision can be securely placed into the document. Every effort is made to make decisions accurately and speedily. Applicants who require their documents back urgently will be treated sympathetically. Applicants making a straight-forward application who do not wish to be without their documents can use our same day premium service available at Public Enquiry Offices.

Under section 17 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004, documents may be retained where it is suspected that the person to whom the document relates is liable to be removed from the United Kingdom. The document may be retained to facilitate their removal—a necessary requirement for effective immigration control.

Departments: Redundancy Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by her Department on redundancy payments in the last 12 months. [153137]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office does not maintain a central record of costs incurred in contesting employment tribunals (formerly industrial tribunals). The information required could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Deportation: Russia

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons the Russian arrested on 21 June on suspicion of conspiracy to murder was deported; and if she will make a statement. [152464]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 24 July 2007]:* We do not comment on individual cases.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions there have been of uninsured drivers by the West Midlands police force in each of the last 10 years; and what the average penalty was in each case. [152753]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Proceedings at magistrates courts for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks[1], and average fine imposed, West Midlands police force area, 1997-2004

	Total proceedings	*Average fine(£)*
1997	29,878	207
1998	30,928	190
1999	27,409	189
2000	28,148	201
2001	27,010	169
2002	32,339	192
2003[2]	36,409	200
2004	39,696	206

[1] An offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s. 143 (2).

[2] As from 1 June 2003, 'driving a motor vehicle while uninsured against third party risks' became a fixed penalty offence.

Notes:

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences may be less than complete. Work is underway to ensure that the magistrates' courts case management system currently being implemented by the Ministry of Justice reports all motoring offences to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. This will enable more complete figures to be disseminated.

2: Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Court Proceedings Database held by OCJR.

Driving Offences: Mobile Phones

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drivers were stopped for using mobile telephones while driving in the latest period for which figures are available; how many subsequent prosecutions there were; and what the outcome was of those prosecutions. [152758]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number of drivers stopped for using hand held mobile phones while driving is not collected centrally.

The latest figures for prosecutions and outcomes are for 2004. These show that for England and Wales there were 789 prosecutions and 641 convictions for using a hand-held mobile phone while driving. This offence can also be dealt with by the offer of a fixed penalty and there were in addition 73,796 tickets paid.

2005 data will be available later this year.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how section 41D of the Road Traffic Act 1988 is being enforced; what training has been provided for the *(a)* police and *(b)* judiciary; how the Government are monitoring its effectiveness; what guidance has been given to the courts on enforcement issues; and if she will make a statement. [152778]

Mr. Coaker: Enforcement of offences is an operational matter for individual chief officers of police enforcement of road traffic. Section 41D, Road Traffic Act 1988 consists of failing to have proper control of a vehicle and using a mobile phone while driving. The likelihood of detection of such offences has increased through the increasing numbers of police, including the deployment on roads of teams involved in the use of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) equipment. They can stop vehicles as a result of direct observation, as well as an ANPR hit. Otherwise, the police enforce as operationally appropriate, taking into account other demands on their resources. Training for roads policing duties including the enforcement of Section 41D offences is a matter for individual chief officers.

Section 41D is an offence to do with vehicle construction and use. All such offences are only triable summarily. All magistrates receive training in road traffic offences as they constitute a large part of the work of the magistrates' court. While there has been no direct training in s41D, the construction and use provisions of the Road Traffic Act 1988 provide the basis of part of the Judicial Studies Board induction training for magistrates about sentencing in road traffic cases. Magistrates also receive advice in court from the clerks and legal advisers.

For monitoring purposes, the Department for Transport undertakes observational surveys of the number of drivers using mobile phones while driving on a regular basis. The survey for 2007 is under way at the moment and the results will be published later this year. The most recent survey published in August 2006 is TRL Leaflet 2100 which is available online at:

www.trl.co.uk/store/report_list.asp?pid=211

Driving Under Influence

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to increase the number of roadside breath tests by police forces. [153361]

Mr. Coaker: Deployment of resources is an operational matter for individual chief officers of police. In January 2005, however, the Home Office, together with the Department for Transport (DfT) and Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), issued a jointly agreed statement of Roads Policing Strategy. This included as one of its five key actions the reduction of road casualties. The strategy identified drink driving as one of the key behaviours contributing to avoidable casualties and committed the police to tackling it by increasing the risk of detection. Home Office and DfT Ministers wrote to chief officers in January this year to stress the Government's continuing commitment to the Roads Policing Strategy and the importance of effective enforcement of road traffic law. Drink driving was highlighted as an area of offending where there is a need for positive police activity nationally.

ACPO is due to launch a new enforcement campaign at the end of July to complement the Government's new multi-media anti-drink driving publicity campaign which began on 20 July.

Driving Under Influence: Young People

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many young people under 16 were arrested for *(a)* driving whilst under the influence of (i) drugs and (ii) alcohol and *(b)* drink-related offences in each of the last three years. [152245]

Mr. Coaker: Centrally held arrest statistics relate to those arrested for recorded crimes (notifiable offences) only. Summary offences such as driving after consuming alcohol, etc. and drink related offences are not notifiable.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people under 16 years were arrested in the West Midlands for driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol in each of the last five years. [152756]

Mr. Coaker: Information on arrests for summary offences of driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs is not collected centrally.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to increase the number of roadside breath tests by police forces for drivers under 25 years old. [153360]

Mr. Coaker: Deployment of resources is an operational matter for individual chief officers of police. In January 2005, however, the Home Office, together with the Department for Transport (DfT) and Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), issued a jointly agreed statement of Roads Policing Strategy. This included as one of its five key actions the reduction of road casualties. The strategy identified drink driving as one of the key behaviours contributing to avoidable casualties and committed the police to tackling it by increasing the risk of detection. Home Office and DfT Ministers wrote to chief officers in January this year to stress the Government's continuing commitment to the Roads Policing Strategy and the importance of effective enforcement of road traffic law. Drink driving was highlighted as an area of offending where there is a need for positive police activity nationally.

ACPO is due to launch a new enforcement campaign at the end of July to complement the Government's new multi-media anti-drink driving publicity campaign which began on 20 July. Under the Road Traffic Act 1988, the police cannot target drivers for breath tests because of their age. They can carry out a test where they reasonably believe that a person is or has been driving or in charge of a vehicle with alcohol in his body, has committed a moving traffic offence or has been involved in an accident.

Entry Clearances

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applicants for indefinite leave to remain under the 14-year long-stay concession have been waiting for a decision for more than *(a)* two years, *(b)* three years and *(c)* five years. [151903]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 26 July 2007]:* The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Extradition: Russia

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests for extradition have been received from the Russian Federation in each of the last 10 years; and how many have been granted. [152463]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 24 July 2007]:* There were no extradition arrangements between the United Kingdom and the Russian Federation until 2001.

The number of requests received from the Russian Federation in each year since then is as follows.

	Number
2001	2
2002	2
2003	1
2004	5
2005	5
2006	11
2007	3
Total	29

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests for extradition have been received from Russia in each of the last 10 years; and how many have been granted. [152755]

Meg Hillier: There were no extradition arrangements between the United Kingdom and the Russian Federation until 2001.

The number of requests received from the Russian Federation in each year since then is as follows:

	Number
2001	2
2002	2
2003	1
2004	5
2005	5
2006	11
2007	3
Total	29

A number of these requests remain outstanding. None to date has been granted.

Foreign Workers: Health Professions

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits were issued for *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses and auxiliary nurses from (i) Nigeria, (ii) Ghana and (iii) other African countries in 2006. [149262]

Mr. Byrne: The following table shows the number of work permit applications which were approved for overseas nationals, in 2006 from *(a)* Ghana, *(b)* Nigeria and *(c)* other African countries in 2006. There have been no approvals for auxiliary nurses.

	2006		
	Doctor	Nurse	Total
Ghana	20	290	310
Nigeria	125	600	730
Other African countries	505	3,720	4,230
Total	655	4,610	5,265

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to nearest five.
2. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Genetics: Databases

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many DNA profiles are held of *(a)* males and *(b)* females who are (i) under 16 years old, (ii) 16 years old, (iii) 17 years old, (iv) 18 years old and (v) over 18 years old, broken down by ethnicity. [153540]

Meg Hillier: The number of profiles held on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) by all forces in the UK as at 31 March 2007, broken down as requested, is shown in the following table. It is currently estimated that 13.7 per cent. of profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates, i.e. that a profile for a person has been loaded on more than one occasion (one reason for this is that the person gave different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests). Thus the number of individuals on the database is approximately 13.7 per cent. less than the number of subject profiles.

	All forces					
	Under 16	16	17	18	Over 18	Unknown age
Males—profiles at 31 March 2007						
Unknown	10,537	7,097	9,133	10,918	315,224	23
Afro Caribbean	6,513	4,578	5,858	7,016	230,664	16
Arab	261	251	390	473	25,459	31
Asian	3,992	2,870	3,495	4,252	170,952	39
Dark Skinned European	1,172	744	954	1,274	61,027	17
Oriental	148	152	170	262	15,887	1
White Skinned European	83,787	49,483	60,714	71,989	2,374,834	70
Males—individuals at 31 March 2007						
Unknown	9,093	6,125	7,882	9,422	272,038	20
Afro Caribbean	5,621	3,951	5,055	6,055	199,063	14
Arab	225	217	337	408	21,971	27
Asian	3,445	2,477	3,016	3,669	147,532	34
Dark Skinned European	1,011	642	823	1,099	52,666	15
Oriental	128	131	147	226	13,710	1
White Skinned European	72,308	42,704	52,396	62,127	2,049,482	60
Females—profiles at 31 March 2007						
Unknown	3,942	2,514	2,913	3,114	69,628	5
Afro Caribbean	2,685	1,795	2,012	2,390	50,633	4
Arab	46	38	40	46	2,251	3
Asian	838	536	728	853	21,482	18
Dark Skinned European	563	324	400	432	11,758	10
Oriental	87	73	95	118	5,742	2
White Skinned European	37,323	23,502	25,552	27,015	564,441	27
Females—individuals at 31 March 2007						
Unknown	3,402	2,170	2,514	2,687	60,089	4
Afro Caribbean	2,317	1,549	1,736	2,063	43,696	3
Arab	40	33	35	40	1,943	3
Asian	723	463	628	736	18,539	16
Dark Skinned European	486	280	345	373	10,147	9

	All forces					
	Under 16	16	17	18	Over 18	Unknown age
Oriental	75	63	82	102	4,955	2
White Skinned European	32,210	20,282	22,051	23,314	487,113	23

Identity Cards

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2007 to the hon. Member for Rayleigh, *Official Report*, columns 1777-8W, on identity cards, if she will break down by activity the sum spent on all communications activities attributed to the budgets of projects for the future development of biometric passports, identity cards and associated initiatives. [147770]

Jacqui Smith: Our systems do not record expenditure at a level that would permit us to breakdown the cost of communication activities directly incurred by development projects. As a result, it is not possible to provide a breakdown without incurring disproportionate cost.

However, it is possible to provide an overview of the kind of activities charged to this cost code in that year. They reflect both external and internal IPS communications and included advertising and publicity, internal communications materials, media monitoring and the production of publications.

The amount attributed for communications to the projects is broken down in the following manner (rounded to the nearest £100).

	£
Advertising and publicity	137,600
Video production	500
Publications	3,000
Newsletter	1,900
Information booklet	1,500
Media monitoring	600

Immigration Controls

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were removed from the UK by immigration officials in each of the last five financial years. [151500]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* Statistics on the number of persons removed from the UK in the calendar years 1995-2005 are published in the Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2005 Command Paper. Information on persons removed in 2006 was published on 21 August 2007 in the Command Paper Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2006. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and on the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Immigration Controls: Health Professions

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons were for deciding to publish the Race Equality Impact Assessment relating to the changes in the Immigration Rules for Postgraduate Doctors and Dentists after these rule changes had come into effect. [149577]

Jacqui Smith: The Race Equality Impact Assessment relating to the changes in the Immigration Rules for Postgraduate Doctors and Dentists was published following a request from the Commission for Racial Equality in July 2006. We acknowledged at that time that the assessment ought to have been completed before the rules change took place. Our position on this matter has been addressed in the judicial review proceedings brought by BAPIO Action Limited. The judgment handed down on 9 February 2007 can be found at:

http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2007/199.html.

Immigration Controls: Uniforms

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the cost was of designing new uniforms for border security staff; [147775]

(2) what she expects the cost to be of providing uniforms to all border security staff; [147776]

(3) what the total cost was of pilot projects on uniform for border security staff. [147778]

Jacqui Smith: The final costs for roll out of uniforms to border control frontline operational staff and the cost element of designing the new uniform cannot be finalised until the supplier has assessed and actioned the total number of orders.

The cost of the uniforms pilot was £18,192.55 plus VAT. The evaluation of the pilot informed some changes to the materials and specification which has reduced the final overall forecast cost of the garments to be implemented.

Immigration: Detention Centres

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the rate of staff turnover was in each immigration removal centre run by a private company in each of the last five years. [152633]

Mr. Byrne: There has been a change of contractor at some of the centres during the last five years so information prior to the changes is not available.

Campsfield—Since taking over the contract in May 2006 staff turnover for the new contractor, GEO, has been 24.8 per cent.

Colnbrook—The centre became operational in September 2004. From January 2005-2006 staff turnover was 31 per cent. January 2006-07 was 22 per cent.

Dungavel—Since taking over the contract in September 2006 staff turnover for the new contractor, G4S, has been 22.8 per cent.

Harmondsworth—The information recorded is for the last five years ending June of each year. Staff turnover for July 2002-June 2003 was 20 per cent. 2003-04 was 25 per cent. 2004-05 was 27 per cent. 2005-06 was 23 per cent. and 2006-07 was 12 per cent.

Oakington—Figures are unavailable prior to 2004. Staff turnover for 2004 was 24.2 per cent. 2005 was 30.3 per cent. and 2006 was 24.6 per cent.

Tinsley House—Figures are unavailable prior to 2004. Staff turnover for 2004 was 11.3 per cent. 2005 was 14.5 per cent. and 2006 was 16.9 per cent.

Yarl's Wood—Since taking over the contract in April 2007 staff turnover for the new contractor, Serco, has been 13.8 per cent.

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much profit was made by each company running an immigration removal centre in each year since taking on management of the institution. [152634]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) has various contracts for the operation of its Immigration Removal Centres. The evaluation process for these contracts is extremely robust and examines all aspects of a contractor's submitted tender, including the financial element. However, due to the commercial nature of these contracts, the disclosure of the information requested would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of both the BIA and those companies with whom the BIA enters into contracts.

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of staff in immigration removal centres run by private companies had more than five years' continuous service at the same institution as of 1 February. [152635]

Mr. Byrne: The information is as follows:

Campsfield—41 per cent.

Colnbrook—Not applicable as centre became operational in September 2004.

Dungavel—29.5 per cent.

Harmondsworth—16 per cent.

Oakington—39 per cent.

Tinsley House—40.8 per cent.

Yarl's Wood—35 per cent.

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of staff at immigration removal centres run by private companies are from an ethnic minority background; and at what grade. [152636]

Mr. Byrne: The information is as follows.

Campsfield—8 per cent., Detention Custody Officers and Management Team.

Colnbrook—50 per cent., Operational Support Officers and Detention Custody Officers.

Dungavel—2.5 per cent., one Detention Custody Officer and one Senior Management Team.

Harmondsworth—41.5 per cent., Detention Custody Officers, Senior Custody Officers and Management Team.

Oakington—4.45 per cent., Detention Custody Officers and Senior Custody Officers.

Tinsley—8.9 per cent., Detention Custody Officers, Senior Custody Officers and Management Team.

Yarl's Wood—The information requested is currently unavailable following the recent change of centre operator in April 2007.

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many assaults were recorded against *(a)* staff and *(b)* other inmates by those held in each immigration removal centre run by a private company in the latest period for which figures are available. [152637]

Mr. Byrne: The information is as follows:

Campsfield—From May 2007 to date there has been two assaults on staff and 14 assaults on detainees.

Colnbrook—Since January 2007 there has been 23 assaults on staff and 22 assaults on detainees.

Dungavel—Since September 2006 there has been no assaults on staff and 10 assaults on detainees.

Harmondsworth—Since January 2007 there has been one assault on staff and four assaults on detainees.

Oakington—Since January 2007 there has been no assaults on either or detainees.

Tinsley House—Since January 2007 there has been one assault on staff and 11 assaults on detainees.

Yarl's Wood—Since Serco took over the contract in April 2007 there has been no assaults on staff and one assault on a detainee.

All the assaults in the aforementioned figures are recorded as being committed by detainees.

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which immigration removal centres are run by private companies. [152717]

Mr. Byrne: The following immigration removal centres are operated under contract to the Border and Immigration Agency:

Campsfield House

Colnbrook

Dungavel House

Harmondsworth

Oakington

Tinsley House

Yarl's Wood

Motor Vehicles: Insurance

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions there have been of uninsured drivers *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each police force area in each of the last 10 years; and what the average penalty was in each case. [152152]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 24 July 2007]:* The information requested is set out in the following tables.

Proceedings at magistrates courts for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks[1], and average fine imposed[2] by police force area, England and Wales, 1997-2004

	1997		1998		1999		2000	
	Proceedings	Average fine (£)	Proceedings	Average fine (£)	Proceedings	Average fine (£)	Proceedings	Average fine (£)
Avon and Somerset	15,354	259	16,892	204	15,098	165	14,609	182
Bedfordshire	4,724	314	4,449	293	3,479	274	3,594	226
Cambridgeshire	3,440	221	3,425	209	3,058	215	2,929	182
Cheshire	4,838	274	4,961	248	5,463	237	5,729	211
Cleveland	3,925	162	4,204	167	4,331	170	4,793	179
Cumbria	4,223	150	3,787	171	3,597	220	3,507	265
Derbyshire	5,565	270	5,137	279	5,120	283	5,318	296

Proceedings at magistrates courts for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks[1], and average fine imposed[2] by police force area, England and Wales, 1997-2004

	1997		1998		1999		2000	
	Proceedings	Average fine (£)	Proceedings	Average fine (£)	Proceedings	Average fine (£)	Proceedings	Average fine (£)
Devon and Cornwall	8,422	184	7,232	185	7,493	178	9,234	179
Dorset	5,271	295	4,198	302	4,776	301	6,035	261
Durham	3,992	181	4,261	177	5,899	194	5,470	160
Essex	7,161	174	7,025	149	7,336	140	7,898	123
Gloucestershire	3,577	154	4,465	202	4,443	247	4,174	240
Greater Manchester	30,655	245	30,836	226	33,228	236	33,783	232
Hampshire	11,768	132	11,557	135	11,553	138	10,559	136
Hertfordshire	4,580	193	5,799	164	4,748	173	5,258	204
Humberside	4,408	159	4,279	148	4,894	143	5,024	137
Kent	6,935	246	6,958	241	6,151	227	9,033	271
Lancashire	20,334	332	18,794	296	18,111	237	18,354	219
Leicestershire	9,706	318	9,481	318	11,054	276	10,263	254
Lincolnshire	4,589	159	5,000	197	5,345	209	4,500	188
London, City of	2,671	332	3,127	314	2,521	346	1,738	375
Merseyside	10,896	200	9,747	203	8,932	200	10,054	207
Metropolitan Police	42,283	202	35,064	185	31,285	184	29,649	169
Norfolk	3,932	242	3,434	256	3,468	265	3,951	210
Northamptonshire	4,999	243	4,849	286	5,571	310	3,949	280
Northumbria	12,470	136	11,837	146	13,296	148	13,195	144
North Yorkshire	3,926	249	3,744	236	4,003	230	3,905	211
Nottinghamshire	8,078	164	8,726	165	7,957	153	7,748	150
South Yorkshire	11,228	194	11,553	206	11,763	191	12,690	170
Staffordshire	8,180	251	8,210	228	8,021	234	8,777	198
Suffolk	3,258	193	3,743	192	4,189	192	3,923	183
Surrey	4,942	243	3,908	242	4,436	215	4,941	218
Sussex	9,333	218	8,202	186	7,415	181	6,796	167
Thames Valley	11,887	292	11,948	257	13,543	268	12,816	250
Warwickshire	4,316	228	3,769	175	3,523	177	4,135	188
West Mercia	7,082	268	8,207	282	7,450	282	7,686	263
West Midlands	29,878	207	30,928	190	27,409	189	28,148	201
West Yorkshire	23,980	255	23,549	242	25,776	242	26,529	209
Wiltshire	3,463	152	4,820	182	4,708	186	4,901	204
Dyfed-Powys	3,079	183	2,852	182	3,017	175	3,072	169
Gwent	4,097	253	4,478	225	4,451	225	4,680	208
North Wales	4,859	210	4,452	226	4,102	272	3,697	230
South Wales	14,829	190	16,187	180	15,406	183	14,615	188
England and Wales	397,133	224	390,074	214	387,419	212	391,659	203

	2001		2002		2003[3]		2004	
	Proceedings	Average fine (£)	Proceedings	Average fine (£)	Proceedings	Average fine (£)	Proceedings	Average fine (£)
Avon and Somerset	13,022	130	15,124	133	17,163	138	17,489	154
Bedfordshire	4,651	164	4,731	169	5,041	137	4,534	143
Cambridgeshire	2,508	119	2,875	118	3,301	131	3,120	152
Cheshire	4,975	149	5,765	153	6,385	167	6,515	179
Cleveland	4,789	167	5,994	173	5,575	171	6,597	189
Cumbria	3,595	152	3,540	151	3,488	159	3,446	169
Derbyshire	5,429	337	5,614	355	5,793	367	6,326	367
Devon and Cornwall	8,648	133	9,598	132	9,676	127	8,943	134
Dorset	5,262	121	6,176	114	7,034	125	6,075	158
Durham	5,394	118	5,840	122	5,802	121	5,300	116
Essex	7,708	101	7,811	104	7,489	112	7,132	164
Gloucestershire	4,683	91	4,417	86	4,412	133	3,695	147
Greater Manchester	37,088	152	36,337	151	38,208	157	34,942	167
Hampshire	10,349	119	10,912	122	10,619	124	9,750	131
Hertfordshire	5,816	155	6,612	166	7,216	181	7,463	198
Humberside	4,730	122	4,464	132	5,509	137	5,170	150
Kent	9,592	209	10,059	192	9,788	191	10,673	197
Lancashire	16,280	111	17,555	113	21,229	141	16,065	156

	2001		2002		2003[1]		2004	
	Proceedings	Average fine (£)	Proceedings	Average fine (£)	Proceedings	Average fine (£)	Proceedings	Average fine (£)
Leicestershire	10,475	134	10,699	135	11,304	138	10,833	150
Lincolnshire	4,083	133	4,242	134	5,883	148	6,621	179
London, City of	1,826	369	2,353	368	2,563	334	2,812	230
Merseyside	9,467	163	10,360	167	12,776	148	13,023	137
Metropolitan Police	32,032	139	36,485	140	43,100	143	47,806	147
Norfolk	4,744	99	5,563	107	6,322	139	5,084	152
Northamptonshire	2,028	280	1,211	339	4,157	245	5,804	183
Northumbria	12,504	130	12,309	135	12,951	135	11,685	137
North Yorkshire	3,545	130	3,340	136	3,774	141	4,065	166
Nottinghamshire	7,856	152	7,460	156	9,224	152	9,224	188
South Yorkshire	14,623	128	13,859	137	13,745	146	11,416	125
Staffordshire	6,027	152	7,056	163	7,214	166	7,439	186
Suffolk	4,123	128	4,759	138	5,808	133	5,718	136
Surrey	5,101	201	5,554	215	4,657	221	3,927	197
Sussex	6,814	118	6,413	117	5,808	138	4,371	162
Thames Valley	11,728	134	12,842	135	14,516	158	12,920	198
Warwickshire	4,204	156	3,711	168	3,756	164	4,160	210
West Mercia	7,787	176	7,849	180	7,735	165	7,249	193
West Midlands	27,010	169	32,339	192	36,409	200	39,696	206
West Yorkshire	27,618	120	24,873	123	26,966	134	32,404	144
Wiltshire	5,292	283	5,326	286	4,794	280	4,641	200
Dyfed-Powys	2,953	155	3,316	166	3,094	172	2,244	187
Gwent	4,758	148	4,508	154	4,083	171	3,474	157
North Wales	3,376	144	4,048	150	5,968	149	6,022	154
South Wales	13,805	159	16,499	173	16,932	158	15,946	154
England and Wales	388,298	150	410,398	155	447,267	160	441,819	169

[1] An offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 section 143 (2).
[2] Magistrates courts data only. Fines given at the Crown court total nationally (England and Wales) less than 10 each year.
[3] As from 1 June 2003, 'driving a motor vehicle while uninsured against third party risks' became a fixed penalty offence.

Notes:
1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences may be less than complete. Work is under way to ensure that the magistrates courts case management system currently being implemented by the Ministry of Justice reports all motoring offences to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. This will enable more complete figures to be disseminated.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Muktar Ibrahim

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to revoke the UK citizenship of Muktar Said Ibrahim. [150415]

Mr. Byrne: Our policy is to consider deprivation in all suitable cases. It would, however, be inappropriate to comment on the action that might be taken in any particular case.

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 299-300W, to the hon. Member for Sheffield, Hallam, on offenders: deportation, in what format information is collected about deportations of foreign nationals. [149574]

Jacqui Smith: Lin Homer, the chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency, has updated the Home Affairs Committee regularly over the last year on a range of issues related to the deportation process and foreign national prisoners, both on the progress made on wider deportation issues and in dealing with those foreign national prisoners released without deportation consideration. In the course of these updates she has made it clear that the most robust and accurate information available has been disclosed to the committee.

Offensive Weapons: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were recorded in each London borough involving (a) knives, (b) guns and (c) other offensive weapons in each of the last 10 years. [153542]

Mr. Coaker: Available data relate only to offences where firearms have been fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person or used as a threat. The number of firearm offences (excluding air weapons) recorded by the City of London and Metropolitan police between 1996 and 2005-06 is given in the tables. Data cannot be broken down by London borough. Police force area breakdowns for firearm offences recorded during 2006-07 will be published in a future supplementary volume to the recent 'Crime in England and Wales 2006/2007' Home Office Statistical Bulletin.

From the information collected on recorded crime it is not possible to identify those offences where knives or other offensive weapons were used, since details of

the individual circumstances of offences are not recorded. From April 2007 police forces are providing data on knife-enabled grievous bodily harm and robbery offences.

Table 1: Crimes recorded in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used: City of London and Metropolitan police forces, 1996 to 2001-02

	Number of firearm offences
1996	1,741
1997	1,960
1997-98	1,951
1998-99[1]	2,034
1999-2000	2,945
2000-01	3,036
2001-02[2]	4,197

[1] There was a change in the counting rules for recorded crime on 1 April 1998.
[2] Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.

Table 2: Crimes recorded in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used: City of London and Metropolitan police forces, 2002-03 to 2005-06[1,2]

	Number of firearm offences
2002-03	4,202
2003-04	3,891
2004-05	3,697
2005-06	3,884

[1] Data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002, which may have resulted in inflated figures for some crime categories. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
[2] Data for 2006-07 will be available in January 2008.

Police Act 1996

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will list the provisions within the Police Act 1996 which *(a)* have not yet come into force and *(b)* have been repealed (i) prior to and (ii) after coming into force. [152781]

Mr. McNulty: The Police Act 1996 has been commenced in full. I have written to the hon. Gentleman setting out the details of repeals and amendments made to this Act. I have arranged for a copy of the letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Police: Absenteeism

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of the workforce was on long-term absence in each police authority in each of the last five years, broken down by reasons for absence. [152271]

Mr. McNulty: The requested data are not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

Police: Complaints

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps her Department takes to monitor police force responses to the findings of the Independent Police Complaints Commission; [152982]

(2) what representations she has received on the powers of the Independent Police Complaints Commission; and what powers the Commission has to compel police forces to respond to its findings; [152983]

(3) what the average length of time taken was for police authorities to respond to recommendations of the Independent Police Complaints Commission in the latest period for which figures are available; what guidance her Department issues to police forces on the timescale of responses; and what monitoring her Department undertakes of the time taken to respond. [152984]

Mr. McNulty: The information sought is not collected or held by the Home Office. The Home Office has not issued any guidance in relation to response times for police forces to respond to Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) recommendations.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the role of police authorities is in responding to findings of the Independent Police Complaints Commission; [152985]

(2) if she will make it a requirement for police forces to respond substantively to findings made by the Independent Police Complaints Commission in respect of complaints made against them. [152986]

Mr. McNulty: Under paragraphs 23(6) and (7) schedule 3 of the Police Reform Act 2002, police forces have an obligation to respond substantively to Independent Police Complaint Commission (IPCC) findings in respect of independent and managed investigations.

Any best practice recommendations by the IPCC to improve the service the public receives from the police, directed at a police force, would be for it to implement, reporting to its police authority as appropriate.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers police forces have to award compensation to complainants whose complaints have been upheld by the Independent Police Complaints Commission. [152990]

Mr. McNulty: Any decision made to award compensation is a matter for the chief officer of the force and his or her police authority.

Police: Employment

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of employment as *(a)* a police officer and *(b)* a police community support officer was of officers employed in (i) Southend and (ii) Essex Constabulary in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [152779]

Mr. McNulty: Information on length of service for police officers is not available in the form requested. Available data are for police force area and are given in the following table. Length of service includes time spent in other police forces in England and Wales.

The requested data for police community support officers are not collected centrally.

Length of service (headcount) of police officers in Essex as at 31 March 2004 to 31 March 2006

	31 March each year		
	2004	2005	2006
Less than six months	106	183	197
Six months to one year	131	85	73
One year to two years	240	217	225
Two years to three years	205	230	199
Three years to four years	169	203	202
Four years to five years	60	164	183
Five years to 10 years	450	427	484
10 years to 15 years	553	477	447
15 years to 20 years	478	535	553
20 years to 21 years	58	87	84
21 years to 22 years	57	57	77
22 years to 23 years	69	56	69
23 years to 24 years	63	65	66
24 years to 25 years	106	62	68
25 years to 26 years	101	92	63
26 years to 27 years	62	94	101
27 years to 28 years	75	57	93
28 years to 29 years	87	69	63
29 years to 30 years	62	82	72
30 years to 31 years	16	15	32
31 years to 32 years	8	9	5
32 years to 33 years	6	4	9
33 years to 34 years	1	6	4
34 years to 35 years	1	0	3
35 years and over	1	2	2

Police: Interpol

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK police officers are on attachment to Interpol. [149035]

Mr. McNulty: There are no UK police officers on attachment to Interpol; however, two members of the Serious Organised Crime Agency are on attachment to Interpol.

Police: North West Region

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent police officers there were in each of the five counties in the North West of England in each of the last five years. [152895]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 26 July 2007]:* The information requested is set out in the following table.

Police Officer Strength[1] (FTE)[2] by Police Force as at 31 March 2003 to 31 March 2007

	31 March each year				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Cheshire	2,137	2,204	2,207	2,218	2,235
Cumbria	1,154	1,241	1,260	1,265	1,273
Greater Manchester	7,391	8,111	8,119	8,071	7,992
Lancashire	3,380	3,579	3,586	3,635	3,628
Merseyside	4,112	4,129	4,339	4,302	4,441

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] Full-time equivalent includes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

Police: North Yorkshire

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent *(a)* police officers, *(b)* community support officers and *(c)* police civilian staff were employed by North Yorkshire Police as at March 2007. [151608]

Mr. McNulty: The most recent statistics published by the Home Office show that, on a full-time equivalent basis, 1,671 police officers, 147 police community support officers and 1,128 police staff were employed by North Yorkshire police on 31 March 2007.

The figures were published on-line in the National Statistics publication "Police Service Strength, England and Wales, 31 March 2007":

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1307.pdf

Police: Sick Leave

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average annual rate of sickness absence was in each police force in each of the last five years. [152272]

Mr. McNulty: Data from 2004-05 onwards are collated and published as part of the Policing Performance Assessment Framework (PPAF). These data are in the form of working hours lost to sickness and are published on the Home Office website located at the following link:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/performance-and-measurement/performance-assessment/

Data for and prior to 2003-04, are not on the same basis as those available for 2004-05 onwards. These data are in the form of working days lost to sickness and are published in the Annual Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspectorate of Constabulary, located at the following link:

http://inspectorates.homeoffice.gov.uk/hmic/about/annual-reports.html/

The available data are given in the following tables:

Police officer and staff average number of working days[1] lost per annum to sickness per person[2]

	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
	Officers	Staff	Officers	Staff	Officers	Staff
Avon and Somerset	13.0	12.5	11.4	12.8	11.0	12.7
Bedfordshire	9.5	10.0	8.0	9.2	8.5	9.5
Cambridgeshire	12.0	11.4	11.4	11.6	10.3	11.2
Cheshire	13.8	13.7	11.5	12.9	9.3	9.5
City of London	12.1	13.1	9.0	9.6	10.3	7.6
Cleveland	12.2	13.9	10.4	11.6	9.0	10.3
Cumbria	13.4	8.9	10.9	8.5	9.9	9.8
Derbyshire	11.5	12.1	10.0	9.6	9.7	8.9
Devon and Cornwall	10.4	13.4	8.9	13.3	8.2	11.6
Dorset	10.0	10.3	11.0	11.0	10.7	10.6
Durham	11.1	11.9	10.1	12.6	9.8	10.3
Dyfed-Powys	10.5	9.7	9.6	11.1	10.9	11.4
Essex	11.2	12.9	10.3	11.0	8.2	11.1
Gloucestershire	10.7	11.8	11.0	11.7	9.8	11.1
Greater Manchester	12.7	14.7	11.0	14.3	10.2	n/a
Gwent	15.6	12.0	10.5	13.2	13.8	17.1

Police officer and staff average number of working days[1] lost per annum to sickness per person[2]

	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
	Officers	*Staff*	*Officers*	*Staff*	*Officers*	*Staff*
Hampshire	11.1	11.3	9.5	9.8	8.8	8.8
Hertfordshire	11.9	10.9	10.6	12.4	10.4	12.2
Humberside	8.6	10.2	7.8	8.1	6.1	8.7
Kent	11.1	11.8	10.7	12.7	11.8	10.9
Lancashire	11.6	11.7	10.9	14.1	10.1	11.4
Leicestershire	12.2	13.1	10.5	11.8	8.4	12.5
Lincolnshire	12.0	11.3	11.9	12.1	9.9	10.7
Merseyside	12.6	12.4	13.0	13.7	11.4	13.6
Metropolitan Police	10.4	11.1	9.7	10.7	8.4	10.4
Norfolk	12.2	13.9	10.6	11.0	9.2	11.9
Northamptonshire	8.5	7.7	10.9	5.7	12.2	7.4
Northumbria	9.0	12.6	8.9	12.8	8.7	11.2
North Wales	10.5	15.0	9.0	10.2	10.5	11.3
North Yorkshire	9.9	10.7	10.0	11.2	11.1	9.8
Nottinghamshire	11.4	16.5	12.2	15.7	11.6	12.7
South Wales	12.7	14.0	10.1	13.9	10.2	12.9
South Yorkshire	11.6	14.6	9.9	13.7	8.3	11.4
Staffordshire	14.3	12.4	11.8	12.1	10.8	10.2
Suffolk	9.0	7.4	9.6	8.1	7.9	7.1
Surrey	10.9	13.8	10.7	12.9	9.9	10.5
Sussex	11.1	10.7	11.3	11.9	11.3	10.9
Thames Valley	11.4	9.3	10.6	9.5	8.8	9.4
Warwickshire	10.9	13.1	10.3	11.2	8.0	9.0
West Mercia	13.2	10.2	11.5	10.8	10.4	11.3
West Midlands	13.1	14.0	10.7	12.6	8.1	10.1
West Yorkshire	13.4	12.4	9.7	11.0	8.3	9.3
Wiltshire	13.2	8.1	12.9	9.1	12.4	9.8

[1] Prior to 2004-05 sickness data were recorded in days rather than hours.
[2] Data published in the Annual Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspectorate of Constabulary.

Police officer and staff average number of working hours[1] lost per annum to sickness per person[2]

	2004-05		2005-06	
	Officers	*Staff*	*Officers*	*Staff*
Avon and Somerset	81.7	78.4	87.2	91.2
Bedfordshire	81.4	69.7	90.8	70.6
Cambridgeshire	98.4	93.9	87.4	80.2
Cheshire	97.1	93.5	80.3	90.1
City of London	53.6	64.6	50.0	63.4
Cleveland	56.4	62.1	62.5	77.9
Cumbria	85.2	62.5	67.2	58.9
Derbyshire	80.4	60.2	69.6	67.9
Devon and Cornwall	73.8	83.3	67.4	86.5
Dorset	100.1	84.3	90.3	71.4
Durham	88.7	84.9	95.9	83.5
Dyfed Powys	92.7	80.7	78.7	63.6
Essex	56.3	63.0	64.0	67.3
Gloucestershire	73.8	79.3	87.2	70.4
Greater Manchester	81.3	91.9	74.8	85.0
Gwent	115.3	118.2	92.3	80.3
Hampshire	8.3	8.2	63.4	56.0
Hertfordshire	86.2	75.6	78.3	66.5
Humberside	53.8	56.9	45.1	59.2
Kent	77.8	77.9	70.0	68.5
Lancashire	82.8	69.3	71.5	57.3
Leicestershire	75.8	79.0	67.4	85.9
Lincolnshire	82.5	68.8	68.2	64.2
Merseyside	90.4	88.7	77.0	89.6
Metropolitan Police	56.4	65.4	54.3	64.3
Norfolk	73.8	73.9	76.8	82.7
North Wales	70.8	55.8	76.9	78.7
North Yorkshire	73.3	66.6	80.9	75.6
Northamptonshire	85.8	60.0	70.8	55.9
Northumbria	77.1	79.4	77.7	72.9
Nottinghamshire	89.2	90.3	78.1	86.8
South Wales	86.0	95.1	94.1	78.6
South Yorkshire	84.0	95.4	64.0	77.5
Staffordshire	76.4	68.2	82.1	78.1
Suffolk	63.9	52.7	64.3	56.6
Surrey	70.6	65.8	66.4	61.7
Sussex	91.5	81.1	77.6	72.7
Thames Valley	65.6	73.6	55.9	74.0
Warwickshire	60.2	56.5	81.4	78.2
West Mercia	87.8	80.6	82.0	73.5
West Midlands	51.1	63.1	58.7	66.6
West Yorkshire	76.7	71.8	63.4	63.1
Wiltshire	81.8	79.0	84.0	73.9

[1] From 2004-05 onwards sickness data were recorded in hours rather than days.
[2] Data published in the Home Office Police Performance Monitoring Reports and online.

Police: Vehicles

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether undercover police cars are obliged to display a no-smoking sign following the introduction of the ban on smoking in public places. [152077]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

Like all vehicles used in the course of work by more than one person, police vehicles should display no-smoking signs as required under smokefree legislation, although there is no requirement for those signs to be visible from outside the vehicle.

Proscribed Organisations

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what additions have been made to the list of proscribed organisations under the Terrorism Act 2000 since January 2006; what the reason was for each addition; and what further additions are planned. [152786]

Mr. McNulty: Six organisations have been added to the list of proscribed organisations since January 2006. They are: Al Ghurabaa, the Baluchistan Liberation Army, Saved Sect (or Saviour Sect), Teyre Azadiye Kurdistan, Tehrik Nefaz-e Shari'at Muhammadi, and Jammat-ul Mujahideen Bangladesh. These additions were made because the organisations were considered to be concerned in terrorism. Section 3 of the

Terrorism Act 2000 sets out that an organisation is concerned in terrorism if it: (a) commits or participates in acts of terrorism, (b) prepares for terrorism, (c) promotes or encourages terrorism, or (d) is otherwise concerned in terrorism. Section 21 of the Terrorism Act 2006 extended the meaning of 'promotes or encourages terrorism' to include the unlawful glorification of terrorism. The sufficiency of the list of proscribed organisations is kept under review.

Racial Harassment: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints of racial harassment were reported in each London borough in each of the last five years. [153640]

Mr. McNulty: The available information relates to racially or religiously aggravated harassment offences recorded by the police and is given in the table.

Racially or religiously aggravated harassment offences recorded by the Metropolitan Police Service—2002-03 to 2006-07

London borough	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Barking and Dagenham	164	187	237	207	198
Barnet	267	273	326	262	154
Bexley	102	150	146	134	152
Brent	129	149	268	187	112
Bromley	132	152	167	155	161
Camden	114	129	215	176	289
City of Westminster	300	280	287	265	312
Croydon	186	196	204	211	127
Ealing	171	157	169	183	198
Enfield	205	95	62	94	134
Greenwich	283	242	265	229	285
Hackney	159	175	177	168	167
Hammersmith and Fulham	126	81	121	140	137
Haringey	98	58	96	117	101
Harrow	117	92	76	69	83
Havering	75	90	132	117	58
Hillingdon	194	161	98	186	198
Hounslow	292	329	350	273	197
Islington	144	187	213	224	228
Kensington and Chelsea	90	102	85	111	140
Kingston upon Thames	105	145	160	85	73
Lambeth	216	207	225	182	193
Lewisham	170	178	196	209	261
Merton	171	161	161	112	85
Newham	191	196	182	194	133
Redbridge	136	175	135	87	99
Richmond upon Thames	109	88	62	39	35
Southwark	194	248	225	249	189
Sutton	122	149	177	94	84
Tower Hamlets	330	303	278	267	359
Waltham Forest	130	168	165	216	138
Wandsworth	129	145	141	157	126
Metropolitan police total	5,351	5,448	5,801	5,399	5,206

Racially or religiously aggravated harassment offences recorded by the Metropolitan Police Service—2002-03 to 2006-07

Samar Razavi

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral answer of 18 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 273, if she will make a statement on the case of Samar Razavi. [152800]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 26 July 2007]:* My hon. Friend the Home Secretary wrote to the right hon. Member for Maidstone and The Weald (Miss Widdecombe) and the hon. Member for Bournemouth, East (Mr. Ellwood) on 27 July 2007 about the immigration matters of Miss Razavi. We do not make statements about individual immigration cases.

Security: Assassination

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on recent operations by the police and security services aimed at preventing the assassination of foreign dissidents resident in England. [152629]

Mr. McNulty: We do not comment on the specifics of operations carried out by the police and security services.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been arrested in relation to the attempted murder of foreign dissidents resident in England in the last month. [152630]

Mr. McNulty: It would be inappropriate to comment on police operational matters.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps Scotland Yard has taken to protect foreign dissidents from assassination while resident in England. [152631]

Mr. McNulty: We do not comment on the protective measures and procedures of the police. This is an operational matter for the force involved.

Security: NHS

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish a redacted version of the report on Security and the National Health Service prepared by Admiral Sir Alan West. [149520]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the statement by my hon. Friend the Prime Minister of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 841.

Sexual Offences: Police Cautions

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cautions were given to those accused of sexual offences in *(a)* Leeds, *(b)* West Yorkshire and *(c)* England and Wales in each of the last five years. [151285]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* The number of persons aged 10 to 15 cautioned for all offences in West Yorkshire police force area for the years 2001 to 2005, along with the number of defendants of all ages cautioned by offence type in West Yorkshire police force area, and the number of defendants of all ages cautioned for sexual offences in England and Wales for the years 2001 to 2005 can be viewed in the following tables. This information is from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Information on cautions collected by the police is only reported to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform broken down at force area level, not by police division, so it is not possible to separately identify the number of cautions in Leeds from our data.

Technically an offender could receive a second caution for a similar offence but it should be in very extenuating circumstances. The Home Office Circular discourages repeat use of the same penalty with the same offender. Someone who offends again needs to know that the next response will be a tougher one. And where a serious offence is committed, then the case should go to court.

Therefore both national and locally held records must be checked before a caution is given. If the suspect has previously received a caution then a further caution should not normally be considered. If there has been a sufficient lapse of time to suggest that a previous caution has had a "significant deterrent effect" then a caution can be administered, but it is at the discretion of the police and CPS. The lapse of time varies, in practice, between forces.

Number of defendants aged 10 to 15 cautioned for all offences by West Yorkshire police for the years 2001 to 2005[1,2]

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
West Yorkshire police force area					
10-15	3,099	3,158	3,116	4,140	5,149

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used. Our ref:PQ151448
Source:
RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice.

Number of defendants of all ages cautioned by offence type in West Yorkshire police force area and the number of defendants of all ages cautioned for sexual offences in England and Wales for the years 2001 to 2005[1,2]

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
West Yorkshire					
Violence against the person	1,109	1,670	2,493	4,277	6,038
Burglary	401	390	346	485	563
Robbery	37	37	29	41	49
Theft and handling stolen goods	2,688	2,423	2,538	3,138	3,635
Fraud and forgery	208	210	189	279	332
Criminal damage	52	76	83	101	149
Drug offences	934	1,271	1,294	1,457	1,674
Other indictable offences	139	165	323	362	520
Summary offences (excluding motoring)	3,474	3,787	3,951	4,743	4,859
Sexual offences	29	44	31	76	85
England and Wales					
Sexual offences	1,240	1,203	1,359	1,553	1,761

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used. Our ref: PQ 151284 and 151285.
Source:
RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice.

Solvents: Misuse

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the impact of the recent reduction in funding for the young people substance misuse grant. [153373]

Mr. Coaker: The reduction in funding for the Young People's Substance Misuse Partnership Grant (YPSMPG) for 2007-08 was primarily because of £4 million of Department of Health Targeted Prevention funding being reallocated to other priorities. No specific assessment of the impact of the reduction of funding has been undertaken by the Department of Health. The YPSMPG and other mainstream funding supports local work to reduce drug use among young people. Drug use among young people is monitored through the Schools Survey and British Crime Survey.

Speed Limits: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much in fines following speed offences detected by camera was *(a)* imposed and *(b)* paid in each London borough in each of the last 10 years; [153546]

(2) how much was raised in fines from speed cameras in each London borough in each of the last 10 years. [153547]

Mr. Coaker: Data collected centrally provides information for England and Wales on the number of fixed penalties and prosecutions for offences detected by camera; this information is not available at the London borough level. Information on the level of

fines and fixed penalties and their payment does not distinguish offences detected by camera from other offences.

Stop and Search: Training

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training is given to police officers in the use of stop and search procedures. [152053]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* Training in stop and search procedures is provided by all police forces as part of the initial police learning and development programme for new officers. The training is reinforced for new sergeants and inspectors in the operational sections of the core leadership development programme. All police forces have a full training package on stop and search powers provided by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA). In addition to this, an E-Learning module on stop and search powers is available to all police personnel in all forces, provided by an NPIA and Metropolitan Police Service Partnership.

Surveillance

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) who is responsible for the oversight of the operation of the intelligence and security services in *(a)* interception of communications, *(b)* surveillance and *(c)* access to private property; [153667]

(2) how many complaints lodged in 2006-07 about *(a)* interception of communications, *(b)* surveillance and *(c)* access to private property were upheld; [153668]

(3) how many complaints were lodged in 2006-07 about *(a)* interception of communications, *(b)* surveillance and *(c)* access to private property; [153669]

(4) what the process is for *(a)* raising, *(b)* investigating and *(c)* adjudicating complaints about (i) interception of communications, (ii) surveillance and (iii) access to private property. [153672]

Mr. McNulty: Independent oversight of the operation of the intelligence and security services in the regulated investigatory powers identified is provided respectively by: *(a)* the Interception of Communications Commissioner (currently Sir Paul Kennedy); *(b)* the Chief Surveillance Commissioner (Sir Christopher Rose); and *(c)* the Intelligence Services Commissioner (currently Sir Peter Gibson). The Investigatory Powers Tribunal was established under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to consider complaints and human rights claims arising from conduct involving regulated investigatory powers. Application to the tribunal can be made by writing to: The Investigatory Powers Tribunal, PO Box 33220, London SW1H 9ZQ, or by telephoning 0207 035 3711. The tribunal will obtain the information it requires from the applicant and organisations concerned to investigate the matter and inform the complainant of the outcome. An oral hearing may be held. If the tribunal decides that there has been contravention of any relevant legislation and the organisation concerned has not acted reasonably, it may uphold the complaint. Remedial measures such as the quashing of any warrants, destruction of any records held or financial compensation may be imposed at the tribunal's discretion. Although the details of individual complaints made to the tribunal are not made public, information on the number of complaints is provided in the annual reports of the Interception of Communications Commissioner and the Intelligence Services Commissioner, copies of which are placed in the Library of the House. However, the Commissioners' reports for 2006-07 are not yet available.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 624-5W to the hon. Member for Hendon, on Yarl's Wood Detention Centre, if she will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the bi-weekly meetings that are in place to support direct communication between detainees and the managers of the centre. [147774]

Jacqui Smith: Minutes from the last two meetings which were held on 31 May and 3 July will be placed in the House Library.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of accident and emergency departments that will close in Cambridgeshire over the next five years. [151722]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has made no assessment. This is a matter for the local national health service and we have been advised by the East of England Strategic Health Authority (SHA) that there are no plans to close accident and emergency (A&E) departments in Cambridgeshire. There is, however, a consultation on the way services are provided at Hinchingbrooke Hospital, but the SHA has assured us that all A&E service currently provided by Hinchingbrooke will continue to be available although the way they are provided may change to improve care for patients.

Ambulance Services: North West Region

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many ambulances in the North West region are *(a)* equipped and *(b)* not equipped with a 12 lead ECG. [152869]

Mr. Bradshaw: All emergency ambulances should be equipped with a 12 lead ECG. However, the Department does not collect information centrally on the number of ambulances equipped with 12 lead ECGs.

Analgesics: Childbirth

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve the availability of pain killing drugs to assist with home births. [152603]

Ann Keen: The Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 clause 11 Exemption for Midwives allows midwives to have in their possession controlled drugs required for their professional practice; this includes pethidine, a Schedule 2 Controlled Drug.

We have included the offer of home birth as a choice in our framework document "Maternity Matters: Choice, access and continuity of care in a safe service", published in April. Home births should be offered within a risk management framework and with adequate local infrastructure and support. It will be for local providers to ensure there are arrangements in place for midwives attending home births to obtain pethidine within existing regulations.

Civil Service: Conditions of Employment

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the civil service code rules relating to the future employment of former civil servants will apply to the outgoing chief executive of NHS Connecting for Health; and whether any additional contractual conditions or restraints are in place. [153297]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Director General of NHS Connecting for Health is subject, as part of his contract, to the rules on the acceptance of outside business appointments in the same way as any other civil servant.

Community Hospitals: Finance

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much and what percentage of the Community Hospital Fund has been allocated; to which projects, broken down by constituency; and if he will make a statement. [151288]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are investing up to £750 million capital over five years to support the development of community hospitals and services. Information about the cost of schemes announced so far and the funding profiled for 2007-08 is set out in the table. The boundaries of primary care trusts and parliamentary constituencies do not match and the constituency for each scheme is not available centrally.

Scheme	*Cost of scheme (£ million)*	*Percentage of £750 million*	*Allocated in 2007-08 (£ million)*
New Primary Care Centre in Washington in Sunderland	9.0	1.2	6.0
Redevelopment of Gosport War Memorial Hospital	6.1	0.8	3.4
New Community Health Centre in Yate, Bristol	5.0	0.7	2.0
Healthy Living Park in Minehead, West Somerset	24.5	3.3	12.0
Redevelopment of the Barking Hospital	5.0	0.7	0.4
New Health and Social Care Centre in Teddington	4.0	0.5	1.0
New Primary Care Centre in Hastings	11.7	1.6	0.5
Redevelopment of the Royal South Hampshire Hospital	6.1	0.8	2.9
New Primary Care Centre in Ashfield	1.1	0.1	1.1
Redevelopment of the Felixstowe Community Hospital	1.8	0.2	1.8
New Primary Care Centre in Rotherham	1.0	0.1	0
New Community Hospital in Bristol	3.9	0.5	0
New Community Hospital in Hornsey	1.7	0.2	1.0
Redevelopment of five local hospitals and additional community services in Calderdale and Kirklees	13.8	1.8	1.4
Total	94.6	12.6	33.6

Note:
Figures are rounded and totals may not sum to component parts.

Departments: Air Conditioning

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on the hire of mobile air conditioning units in each of the last five years. [151747]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has spent the following on mobile air conditioning units:

	£
2002	2,650.00
2003	2,100.00
2004	1,800.00
2005	1,500.00
2006	750.00
2007	0.00

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* first class and *(b)* business flights in the last 12 months. [153082]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department's expenditure on first class flights in the last 12 months was £9,946.

The Department's expenditure on business class flights in the last 12 months was £463,723.

These figures consist of air travel booked via the Departments contracted agent. There are some exceptional cases where air travel is booked outside of the contract but these cannot be identified separately without incurring disproportionate costs.

All travel within the Department is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Departments: Catering

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of *(a)* beef, *(b)* sheep meat, *(c)* pork and *(d)* dairy products used in his Department in the most recent period for which figures are available were imported products. [150796]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 19 July 2007]*: Work is currently under way to enable the collection of this information from central Government Departments that will include the proportion of *(a)* beef, *(b)* sheep meat, *(c)* pork and dairy products, that are produced domestically. I understand that my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will tell the House when this information is deposited in the Library.

Departments: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of people employed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are disabled. [153598]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The latest available data as at 30 September 2006 are published in Civil Service Statistics 2006 at Table P and can be accessed at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422

www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/2006CivilServiceStatistics.pdf

Declaration of a disability is voluntary.

Departments: Employment Agencies

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Department paid in fees to recruitment agencies for *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent staff in each year since 1997. [151680]

Dawn Primarolo: Information is not available in the format requested.

In the years where information is available, the costs of agency staff were:

	£
2006-07	6,302,171
2005-06	12,186,224
2004-05	12,507,092

Departments: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) in which years his Department's *(a)* near-cash, *(b)* non-cash and *(c)* capital budget was reduced as a result of it being reprofiled over the years covered by the 2004 Spending Review; and by whom in each case; [153363]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 10 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1446W, on Departments: public expenditure, and the information provided on page 271 of HM Treasury's 2006 Budget report, how his Department's budget was reprofiled over the 2004 Spending Review period; and how much of its *(a)* near-cash budget, *(b)* non-cash budget and *(c)* capital budget was transferred from which year to which year. [153604]

Mr. Bradshaw: Updated spending estimates are set out in the "Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses". The "Differences from Previous Plans" chapter compares the latest plans for Department Expenditure Limits and Annually Managed Expenditure with the plans set out in the previous year.

Expenditure plans are routinely updated as part of the parliamentary estimates process, and updates are also published in the Budget and pre-Budget report.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter received by his Department from HM Treasury at the time of the 2006 Budget giving his Department formal notification that its budget would be reprofiled over the years covered by the 2004 Spending Review. [153370]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has regular correspondence with HM Treasury on a wide range of issues. It is not Government practice to place such correspondence in the Library.

Departments: Flowers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by his Department on flowers in the last 12 months. [153083]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department spent £1,300 on flowers in the last 12 months.

Departments: Land

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what land he expects to be disposed of by his Department between 2007 to 2011; and whether he plans to require that land to be used for social housing. [149897]

Mr. Bradshaw: The list that follows comprises the larger sites, in the ownership of the Secretary of State for Health, that are expected to be sold between 2007 and 2011. For those sites with housing potential, the requirement for the provision of social housing will need to be negotiated and agreed with the local planning authority.

Cherry Knowle Hospital, Sunderland
Sedgefield Hospital, Sedgefield
Northern View, Bradford
Land off Memorial Avenue, Worksop
Part Towers Hospital, Leicester
Lakeview Close, Walsall
Part Little Plumstead, Norwich
Land at Harp Close, Sunbury
Land at Harwich Hospital, Harwich
Part Harperbury Hospital, Radlett
Land at Napsbury, St. Albans
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Hackney
Eastry Hospital, Eastry
Part Park Prewett, Basingstoke
Standish Hospital, Stroud

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been appointed to his Department outside Civil Service grades in the last 30 days. [153085]

Dawn Primarolo: None.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many press officers are employed by his Department. [153087]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As at 1 April 2007, the Department employed 30 full-time press officers, four part-time.

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health to which periodicals his Department subscribes. [153079]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department's library service is responsible for central purchasing of periodicals for library use and for retention by individual units using a journals supplier within a framework contract for Government Departments.

Tables showing periodicals which the Department subscribes to in 2007 have been placed in the Library.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by his Department on newspapers and magazines in the last 12 months. [153080]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department spent £81,134 on newspapers and magazines in the last 12 months.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the nature is of each private finance initiative scheme for which his Department is responsible *(a)* approved since January 2006 and *(b)* under consideration; what the planned capacity is of the facilities to be provided by each project; what the contracted or expected construction cost is of each; on what date the contract for each was or is planned to be finalised; what the planned completion date is of each; what the period of each contract is; what the annual charge to the relevant NHS trust is in each case; and what the estimated annual carbon dioxide emissions associated with each development are. [151887]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information on planned capacity construction cost (capital value), actual and planned contract finalisation, opening date, contract length, and annual charge is provided in the table. We have interpreted "under consideration" as meaning those schemes which were considered and approved to proceed since January 2006 as part of the Department's private finance initiative (PFI) re-appraisal exercise and are continuing with their procurements but have not yet reached financial close.

The mandatory energy target which applies to the national health service as a whole is to reduce the level of primary energy consumption by 15 per cent. or 0.15 MtC (million tonnes carbon) from March 2000's level by March 2010. To achieve this individual NHS bodies must achieve energy usage targets of between 33 and 55 GJ/100cu.m per annum (Gigajoules/100 Cubic Metres) for all new capital developments and major redevelopments or refurbishments; and that all existing facilities should achieve energy usage of between 55 and 65 GJ/100cu.m per annum.

If energy provisions are included in a PFI scheme then they must comply with these targets. Figures are collected centrally for progress against these energy targets (which are then converted into a carbon dioxide emission figure) but only for the whole of each NHS trust's estate i.e. it is not possible to separately identify a figure for the PFI element.

NHS trust	*Capital value (£ million)*	*Financial close date*	*Estimated operational date*	*First annual unitary payment (£ million)*[1]	*Bed numbers*[2]	*Contract length (years)*[3]	*Scheme description*
A—PFI schemes approved since January 2006							
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals	67	21 February 2006	Q2 2008	4.0	100	30	Reconfiguration of Cancer facilities
Ipswich Hospital	36	27 March 2006	Q4 2007	2.9	—	—	Garrett Anderson Treatment Centre
Barts and the London	1,000	27 April 2006	Q4 2013	96.4	990	35	Major Acute development of The Royal London hospital. New wing, Cancer and Cardiac Centres and extensive refurbishment of Barts hospital.
St. Helens Hospitals	338	1 June 2006	Q4 2008	30.0	1151	35	Major Acute Hospital development of St. Helens and Whiston Hospital sites.

NHS trust	Capital value (£ million)	Financial close date	Estimated operational date	First annual unitary payment (£ million)[1]	Bed numbers[2]	Contract length (years)[3]	Scheme description
University Hospital Birmingham/ Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health	627	8 June 2006	Q1 2010	47.0	1327	35	Single site hospital to replace Selly Oak and Queen Elizabeth Hospitals and provide a new Mental Health Unit (Joint scheme with Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHST).
South West Essex Teaching PCT	30	29 June 2006	Q3 2008	3.3	—	—	Reprovision of Brentwood Community Hospital
Taunton and Somerset —Cancer Centre	21	28 February 2007	Q1 2009	2.6	—	—	Cancer Centre
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	29	3 May 2007	Q2 2009	2.4	—	—	New Mental Health facilities (part of the PFI Mental Health batch in the Midlands known as '3 Shires')
University Hospital of North Staffordshire	306	13 June 2007	Q3 2012	40.7	1129	30	Major new build and reconfiguration at University Hospital site.
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals	343	22 June 2007	Q2 2010	27.0	762	32	Rationalisation from two main sites to one at Pinderfields Hospital. Small Unit at Pontefract.
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals	336	29 June 2007	Q1 2012	24.1	748	32	New Acute Hospital, Mental Health unit and integrated care centre.
B—PFI schemes under consideration since January 2006							
Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys	78	Q3 2007	Q4 2008	—	312	—	Replacement of St. Luke's Hospital
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells	225	Q1 2008	Q4 2010		512		Modernisation and reconfiguration from four sites to two at Pembury and Maidstone.
North Bristol/South Gloucestershire PCTs	310	Q1 2009	Q1 2014	—	947	—	Centralisation of specialist and Acute services presently located at Frenchay and Southmead Hospitals.
Tameside and Glossop Acute Services	109	Q3 2007	Q3 2009	—	134	—	Integration of services onto one site
Mid Essex Hospital Services	143	Q3 2007	Q2 2010	—	336	—	Relocation of Maternity Unit and modernisation of Acute Services including DTC in Chelmsford.
North Middlesex University Hospital	111	Q3 2007	Q2 2010	—	150	—	Replacement Accident and Emergency services, inpatient beds and Diagnostic and Treatment Centre.
Salford Royal Hospitals	190	Q3 2007	Q12011	—	209	—	New build and refurbishment at Hope Hospital Salford
Walsall Hospitals	141	Q4 2007	Q4 2009	—	558	—	Improving Children's services and provision of primary care centres.

[1] Annual payments to the private sector are not finalised until financial close.
[2] Capacity information is not held centrally for non-prioritised schemes.
[3] Figures for the contract length exclude the build period. Details of the length of contract are only held centrally for major schemes. For all other schemes the contract length is assumed to be 30 years, the standard length introduced under the Standard Form Contract in 1999. Contract length is not finalised until financial close.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1553W, on Departments: public expenditure, what items of specific guidance have been issued to departments in the last five years on the co-ordinating of particular exercises. [153526]

Mr. Bradshaw: Where we have worked with HM Treasury on issues that involve many different parts of the Department, an official within the Department is typically asked to coordinate the work. This includes a large number of small exercises, as well larger issues such as spending reviews. It would not be practical to trace everyone of these exercises over the last five years.

Departments: Railways

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by his Department on first class train tickets in the last 12 months. [153081]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department's expenditure on first class train tickets in the last 12 months was £3,110,108.

This figure consists of rail tickets booked via the Department's contracted agent. There are some exceptional cases where rail tickets are booked outside of the contract but these cannot be identified separately without incurring disproportionate costs.

All travel within the Department is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Departments: Redundancy Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by his Department on redundancy payments in the last 12 months. [153075]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 231W.

Departments: Taxis

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by his Department on taxis in the last 12 months. [153084]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department's expenditure on taxis in the last 12 months was £310,754.00. This figure consists of taxi travel booked via the Department's contracted agent. There are some exceptional cases of taxi travel outside of the contract but these cannot be identified separately without incurring disproportionate costs.

Travel within the Department is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by his Department on staff away days in the last 12 months. [153076]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not held centrally and to collect it would be at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Tribunals

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by his Department on industrial tribunals in the last 12 months. [153078]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department spent a total of £44,249 on industrial tribunals in the last 12 months. This figure includes settlement costs as well as Counsel fees.

East of England Strategic Health Authority: Pay

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with East of England Strategic Health Authority on payoffs to staff and the effect of such payoffs on the Strategic Health Authority's budget. [152270]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Staff recruitment and retention is a matter for local trust management in conjunction with the appropriate strategic health authority (SHA). There have been no discussions as to redundancy payments between the Minister and the SHA.

Health Professions: Nutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* headcount and *(b)* full-time equivalent (i) dieticians and (ii) nutritionists were working in the NHS in each year since 1997. [153402]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Romsey (Sandra Gidley) on 31 July.

The numbers of nutritionists are not identified separately and are included in the numbers of dieticians.

Health Services: Private Sector

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department requires primary care trusts to consult *(a)* existing acute hospitals, *(b)* county council overview and scrutiny committees, *(c)* GPs, *(d)* patients and *(e)* other representatives of the health community prior to tendering taking place for independent sector treatment centres; [152690]

(2) whether existing acute hospitals are permitted to tender for independent sector treatment centres; [152691]

(3) what his Department's policy is on primary care trusts tendering for independent sector treatment centres when there is underused NHS operating capacity available locally. [152692]

Mr. Bradshaw: Procurement of the national Independent Sector Treatment Centres (ISTC) programme is being conducted in compliance with European Union procurement law. There was no bar on any organisation expressing an interest in the notice placed in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) in 2005 in relation to the national Phase 2

ISTC programme procurement. There is a robust process to ensure there is local support and a capacity need for each individual elective ISTC.

With regard to consultation, primary care trusts are expected to comply with their legal obligations under the Health and Social Care Act 2001.

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effects of independent sector treatment centres on NHS staff training and development. [152695]

Mr. Bradshaw: Independent sector treatment centres (ISTCs) will provide new training opportunities for staff. The long-term aim is for ISTCs to both source and employ professionals and support staff, while retaining opportunities for national health service employees to have access to employment and secondment opportunities to further develop their skills and experience.

Health: Nutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished in-year admission episodes where undernutrition is recorded as a *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary diagnosis there were in (i) England and (ii) each primary care trust area in each year since 1997-98. [153409]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Home Care Services: Oxygen

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each health trust on each type of prescribed domiciliary oxygen therapy in each of the last 10 years. [151014]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is only available for 2006-07 and I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 813-15W.

Hospices: Finance

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what level of funding is being provided by the NHS to *(a)* adult hospices and *(b)* children's hospices in Sussex in 2007-08. [152768]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not collected centrally.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for commissioning and funding palliative care services locally. The level of funding a hospice receives is a matter for local negotiation between the PCT and the hospice. It is for PCTs to determine how to use the funding allocated to them and to commission services to meet the health care needs of their local population.

However, under the Dignity in Care for Older People campaign, special one-off capital grants were awarded to a number of adult hospices to improve their physical environment. It is important to note that these were not revenue grants to support running costs.

On 9 April 2007, six of these one-off capital grants were awarded to hospices in Sussex and are shown in the table.

	Amount (£)
Martletts Hospice	345,425
St. Barnabas Hospice (Worthing)	446,000
St. Catherine's Specialist Palliative Care Centre	183,560
St. Michael's Hospice (Hastings)	383,920
St. Peter and St. James Hospice	278,950
St. Wilfrid's Hospice	424,600
Total for Sussex	2,062,455

Hospitals: Private Sector

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effects of independent sector treatment centres on the economics of NHS acute hospitals in their areas. [152693]

Mr. Bradshaw: As part of the planning and subsequent approvals process for any independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) scheme, an assessment is made of the likely impact of the scheme on the local health care economy.

ISTCs will only be introduced in health economies in which the strategic health authority supports the case for them, and is committed to managing the capacity and financial consequences of ISTC implementation, particularly any impacts on existing national health service providers of elective care.

Incontinence: Children

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what level of provision there is for continence services for children in *(a)* Essex, *(b)* the East of England and *(c)* England. [147856]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for health professionals in primary care trusts to commission appropriate continence services for local people, based on current and anticipated needs, and in consultation with stakeholders. In commissioning these services, professionals are expected to have regard to the recommendations outlined in "Good Practice in Continence Services".

Midwives: Training

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1926W, on midwives: training, if he will make it his policy to collect data on the number of students who qualify as midwives each year; and if he will make a statement. [149858]

Mr. Bradshaw: Collecting data on the number of health care graduates including those in midwifery is challenging and complex, as a result the Department has historically not collected this information.

However, the Department continues to improve its data sources in estimating the number of midwifery graduates in a given year. This includes analysing data

from the Nursing and Midwifery Council, work force review team and the Higher Education Statistics Agency.

Since 1997, the number of midwives employed in the NHS has increased by 2,084 (9 per cent.) from 22,385 to 24,469 (in 2006).

Motor Neurone Disease: Research

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funds the Government provided for research into motor neurone disease in each year since 2005; and what funds have been allocated for each year to 2010 [151350]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) spent £2.8 million on research into motor neurone disease in 2005-06. Total spend on neurological research in 2005-06 was around £80 million. The amount MRC will allocate in the future will depend on the number and scientific quality of applications received.

Research active organisations in the national health service, funded through the Department of Health's research and development budget, also support research into motor neurone disease. The Department of Health does not collect details of expenditure by these organisations on research into particular disease areas. Details of individual projects supported in the NHS can be found on the national research register at http://www.dh.gov.uk/research. Their overall reported spend on neurological conditions in 2005-06 was £26 million, and in 2006-07 was £28 million.

The Department of Health has also established and is funding a dementias and neurodegenerative disease research network that gives patients from every motor neurone disease clinic in England the opportunity to take part in national clinical trials.

Musculoskeletal Disorders: Sick Leave

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his officials have had with the Department of Work and Pensions on arthritis and other musculoskeletal problems as a cause of long-term sick leave. [152979]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There has been no specific discussion on arthritis and other musculoskeletal problems but the Department of Health, the Department for Work and Pensions and the Health and Safety Executive are working together on the Government's Health, Work and Well Being strategy.

This will address all the major causes of long-term sickness including musculoskeletal problems as well as other long-term medical conditions such as arthritis.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice his Department received from the Audit Commission on the impact of resource accounting and budgeting on financial management in the NHS, in addition to the Review of the NHS Financial Management and Accounting Regime, published 26 July 2006; and on what date each piece of advice was received. [147028]

Mr. Bradshaw: In addition to the "Review of the NHS financial Management and Accounting Regime", the Audit Commission has published the following reports that refer to the impact of resource accounting and budgeting on the financial management of the NHS:

"Financial Management in the NHS—NHS (England) Summarised Accounts 2004-05" published on 8 June 2006;

"Learning the lessons from financial failure in the NHS" published on 11 July 2006.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date the decision was taken to make changes to the resource accounting and budgeting system for the NHS announced in March 2007. [147121]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Audit Commission published its "Review of the NHS Financial Management and Accounting Regime" on 26 July 2006.

The departmental publication "The NHS in England: the operating framework for 2007/08" published on 11 December 2006 stated that although the Department accepted the rationale behind the Audit Commission's recommendations on resource accounting and budgeting (RAB) it could not commit to implementation at that stage.

Before the final decision could be made we needed to be sure that national health service trusts had the financial discipline to operate outside the stringent RAB rules relating to income deductions following deficits. The improving financial position reported in "NHS Financial Performance Quarter 3" published on 20 February 2007 coupled with new tighter cash controls gave us the confidence that the changes could be made.

The final decisions were made in the period leading up to the announcement on 28 March 2007.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what preparations his Department made for the introduction of the resource accounting and budgeting system in NHS trusts. [147122]

Mr. Bradshaw: Guidance on the introduction of resource accounting and budgeting (RAB) was issued to the national health service during 2000. This was consolidated in "A guide to resource accounting and budgeting" issued by the Department's Finance Directorate in February 2001. Copies of this document have been placed in the Library. It can also be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Organisationpolicy/Financeandplanning/Allocations/DH_4000346

Subsequent changes to financial rules for national health service trusts, including those relating to RAB, have been communicated to the NHS through a number of sources including the finance manual and manual for accounts.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) who the members are of the Steering Group set up by his Department to oversee the implementation of

the recommendations of the Audit Commission's review of NHS financial management; [153369]

(2) on which dates the Steering Group set up by his Department to oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the Audit Commission's review of NHS financial management *(a)* has met and *(b)* plans to meet. [153374]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has established a steering group to oversee the implementation of the recommendations made in the Audit Commission Review of the Financial Management and Accounting Regime in the National Health Service. The group held its inaugural meeting on 23 March 2007, to which the following representatives of the Department, Audit Commission, Treasury and NHS were invited:

Richard Douglas—Director General of Finance and Investment, Department of Health

Bill McCarthy—Director General of Policy and Strategy, Department of Health

Martin Foulds—NHS Financial Controller, Department of Health

Alastair MacLellan—Group Financial Controller, Department of Health

Andrew Stubbings—Head of Capital and Programme Investment, Department of Health

Andrew Laycock—Financial Head of Business Management, Department of Health

John Hall—Head of Health Team, HM Treasury

Andy McKeon—Managing Director Health, Audit Commission

Anna Simons—Private Finance Practice Leader, National Audit Office

Stephen Hay—Chief Operating Officer, Monitor

Peter Shanahan—Finance Director, West Midlands Strategic Health Authority

Colin Gentile—Finance Director, St. George's NHS Trust, London

Alison Tonge—Finance Director and Deputy Chief Executive, Stockport PCT

Kevin Orford—Finance Director and Deputy Chief Executive, East Midlands SHA

Since that meeting, the group has continued discussions by correspondence. The future meeting structure is currently being reviewed in light of changes to responsibilities within the Department.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the budget of the NHS was reprofiled over the years covered by the 2004 Spending Review to reflect the reprofiling of his Department's budget over the same period. [153371]

Mr. Bradshaw: The allocation of resources to primary care trusts (PCTs) have not been revised. PCT allocations for 2006-07 and 2007-08 were made in February 2005, and for 2005-06 were made in December 2002.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what ex gratia payments the outgoing chief executive of Connecting for Health will receive. [153295]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are no plans to make any ex gratia payments to the Director General of NHS Connecting for Health.

NHS: Manpower

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the framework document, Securing and retaining staff for health and social care, in assisting NHS trusts in the redeployment and recruitment of staff. [150904]

Mr. Bradshaw: NHS Employers' framework "Securing and retaining staff for health and social care—a partnership approach" sets out best practice to support local national health service employers to minimise the need to declare staff redundant.

NHS Employers will continue to review the programme of activities.

NHS: Procurement

Mr. Havard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1929W, on NHS procurement, what mechanisms he plans to set up for patient groups and other stakeholders to make representations directly to NHS supply chain products councils. [153489]

Mr. Bradshaw: These representations would need to be made in writing to NHS Supply Chain's Product Council Co-ordinator.

Mr. Havard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 372W, on NHS procurement, under what circumstances the NHS supply chain products councils would raise with NHS Business Services Agency (Supply Chain Management Division) requests for new products to be added to the lists of items to be supplied. [153490]

Mr. Bradshaw: NHS Supply Chain can contract for any product within all of the product categories currently in-scope and include them in their offer.

Any requests to add new product categories must be made to the NHS Business Services Authority (NHS BSA) who would request NHS supply chain submit a proposal. The NHS BSA would consider the benefits to the national health service of including the new product category and would liaise with all relevant stakeholders including the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency and the Department prior to approving or denying any request.

Mr. Havard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the NHS Supply Chain have in place to allow patients, clinicians and other stakeholders to appeal against decisions made by the NHS Supply Chain. [153623]

Mr. Bradshaw: NHS Supply Chain is governed by European Union procurement regulations and complaints can be made directly to the NHS Supply Chain should they be dissatisfied with selection or any other activity which forms part of the tender process.

Any appeal against a decision or issue can be escalated to the NHS Business Services Authority Supply Chain Management Division for resolution.

Nutrition

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dieticians were employed in each NHS trust in each of the last 10 years. [152254]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information has been placed in the Library.

Orthopaedics: Health Services

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of capacity in orthopaedic services to meet the 18 week target; [153342]

(2) what representations he has received on the impact of the 18 week target on the standard of orthopaedic treatment provided to patients. [153344]

Mr. Bradshaw: The British Orthopaedic Association and others are represented on the 18 weeks clinical advisory group which is developing advice to help local areas deliver high quality, safe treatment within 18 weeks for the most common conditions, including orthopaedics.

On capacity, the Department is satisfied with the assurance of strategic health authorities that local health services are planning adequate orthopaedic activity to make the necessary progress in 2007-08 towards the 18 weeks target.

Patients: Nutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people *(a)* admitted to and *(b)* discharged from hospital were malnourished (i) in total and (ii) per 100,000 (A) for all ages and (B) broken down by age group in each year since 1997-98. [153397]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is shown in the following table for years where the information is available. It is not possible to provide information about the number of people discharged from hospital who were malnourished because it would be misleading to present the admissions/discharges per 100,000 of the English population when a proportion of these will represent people not resident in England.

Count of finished in-year admission and discharge episodes where there was a primary or secondary diagnosis of malnutrition by age groups in NHS hospitals in England

Age groups	*Finished in-year admission episodes*	*In-year discharge episodes*
2000-01		
0-4	35	35
5-14	17	17
15-24	42	44
25-34	93	95
35-44	135	151
45-54	143	158
55-64	140	161
65-74	194	213
75-84	237	285
85-120	187	221
Age not known	1	1
Total	1,224	1,381
2001-02		
0-4	24	26
5-14	45	46
15-24	61	62
25-34	96	98
35-44	116	124
45-54	158	168
55-64	136	170
65-74	201	220
75-84	294	352
85-120	216	235
Age not known	15	16
Total	1,362	1,517
2002-03		
0-4	36	36
5-14	44	45
15-24	72	75
25-34	108	115
35-44	141	158
45-54	201	211
55-64	205	237
65-74	205	241
75-84	281	340
85-120	231	256
Age not known	4	5
Total	1,528	1,719
2003-04		
0-4	38	38
5-14	33	33
15-24	66	69
25-34	135	141
35-44	149	168
45-54	185	215
55-64	185	192
65-74	226	258
75-84	331	394
85-120	247	302
Age not known	7	8
Total	1,602	1,818
2004-05		
0-4	38	41
5-14	32	31
15-24	89	92
25-34	105	120
35-44	188	202
45-54	214	229
55-64	245	267
65-74	246	280
75-84	345	408
85-120	287	334
Age not known	2	2

Count of finished in-year admission and discharge episodes where there was a primary or secondary diagnosis of malnutrition by age groups in NHS hospitals in England

Age groups	*Finished in-year admission episodes*	*In-year discharge episodes*
Total	1,791	2,006
2005-06		
0-4	38	39
5-14	39	39
15-24	106	118
25-34	122	133
35-44	224	251
45-54	240	267
55-64	312	341
65-74	286	342
75-84	342	423
85-120	232	308
Age not known	3	4
Total	1,944	2,265

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* NHS trusts which routinely use nationally validated malnutrition screening tools for patients who present to health services; [153400]

(2) what assessment he has made of levels of adherence by *(a)* NHS organisations and *(b)* general practice surgeries to section 1.14.2.2 of the guidance issued on 22 February 2006 by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on nutritional support in adults, to screen for malnutrition (i) all hospital inpatients on admission, (ii) all outpatients on first attendance and (iii) all people on initial registration at general practice surgeries; [153401]

(3) what steps he is taking to encourage the use of malnutrition screening tools in healthcare settings. [153403]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not monitor the use of malnutrition screening tools centrally.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guidelines are classified as developmental standards in the national health service quality standards framework "Standards for Better Health". NHS organisations are expected to take full account of them in developing services, but the pace of implementation will vary according to local circumstances and priorities.

Core Standard C15b of the "Standards for Better Healthcare", assessed by the Healthcare Commission, includes a requirement that, among other things,

"The healthcare organisation should ensure that the nutritional status of patients is assessed at appropriate points in their care, for example, upon admission to hospital."

The National Patient Safety Agency, who have responsibility for supporting the implementation of policy on hospital food and nutrition, are actively promoting the comprehensive screening of patients on admission to hospital.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the number of bed days occupied by patients in a year as a consequence of undernourishment. [153411]

Dawn Primarolo: According to the Hospital Episode Statistics, the count of bed days during 2005-06 for finished episodes where the primary diagnosis was malnutrition in national health service hospitals in England was 6,083.

Schools: Travel

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many travel advisers have been recruited for schools. [152253]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have funded local authorities to ensure that adequate school travel adviser provision is in place. We do not collect information about the number of school travel advisers recruited by local authorities.

Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to reduce the gap between the funding required for the research and development of the new tuberculosis vaccine and the funding available to it. [152396]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

Research on new TB vaccines is being undertaken in a number of countries by a range of different research groups. In the UK, the Medical Research Council (MRC) spend on TB vaccines in 2005-06 was £1.9 million (four projects). It also provided funding of £0.4 million for four underpinning projects.

Written Answers to Questions

The following answers were received between Monday 3 September and Friday 7 September 2007

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Clergy: Pay

Miss McIntosh: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what forms of income other than the stipend are available to clergymen; and what cost of living adjustments are made annually. [152884]

Sir Stuart Bell: Apart from the stipend, the clergy remuneration package also includes the provision of housing (including the payment of council tax, water charges, maintenance, external decoration) and a non-contributory Church pension.

Clergy are also eligible for removal grants and subsidised insurance in high risk areas.

The Central Stipends Authority recommends stipend levels to dioceses and the Church Commissioners each year after extensive consultation taking into account forecast movements in RPI and AEI. For 2008-09 it has recommended a general increase of 3 per cent.

Departments: Assets

Harry Cohen: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners by what legal instruments assets are vested in and controlled by the Church Commissioners. [152602]

Sir Stuart Bell: On 1 April 1948 the Church Commissioners inherited the assets and functions of their predecessors, Queen Anne's Bounty and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, by virtue of section 2 of the Church Commissioners Measure 1947. Any assets acquired subsequently were vested in the Commissioners by the appropriate legal deed or document.

The Commissioners exercise control over their assets through the Assets Committee which, under section 6 of the 1947 measure and subject to any general rules made by the Board of Governors, has exclusive power and duty to act on behalf of and in the name of the Commissioners in all matters relating to the management of those assets of the Commissioners the income of which is carried into their general fund, including the power to sell, purchase, exchange and let land and make, realise and change investments.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* business class and *(b)* first class flights in the last 12 months. [153117]

Mr. Thomas: All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

DFID's expenditure on flights booked centrally for the 12 month period April 2006 to March 2007 was £6,876,805, including business class flights costing £5,726,318 and first class flights costing £41,922. Staff rules preclude use of first class travel, except by Ministers, officials accompanying them, and the most senior members of the senior civil service. Rules relating to the use of air travel and fare entitlements are set out in the staff handbook.

Departments: Railways

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent by his Department on first class train tickets in the last 12 months. [153116]

Mr. Thomas: All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

DFID's expenditure on UK train tickets for the 12 month period April 2006 to March 2007 was £366,684. Data distinguishing between classes of travel are not routinely maintained and could not be produced without disproportionate cost. Staff normally travel by standard class but are permitted with prior approval to travel first class when they are expected to work during the journey.

Departments: Taxis

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent by his Department on taxis in the last 12 months. [153119]

Mr. Thomas: DFID's expenditure on taxis for the 12 month period April 2006 to March 2007 was £248,363.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Developing Countries: Currency

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what system his Department uses for recording currency transactions from sterling into local currency for use in developing countries. [146801]

Mr. Thomas: DFID does not keep records of how, or at what rate, its sterling transactions are converted into local currency once they reach their recipient.

The majority of our funding is made in sterling. All transactions in foreign currency are recorded as a sterling equivalent, based on the exchange rate for that day. DFID's standard payment systems provide the necessary evidence that money has been paid to the intended recipient. All financial aid to overseas governments is paid through Crown Agents Bank which provides documentation demonstrating that the funds have reached the partner government's Central Exchequer. For non-financial aid our own accounting and banking systems provide this assurance.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* average and *(b)* longest flying hours for each helicopter type operating in Afghanistan were in each of the last 12 months. [153316]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1353W, to the hon. Member for Harwich (Mr. Carswell).

Ammunition

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on researching enhanced blast munitions; what orders have been made for them; and what plans there are for future procurement of the munitions. [152215]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[pursuant to the reply, 26 July 2007, Official Report, c. 1243W]:* The final sentence my answer should have read as:

We have, in addition, procured a small number of weapons that use enhanced blast technology, the details of which I am withholding because their disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces. There are currently no firm plans for the further procurement of enhanced blast munitions, other than those that I have described above.

Armed Forces: Insurance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1872W, on the armed forces: insurance, when he expects to place in the Library the documents referred to. [149349]

Derek Twigg: I have placed the documents in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Schools

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the parental customer satisfaction ratings in respect of service personnel children's education schools were in each year for which records are available. [150128]

Derek Twigg: Since 2004 School Children's Education has commissioned an annual independent Parental Satisfaction Survey carried out by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER). The percentage of parents stating that they are very satisfied or satisfied with their child's school is outlined here:

Percentage

	Primary School	*Secondary School*
2004	90	89
2005	91	88
2006	91	89

The results of the 2007 NFER survey are expected to be published in October 2007 and will be thereafter be available to interested parties by visiting the agency website at:

www.sceschools.com.

Challenger Tanks: Non-depleted Uranium

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made towards the introduction of non-depleted uranium ammunition for Challenger 2 tanks; and if he will make a statement. [149672]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department continues to examine a range of options for the main armament and ammunition types used by the Challenger 2 Main Battle Tank. An investigation into the feasibility of new non-depleted uranium ammunition forms part of this work.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people have been appointed to his Department outside civil service grades in the last 30 days. [153071]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will breakdown the financial year 2006-07 outturn for resources one, two and three provision for each subhead by *(a)* near cash departmental expenditure limit (DEL), *(b)* non-cash DEL, *(c)* capital DEL, *(d)* near cash annual managed expenditure, *(e)* non-cash annual managed expenditure, *(f)* capital annual managed expenditure, *(g)* near cash non-budget and *(h)* non-cash non-budget. [154918]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The 2006-07 MOD resource and capital outturn expenditure for Request for Resources 1, 2 and 3, are set out in the following table.

Ministry of Defence: Breakdown of expenditure outturn 2006-07

£000

TLB	*Estimate Type*	*Final outturn*
Provision of Defence Capability RfR1		
Fleet		
	Near-Cash Resource DEL	2,150,027
	Non-Cash Resource DEL	-2,149
	Total Resource DEL	2,147,878
	AME Near-Cash	0
	AME Non-Cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget Near-Cash	0
	Non Budget Non-Cash	0
	Total Non Budget	0

Ministry of Defence: Breakdown of expenditure outturn 2006-07

TLB	Estimate Type	£000 Final outturn
	Total Resource	2,147,878
	Capital	13,893
Total Fleet		2,161,771
General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland		
	Near-Cash Resource DEL	368,249
	Non-Cash Resource DEL	21,096
	Total Resource DEL	389,345
	AME Near-Cash	0
	AME Non-Cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget Near-Cash	0
	Non Budget Non-Cash	0
	Total Non Budget	0
	Total Resource	389,345
	Capital	2,371
Total General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland		391,716
Commander in Chief Land Command		
	Near-Cash Resource DEL	4,297,057
	Non-Cash Resource DEL	25,063
	Total Resource DEL	4,322,120
	AME Near-Cash	0
	AME Non-Cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget Near-Cash	0
	Non Budget Non-Cash	0
	Total Non Budget	0
	Total Resource	4,322,120
	Capital	75,441
Total Commander in Chief Land Command		4,397,561
Air Officer Commanding In Chief RAF Strike Command		
	Near-Cash Resource DEL	1,910,838
	Non-Cash Resource DEL	13,390
	Total Resource DEL	1,924,228
	AME Near-Cash	0
	AME Non-Cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget Near-Cash	0
	Non Budget Non-Cash	0
	Total Non Budget	0
	Total Resource	1,924,228
	Capital	7,083
Total Air Officer Commanding In Chief RAF Strike Command		1,931,311
Chief of Joint Operations		
	Near-Cash Resource DEL	373,243
	Non-Cash Resource DEL	18,017
	Total Resource DEL	391,260
	AME Near-Cash	0

Ministry of Defence: Breakdown of expenditure outturn 2006-07

TLB	Estimate Type	£000 Final outturn
	AME Non-Cash	9,200
	Total AME	9,200
	Non Budget Near-Cash	0
	Non Budget Non-Cash	0
	Total Non Budget	0
	Total Resource	400,460
	Capital	4,322
Total Chief of Joint Operations		404,782
Chief of Defence Logistics		
	Near-Cash Resource DEL	4,900,414
	Non-Cash Resource DEL	7,858,278
	Total Resource DEL	12,758,692
	AME Near-Cash	0
	AME Non-Cash	67,473
	Total AME	67,473
	Non Budget Near-Cash	0
	Non Budget Non-Cash	0
	Total Non Budget	0
	Total Resource	12,826,165
	Capital	1,169,954
Total Chief of Defence Logistics		13,996,119
Adjutant General		
	Near-Cash Resource DEL	1,600,812
	Non-Cash Resource DEL	-25,003
	Total Resource DEL	1,575,809
	AME Near-Cash	0
	AME Non-Cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget Near-Cash	9,232
	Non Budget Non-Cash	0
	Total Non Budget	9,232
	Total Resource	1,585,041
	Capital	14,940
Total Adjutant General		1,599,981
Chief, RAF Personnel and Training Command		
	Near-Cash Resource DEL	789,594
	Non-Cash Resource DEL	-27,682
	Total Resource DEL	761,912
	AME Near-Cash	0
	AME Non-Cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget Near-Cash	0
	Non Budget Non-Cash	0
	Total Non Budget	0
	Total Resource	761,912
	Capital	10,865
Total Chief RAF Personnel and Training Command		772,777

Ministry of Defence: Breakdown of expenditure outturn 2006-07

TLB	Estimate Type	£000 Final outturn
Central		
	Near-Cash Resource DEL	2,075,757
	Non-Cash Resource DEL	96,010
	Total Resource DEL	2,171,767
	AME Near-Cash	0
	AME Non-Cash	264
	Total AME	264
	Non Budget Near-Cash	-15,090
	Non Budget Non-Cash	0
	Total Non Budget	-15,090
	Total Resource	2,156,941
	Capital	52,151
Total Central		2,209,092
Defence Estates		
	Near-Cash Resource DEL	1,246,586
	Non-Cash Resource DEL	1,445,454
	Total Resource DEL	2,692,040
	AME Near-Cash	0
	AME Non-Cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget Near-Cash	3,237
	Non Budget Non-Cash	0
	Total Non Budget	3,237
	Total Resource	2,695,277
	Capital	90,777
Total Defence Estates		2,786,054
Defence Procurement Agency		
	Near-Cash Resource DEL	1,424,544
	Non-Cash Resource DEL	905,769
	Total Resource DEL	2,330,313
	AME Near-Cash	0
	AME Non-Cash	-545,325
	Total AME	-545,325
	Non Budget Near-Cash	0
	Non Budget Non-Cash	0
	Total Non Budget	0
	Total Resource	1,784,988
	Capital DEL	5,283,045
	Capital AME	12,843
Total Defence Procurement Agency		7,080,876
Corporate Science and Technology		
	Near-Cash Resource DEL	527,357
	Non-Cash Resource DEL	-3,210
	Total Resource DEL	524,147
	AME Near-Cash	0
	AME Non-Cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget Near-Cash	0
	Non Budget Non-Cash	0
	Total Non Budget	0
	Total Resource	524,147
	Capital	118
Total Corporate Science and Technology		524,265
Capital Loans and Repayments		
	Defence Aviation Repair Agency	-4,840
	Army Base Repair Organisation	-2,154
	Meteological Office	3,302
	Hydrographer Office	-388
Conflict Prevention RfR2		
Programme Sub Saharan Africa		
	Near-Cash Resource DEL	29,538
	Non-Cash Resource DEL	
	Total Resource DEL	29,538
	AME Near-Cash	0
	AME Non-Cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget Near-Cash	0
	Non Budget Non-Cash	0
	Total Non Budget	0
	Total Resource	29,538
	Capital	
Total Conflict Prevention RfR2		29,538
Programme Rest of World		
	Near-Cash Resource DEL	12,224
	Non-Cash Resource DEL	-31
	Total Resource DEL	12,193
	AME Near-Cash	0
	AME Non-Cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget Near-Cash	0
	Non Budget Non-Cash	0
	Total Non Budget	0
	Total Resource	12,193
	Capital	
Total Conflict Prevention RfR2		12,193
Peace Keeping Rest of World		
	Near-Cash Resource DEL	1,340,868
	Non-Cash Resource DEL	65,821
	Total Resource DEL	1,406,689
	AME Near-Cash	0
	AME Non-Cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget Near-Cash	0
	Non Budget Non-Cash	0
	Total Non Budget	0
	Total Resource	1,406,689
	Capital	348,198

Ministry of Defence: Breakdown of expenditure outturn 2006-07

£000

TLB	Estimate Type	Final outturn
Total Conflict Prevention RfR2		1,754,887
War Pensions and Benefits RfR3		
War Pensions Benefit Programme costs		
	Near-Cash Resource DEL	0
	Non-Cash Resource DEL	0
	Total Resource DEL	0
	AME Near-Cash	1,037,304
	AME Non-Cash	-501
	Total AME	1,036,803
	Non Budget Near-Cash	0
	Non Budget Non-Cash	0
	Total Non Budget	0
	Total Resource	1,036,803
	Capital	
Total War Pensions and Benefit Programme RfR3		1,036,803
War Pensions Benefit Programme costs— Far Eastern Prisoners of War		
	Near-Cash Resource DEL	0
	Non-Cash Resource DEL	0
	Total Resource DEL	0
	AME Near-Cash	1,270
	AME Non-Cash	
	Total AME	1,270
	Non Budget Near-Cash	0
	Non Budget Non-Cash	0
	Total Non Budget	0
	Total Resource	1,270
	Capital	
Total War Pensions and Benefits Programme Far Eastern Prisoners of War RfR3		1,270

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his statement on the Comprehensive Spending Review and aircraft carriers on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 865-7, what the near cash resource and capital departmental expenditure limits are for each year of the 2007 comprehensive spending review period. [155080]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The near-cash resource and capital departmental expenditure limits (DEL) figures over the comprehensive spending review (CSR) period are shown in the following table:

£ million

	CSR period		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Near-cash Resource DEL	22,869	23,711	24,434
Capital DEL	7,871	8,187	8,871
Total Near Cash	30,740	31,898	33,305

EU Defence Policy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British armed forces personnel have participated in EU military operations since 1997, broken down by cap badge. [153331]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: British armed forces personnel have participated in five EU military operations or support missions since 2003; there was no participation by UK military personnel in EU military operations before 2003.

Operation Concordia was an EU Military Operation in the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia from March 2003 to December 2003. Three British personnel participated.

Operation Artemis was an EU Military Operation in the Democratic Republic of Congo from June 2003 to September 2003. From July 2003 to August 2003, 84 UK military personnel were involved.

Operation Althea is an EU Military Operation in the Balkans which started in December 2004 and is still ongoing. The units listed have participated in this operation. Since March 2007 only individuals deployed as Staff Officers to HQ have been involved.

1 Battalion Grenadier Guards—December 2004 to March 2005.

The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland—April 2005 to September 2005.

1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles—October 2005 to May 2006.

2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (Green Howards)—April 2006 to September 2006.

1st Battalion Welsh Guards - October 2006 to March 2007.

EU civilian-military supporting action to African Union Mission in Sudan (and recently Somalia) from July 2005 is still ongoing. Three UK military personnel were deployed from October 2005 to December 2005.

EUFOR RD Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo) from April 2006 to November 2006. 2 UK officers participated; one at EU Headquarters at Potsdam and one in the theatre Headquarters.

Detailed information on the cap badges of individual officers deployed on EU operations is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Navy: Horses

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent by the Royal Navy on purchasing, maintaining and transporting horses and ponies for polo in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [152626]

Derek Twigg: The Royal Navy does not own any horses or ponies. Expenses have therefore not been incurred on purchasing or maintaining such animals. Service personnel are, however, entitled to payment from public funds for towing a horse box containing their own horses and ponies for authorised official fixtures in accordance with tri-Service Regulations for Allowances. Information on these costs is not separately identifiable.

Navy: Reserve Forces

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Navy reservists were deployed in each year since 2000-01, broken down by location. [140242]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 6 July 2007, pursuant to the reply, 19 June 2007, Official Report, c. 1767W]:* The correct table is published as follows:

Location	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
Iraq	320	126	10	5	39	27	527
Afghanistan	—	—	—	3	26	12	41
Bosnia	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
North East Africa	—	—	—	—	2	1	3
Balkans	—	—	1	3	24	1	29
Other	—	—	4	6	5	3	18
Total	320	126	16	18	96	44	620

RAF Brize Norton: Charities

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who made the decision to waive the liability charge for the Sgt Biddiss Charity event held at RAF Brize Norton. [152352]

Derek Twigg: The decision to waive the liability charge was made by the Director Secretariat and the Finance Director of Defence Estates.

Type 45 Destroyers

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received on the advantages to be derived from equipping Type-45 Destroyers with Tactical Tomahawk cruise missiles. [151188]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 25 July 2007]:* Since the Type 45 Destroyer project reached its main investment decision (Main Gate) in 2000, the Ministry of Defence has received various representations, including from industry and Members of this House, not least the hon. Gentleman himself, about equipping Type 45 Destroyers with Tactical Tomahawk cruise missiles (TLAM).

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what increase in capabilities there has been in respect of the design specification for Type-45 Destroyers since 1998. [151257]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 25 July 2007]:* The capability for the Type 45 Destroyer is defined within the design specifications (the Key User Requirements) which were set at the main investment point (Main Gate) in 2000. The capability required has not increased since.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Crown Prosecution Service: Hertfordshire

Anne Main: To ask the Solicitor-General if she will conduct a review into the work of Crown Prosecution Service Hertfordshire. [154850]

The Solicitor-General: Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI) recently conducted an inspection of the effectiveness of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in Hertfordshire and published its report in August 2007. This was an independent review. I have considered the report and asked the CPS for an action plan on how the recommendations are to be addressed. The HMCPSI will look at CPS Hertfordshire again in its overall performance assessment of the CPS during the autumn.

Anne Main: To ask the Solicitor-General what assessment she has made of HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate's recent report on Crown Prosecution Service Hertfordshire. [154851]

The Solicitor-General: I have considered the HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMXCPSI) report on the effectiveness of the Crown Prosecution Service in Hertfordshire which was published in August 2007. I note that HMCPSI were satisfied that substantial progress had been made in relation to a number of areas for improvement that they had previously identified. However, the report made a number of recommendations in order to secure further improvements. I have asked the CPS for an action plan on how they propose to address these.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Civil Servants: Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many civil servants are *(a)* contributing to and *(b)* being paid a pension from each Civil Service pension scheme for which his Department has responsibility. [155003]

Edward Miliband: The information requested is available in the Resource Accounts 2006-07 of Cabinet Office: Civil Superannuation, a copy of which is available in the Library for the reference of Members.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the total value was of each individual Civil Service pension scheme for which his Department has responsibility in each year since 1997. [155039]

Edward Miliband: Since the 1999-2000 financial year, details of the estimates of the unfunded liabilities of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme are published annually in the Cabinet Office: Civil Superannuation Resource Accounts. Copies of these accounts for the years 1999-2000 to 2006-07 are available in the Library for the reference of Members.

Before the introduction of resource accounting in 1999-2000, the accounting arrangements in place did not include pension liabilities and so figures are not readily available. However, for the estimated liabilities at 31 March 1998, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given in the other place by the noble Lord McIntosh to the noble Lord Blackwell on 4 July 2000, House of Lords, *Official Report*, column WA129.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Child Trust Fund: Yorkshire and Humberside

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Child Trust Fund payments have been made in *(a)* City of York constituency, *(b)* City of York Unitary Authority and *(c)* Yorkshire and the Humber. [154939]

Kitty Ussher: I have been asked to reply.

Constituency and regional data on Child Trust Fund accounts was published on 11 January 2007 and can be viewed on the HM Revenue and Customs' website at: www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/stats.htm. Updated data will be published later in the year.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Unemployment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals of working age not in full-time education were economically inactive in each year since 1997; and what this figure was as a proportion of the working age population in each case. [152597]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 September 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the levels and proportions of working age economically inactive people who are not in full-time education. (152597)

The attached table shows the numbers and percentages of economically inactive people of working age, who are not in full-time education. The estimates cover the three month period ending December each year from 1997-2006, and are not seasonally adjusted. Comparable estimates are not available for 1998 and 2000. The estimates in the attached table are from the detailed LFS dataset which are currently weighted to population totals consistent with the population estimates first published in spring 2003. They are not directly comparable with the estimates in the monthly Labour Market First Release.

Estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Economically inactive people of working age[1] who are not in full-time education, 1997 to 2006, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Three months ending December each year	*Number (Thousand)*	*Percentage[2]*
1997	6,257	17.8
1999	6,140	17.3
2001	6,256	17.4
2002	6,161	17.1
2003	6,226	17.2
2004	6,161	16.9
2005	6,132	16.8
2006	6,092	16.6

[1] Men aged 16 to 64 and women age 16 to 59.
[2] Economically inactive people who are not in full-time education as a percentage of all persons of working age.
Note:
Comparable data are not available for 1998 and 2000.
Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS)

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Degrees: Social Structure

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what percentage of students applied to study *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry, *(c)* mathematics, *(d)* modern languages, *(e)* English, *(f)* history and *(g)* psychology at (i) Oxford, (ii) Cambridge and (iii) Russell group universities from each category of socioeconomic background in the last period for which figures are available. [148123]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is shown in the tables. The figures are taken from data collected by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) which are limited to students who apply to full-time undergraduate courses via the UCAS application system. The figures do not therefore cover part-time students, nor those full-time students who apply directly to higher education institutions.

Figures for Oxford and Cambridge Universities are not available because, for confidentiality reasons, UCAS do not release combinations of variables through which the data of individual institutions, or small groups of institutions, might be identifiable, beyond those already in the public domain.

Applications from UK Domiciled Students to Russell Group/Non Russell Group Institutions in the UK by subject of study and Socio-economic Group, year of entry 2006

	Subject of study:													
	Physics		*Chemistry*		*Mathematics*		*Modern Languages*		*English*		*History*		*Psychology*	
	No.	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
Russell Group														
Higher Managerial and professional occupations	2,752	34.5	2,628	31.5	4,053	31.0	4,448	31.1	5,599	31.1	6,912	35.0	4,006	26.4
Lower managerial and professional occupations	2,482	31.1	2,553	30.6	4,007	30.6	5,316	37.1	6,296	35.0	6,748	34.2	5,144	33.9
Intermediate occupations	1,080	13.5	1,223	14.7	1,790	13.7	1,869	13.0	2,470	13.7	2,596	13.1	2,101	13.8

Applications from UK Domiciled Students to Russell Group/Non Russell Group Institutions in the UK by subject of study and Socio-economic Group, year of entry 2006

	Subject of study: Physics		Chemistry		Mathematics		Modern Languages		English		History		Psychology	
	No.	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
Small employers and account workers	393	4.9	544	6.5	858	6.6	789	5.5	1,064	5.9	1,070	5.4	1,005	6.6
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	316	4.0	366	4.4	530	4.1	400	2.8	583	3.2	557	2.8	549	3.6
Semi-routine occupations	716	9.0	766	9.2	1,305	10.0	1,075	7.5	1,382	7.7	1,321	6.7	1,634	10.8
Routine occupations	245	3.1	250	3.0	541	4.1	427	3.0	618	3.4	550	2.8	739	4.9
Total known	7,984	100.0	8,330	100.0	13,084	100.0	14,324	100.0	18,012	100.0	19,754	100.0	15,178	100.0
Unknown	1,321	—	1,377	—	2,136	—	2,109	—	2,811	—	2,756	—	3,008	—
Total	9,305	—	9,707	—	15,220	—	16,433	—	20,823	—	22,510	—	18,186	—
Non Russell Group														
Higher Managerial and professional occupations	1,680	30.1	1,760	25.1	2,637	25.8	2,678	26.2	5,960	22.7	6,186	26.7	8,755	20.1
Lower managerial and professional occupations	1,767	31.7	2,133	30.4	3,199	31.3	3,560	34.8	8,628	32.8	7,598	32.8	13,468	30.9
Intermediate occupations	793	14.2	988	14.1	1,452	14.2	1,470	14.4	3,926	14.9	3,317	14.3	6,515	14.9
Small employers and account workers	270	4.8	529	7.5	691	6.8	746	7.3	1,889	7.2	1,460	6.3	3,448	7.9
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	280	5.0	393	5.6	541	5.3	374	3.7	1,203	4.6	1,059	4.6	2,207	5.1
Semi-routine occupations	570	10.2	838	12.0	1,178	11.5	983	9.6	3,091	11.8	2,419	10.5	6,363	14.6
Routine occupations	216	3.9	370	5.3	511	5.0	429	4.2	1,586	6.0	1,106	4.8	2,889	6.6
Total known	5,576	100.0	7,011	100.0	10,209	100.0	10,240	100.0	26,283	100.0	23,145	100.0	43,645	100.0
Unknown	990	—	1,501	—	2,033	—	1,811	—	5,594	—	4,348	—	11,671	—
Total	6,566	—	8,512	—	12,242	—	12,051	—	31,877	—	27,493	—	55,316	—

Higher Education

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many and what proportion of postgraduate students in *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry, *(c)* biochemistry and *(d)* all science subjects (i) had undertaken their first degree outside the UK and (ii) were non-UK domiciled in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; [150527]

(2) how many and what percentage of current postgraduate students have received first class degrees from *(a)* English, *(b)* UK and *(c)* non-UK universities, broken down by subject of study. [150528]

Bill Rammell: The available information is given in the tables. A new classification for recording subject of study was introduced in 2002/03 and so figures from 2002/03 onwards are not comparable to earlier years.

We do not hold information on the classification or subject of qualifications prior to the current qualification

aim. The information on the qualifications held by entrants to HE courses is taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency's student record. This records the highest level of qualification held by students, but does not include further details of the qualification.

Postgraduate enrolments at higher education institutions in England by subject of study and highest qualification on entry—Academic years 1996/97 to 2001/02

Subject of study		*1996/97*	*1997/98*	*1998/99*	*1999/2000*	*2000/01*	*2001/02*
Total science (including physics, chemistry and biochemistry). Of which:		87,580	88,425	93,755	95,175	101,615	107,990
UK domicile and a graduate of an overseas institution	Number	1,715	1,795	1,850	1,910	2,230	2,640
	Percentage	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.4
Non-UK domicile and a graduate of an overseas institution	Number	8,140	8,650	9,140	9,950	11,280	13,200
	Percentage	9.3	9.8	9.7	10.5	11.1	12.2
Total non-UK domiciles	Number	21,015	21,415	23,595	25,205	28,140	30,865
	Percentage	24.0	24.2	25.2	26.5	27.7	28.6
Physics. Of which:		2,720	2,495	2,575	2,390	2,310	2,370
UK domicile and a graduate of an overseas institution	Number	35	25	20	25	20	30
	Percentage	1.3	1.0	0.8	1.0	0.8	1.2
Non-UK domicile and a graduate of an overseas institution	Number	355	400	415	390	395	385
	Percentage	13.0	16.1	16.2	16.4	17.0	16.3
Total non-UK domiciles	Number	765	775	825	760	740	725
	Percentage	28.1	31.0	32.1	31.7	32.1	30.6
Chemistry. Of which:		4,380	4,045	3,935	3,810	3,635	3,720
UK domicile and a graduate of an overseas institution	Number	50	45	45	45	35	55
	Percentage	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2	0.9	1.5
Non-UK domicile and a graduate of an overseas institution	Number	325	390	440	465	480	535
	Percentage	7.4	9.6	11.2	12.2	13.1	14.4
Total non-UK domicile	Number	870	915	1,000	1,065	1,095	1,135
	Percentage	19.8	22.6	25.5	28.0	30.1	30.5
Biochemistry. Of which:		1,405	1,280	1,315	1,265	1,285	1,100
UK domicile and a graduate of an overseas institution	Number	30	25	15	15	20	25
	Percentage	2.1	2.0	1.3	1.3	1.6	2.5
Non-UK domicile and a graduate of an overseas institution	Number	145	160	175	130	160	165
	Percentage	10.4	12.4	13.3	10.4	12.5	15.0
Total non-UK domicile	Number	320	325	370	340	370	315
	Percentage	22.7	25.5	28.2	26.8	28.9	28.7
Total all subjects		258,835	265,155	276,205	282,030	295,580	309,150

Note:
1. Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December excluding those writing up, on sabbatical or dormant. Students from the Open University are also excluded from the analysis.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.
Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record.

Postgraduate enrolments at higher education institutions in England by subject of study and highest qualification on entry—Academic years 2002/03 to 2005/06

Subject of study		*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*
Total science (including physics, chemistry and molecular biology and biochemistry) Of which:		115,775	122,230	125,105	125,770
UK domicile and a graduate of an overseas institution	Number	3,200	3,545	3,910	4,210
	Percentage	2.8	2.9	3.1	3.3

Postgraduate enrolments at higher education institutions in England by subject of study and highest qualification on entry—Academic years 2002/03 to 2005/06

Subject of study		*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*
Non-UK domicile and a graduate of an overseas institution	Number	17,805	21,010	23,050	23,560
	Percentage	15.4	17.2	18.4	18.7
Total non-UK domiciles	Number	36,015	40,080	42,060	42,340
	Percentage	31.1	32.8	33.6	33.7
Physics. Of which:		2,465	2,475	2,425	2,470
UK domicile and a graduate of an overseas institution	Number	35	35	40	45
	Percentage	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.7
Non-UK domicile and a graduate of an overseas institution	Number	415	435	460	495
	Percentage	16.9	17.6	19.1	20.1
Total non-UK domiciles	Number	740	745	765	775
	Percentage	30.1	30.2	31.7	31.3
Chemistry. Of which:		3,760	3,525	3,305	3,260
UK domicile and a graduate of an overseas institution	Number	50	65	55	65
	Percentage	1.3	1.9	1.7	2.0
Non-UK domicile and a graduate of an overseas institution	Number	615	665	650	710
	Percentage	16.4	18.8	19.6	21.8
Total non-UK domicile	Number	1,190	1,125	1,070	1,135
	Percentage	31.6	31.9	32.4	34.8
Molecular biology, biophysics and biochemistry. Of which:		1,440	1,750	1,725	1,925
UK domicile and a graduate of an overseas institution	Number	30	35	35	45
	Percentage	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.4
Non-UK domicile and a graduate of an overseas institution	Number	225	330	365	465
	Percentage	15.6	18.8	21.2	24.1
Total non-UK domicile	Number	425	580	635	720
	Percentage	29.4	33.1	36.8	37.5
Total all subjects		329,155	344,630	349,940	353,020

Note:
1. Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December excluding those writing up, on sabbatical or dormant. Students from the Open University are also excluded from the analysis.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record.

Students: Science

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what percentage of students *(a)* under 21 and *(b)* over 21 years old studied (i) physics, (ii) chemistry, (iii) biochemistry, (iv) biological sciences, (v) psychology, (vi) sports science and (vii) other science subjects at (A) Oxbridge, (B) Russell Group institutions and (C) other higher education institutions at honours degree level in each of the last five years, broken down by socio-economic background. [149494]

Bill Rammell: The information is given in the separate tables. The figures are taken from data collected by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) which are limited to students who apply to full-time undergraduate courses via the UCAS application system. The figures do not therefore cover part-time students, nor those full-time students who apply directly to Higher Education Institutions.

Figures for Oxford and Cambridge Universities are not available because, for confidentiality reasons, UCAS do not release combinations of variables through which the data of individual institutions, or small groups of institutions, might be identifiable, beyond those already in the public domain.

Accepted applicants by age group, Socio-economic group, and science subject

2002

	Physics		*Chemistry*		*All Biological Sciences*		*Molecular Biology, Biophysics & Biochemistry*		*Of which: Psychology*		*Sports Science*		*Other Science subjects*	
	No.	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
Under 21														
Russell Group														
Higher managerial and professional occupations	526	35.2	369	29.4	1866	33.0	286	31.4	644	32.9	31	24.0	7742	35.1
Lower managerial and professional occupations	464	31.1	405	32.3	1759	31.1	273	30.0	657	33.5	49	38.0	6755	30.6
Intermediate occupations	205	13.7	187	14.9	795	14.1	129	14.2	268	13.7	17	13.2	2963	13.4
Small employers and own account workers	77	5.2	77	6.1	364	6.4	52	5.7	130	6.6	9	7.0	1442	6.5
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	57	3.8	55	4.4	234	4.1	43	4.7	64	3.3	8	6.2	807	3.7
Semi-routine occupations	115	7.7	108	8.6	441	7.8	88	9.7	136	6.9	8	6.2	1685	7.6
Routine occupations	50	3.3	53	4.2	194	3.4	39	4.3	60	3.1	7	5.4	657	3.0
Total with known occupations	1494	100.0	1254	100.0	5653	100.0	9[illegible]	100.0	1959	100.0	129	100.0	22051	100.0
Unknown	69	—	120	—	418	—	84	—	124	—	16	—	1676	—
Non-Russell Group														
Higher managerial and professional occupations	272	30.1	244	21.9	3259	22.0	118	23.6	1455	23.5	938	19.1	9545	22.3
Lower managerial and professional occupations	259	28.7	326	29.3	4784	32.2	157	31.4	1985	32.0	1634	33.3	12373	28.9
Intermediate occupations	142	15.7	157	14.1	2222	15.0	71	14.2	935	15.1	722	14.7	6151	14.3
Small employers and own account workers	49	5.4	80	7.2	1101	7.4	49	9.8	402	6.5	398	8.1	3936	9.2
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	36	4.0	80	7.2	832	5.6	30	6.0	305	4.9	324	6.6	2506	5.8
Semi-routine occupations	107	11.8	158	14.2	1727	11.6	53	10.6	734	11.8	570	11.6	5573	13.0
Routine occupations	39	4.3	69	6.2	921	6.2	22	4.4	382	6.2	321	6.5	2795	6.5

Accepted applicants by age group, Socio-economic group, and science subject

2002

	Physics		*Chemistry*		*All Biological Sciences*		*Molecular Biology, Biophysics & Biochemistry*		*Of which: Psychology*		*Sports Science*		*Other Science subjects*	
	No.	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
Total with known occupations	904	100.0	1114	100.0	14846	100.0	500	100.0	6198	100.0	4907	100.0	42879	100.0
Unknown	85	—	167	—	2116	—	79	—	743	—	855	—	8028	—
21 and over														
Russell Group														
Higher managerial and professional occupations	8	17.4	6	25.0	36	14.0	3	15.8	19	16.1	0	0.0	379	21.9
Lower managerial and professional occupations	13	28.3	7	29.2	74	28.8	6	31.6	38	32.2	3	30.0	474	27.4
Intermediate occupations	3	6.5	3	12.5	51	19.8	4	21.1	20	16.9	1	10.0	356	20.6
Small employers and own account workers	1	2.2	1	4.2	10	3.9	0	0.0	5	4.2	1	10.0	61	3.5
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	0	0.0	2	8.3	5	1.9	0	0.0	1	0.8	1	10.0	71	4.1
Semi-routine occupations	16	34.8	3	12.5	56	21.8	5	26.3	25	21.2	3	30.0	310	18.0
Routine occupations	5	10.9	2	8.3	25	9.7	1	5.3	10	8.5	1	10.0	76	4.4
Total with known occupations	46	100.0	24	100.0	257	100.0	19	100.0	118	100.0	10	100.0	1727	100.0
Unknown	25	—	34	—	124	—	14	—	42	—	7	—	892	—
Non-Russell Group														
Higher managerial and professional occupations	6	9.4	13	12.9	169	7.7	2	5.6	88	8.0	45	7.4	1133	9.7
Lower managerial and professional occupations	13	20.3	19	18.8	603	27.5	8	22.2	314	28.4	164	27.0	2963	25.5
Intermediate occupations	11	17.2	21	20.8	474	21.6	9	25.0	292	26.4	101	16.6	2656	22.8
Small employers and own account workers	5	7.8	3	3.0	109	5.0	2	5.6	49	4.4	38	6.3	660	5.7
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	8	12.5	2	2.0	75	3.4	1	2.8	24	2.2	31	5.1	512	4.4

Accepted applicants by age group, Socio-economic group, and science subject

2002

	Physics		Chemistry		All Biological Sciences		Of which: Molecular Biology, Biophysics & Biochemistry		Psychology		Sports Science		Other Science subjects	
	No.	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
Semi-routine occupations	16	25.0	26	25.7	572	26.1	7	19.4	250	22.6	184	30.3	2758	23.7
Routine occupations	5	7.8	17	16.8	188	8.6	7	19.4	89	8.0	44	7.2	960	8.2
Total with known occupations	64	100.0	101	100.0	2190	100.0	36	100.0	1106	100.0	607	100.0	11642	100.0
Unknown	39	—	78	—	1380	—	48	—	638	—	365	—	8176	—
2002 total	2726	—	2892	—	26984	—	1690	—	10928	—	6896	—	97071	—

2003

	Physics		Chemistry		All Biological Sciences		Of which: Molecular Biology, Biophysics & Biochemistry		Psychology		Sports Science		Other Science subjects	
	No.	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
Under 21														
Russell Group														
Higher managerial and professional occupations	483	34.6	361	31.4	1649	31.1	251	30.6	618	33.0	46	27.7	7343	34.7
Lower managerial and professional occupations	431	30.9	341	29.7	1846	34.8	264	32.2	680	36.3	62	37.3	6565	31.0
Intermediate occupations	203	14.6	159	13.9	693	13.1	114	13.9	239	12.8	18	10.8	2679	12.7
Small employers and own account workers	72	5.2	77	6.7	330	6.2	56	6.8	108	5.8	12	7.2	1369	6.5
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	64	4.6	54	4.7	219	4.1	29	3.5	64	3.4	8	4.8	868	4.1
Semi-routine occupations	110	7.9	113	9.8	411	7.7	81	9.9	107	5.7	19	11.4	1721	8.1
Routine occupations	32	2.3	43	3.7	161	3.0	26	3.2	56	3.0	1	0.6	617	2.9
Total with known occupations	1395	100.0	1148	100.0	5309	100.0	821	100.0	1872	100.0	166	100.0	21162	100.0
Unknown	124	—	151	—	480	—	99	—	133	—	18	—	1952	—
Non-Russell Group														
Higher managerial and professional occupations	249	28.0	243	22.5	3325	21.6	138	25.2	1493	22.3	969	18.9	9000	21.9

2003

	Physics		Chemistry		All Biological Sciences		Of which: Molecular Biology, Biophysics & Biochemistry		Psychology		Sports Science		Other Science subjects	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Lower managerial and professional occupations	274	30.8	313	29.0	4780	31.0	156	28.5	2114	31.5	1608	31.3	12001	29.2
Intermediate occupations	135	15.2	156	14.4	2289	14.8	74	13.5	1001	14.9	762	14.8	5582	13.6
Small employers and own account workers	52	5.8	78	7.2	1209	7.8	38	6.9	481	7.2	437	8.5	3830	9.3
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	64	7.2	78	7.2	995	6.4	30	5.5	399	6.0	381	7.4	2624	6.4
Semi-routine occupations	80	9.0	147	13.6	1899	12.3	76	13.9	821	12.2	660	12.9	5345	13.0
Routine occupations	35	3.9	65	6.0	931	6.0	35	6.4	394	5.9	318	6.2	2673	6.5
Total with known occupations	889	100.0	1080	100.0	15426	100.0	547	100.0	6703	100.0	5135	100.0	41055	100.0
Unknown	91	—	181	—	2530	—	112	—	935	—	997	—	9096	—
21 and over														
Russell Group														
Higher managerial and professional occupations	7	21.9	6	18.2	30	11.4	4	17.4	17	13.0	—	0.0	461	23.6
Lower managerial and professional occupations	12	37.5	9	27.3	75	28.4	7	30.4	39	29.8	3	37.5	524	26.8
Intermediate occupations	2	6.3	6	18.2	53	20.1	5	21.7	25	19.1	3	37.5	363	18.6
Small employers and own account workers	3	9.4	2	6.1	12	4.5	0	0.0	7	5.3	0	0.0	67	3.4
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	3	9.4	2	6.1	8	3.0	0	0.0	2	1.5	0	0.0	61	3.1
Semi-routine occupations	3	9.4	6	18.2	70	26.5	5	21.7	36	27.5	2	25.0	389	19.9
Routine occupations	2	6.3	2	6.1	16	6.1	2	8.7	5	3.8	0	0.0	89	4.6
Total with known occupations	32	100.0	33	100.0	264	100.0	23	100.0	131	100.0	8	100.0	1954	100.0
Unknown	17	—	24	—	145	—	13	—	41	—	3	—	1077	—

2003

	Physics		Chemistry		All Biological Sciences		Of which: Molecular Biology, Biophysics & Biochemistry		Of which: Psychology		Sports Science		Other Science subjects	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Non-Russell Group														
Higher managerial and professional occupations	10	19.2	10	10.8	219	9.5	3	8.3	116	9.9	54	8.5	1243	10.4
Lower managerial and professional occupations	9	17.3	27	29.0	622	27.1	11	30.6	341	29.2	159	25.1	3081	25.8
Intermediate occupations	13	25.0	19	20.4	459	20.0	11	30.6	282	24.2	90	14.2	2699	22.6
Small employers and own account workers	2	3.8	1	1.1	116	5.0	0	0.0	49	4.2	31	4.9	575	4.8
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	2	3.8	4	4.3	74	3.2	2	5.6	22	1.9	34	5.4	486	4.1
Semi-routine occupations	9	17.3	24	25.8	607	26.4	8	22.2	260	22.3	208	32.9	2979	25.0
Routine occupations	7	13.5	8	8.6	202	8.8	1	2.8	97	8.3	57	9.0	871	7.3
Total with known occupations	52	100.0	93	100.0	2299	100.0	36	100.0	1167	100.0	633	100.0	11934	100.0
Unknown	42	—	88	—	1492	—	54	—	710	—	415	—	8240	—
2003 total	2642	—	2798	—	27945	—	1705	—	11692	—	7375	—	96470	—

2004

	Physics		Chemistry		All Biological Sciences		Of which: Molecular Biology, Biophysics & Biochemistry		Of which: Psychology		Sports Science		Other Science subjects	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Under 21 Russell Group														
Higher managerial and professional occupations	418	32.7	359	30.7	1687	32.0	262	32.6	614	33.0	57	29.5	7300	34.6
Lower managerial and professional occupations	400	31.3	350	29.9	1807	34.3	259	32.2	662	35.6	62	32.1	6529	30.9
Intermediate occupations	190	14.9	161	13.8	704	13.4	108	13.4	243	13.1	35	18.1	2756	13.1
Small employers and own account workers	73	5.7	84	7.2	320	6.1	51	6.3	105	5.6	7	3.6	1339	6.3

2004

	Physics		Chemistry		All Biological Sciences		Molecular Biology, Biophysics & Biochemistry		Of which: Psychology		Sports Science		Other Science subjects	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	50	3.9	66	5.6	218	4.1	27	3.4	60	3.2	9	4.7	845	4.0
Semi-routine occupations	99	7.7	100	8.5	377	7.2	76	9.5	128	6.9	15	7.8	1713	8.1
Routine occupations	49	3.8	50	4.3	151	2.9	21	2.6	50	2.7	8	4.1	634	3.0
Total with known occupations	1279	100.0	1170	100.0	5264	100.0	804	100.0	1862	100.0	193	100.0	21116	100.0
Unknown	125	—	139	—	445	—	76	—	154	—	18	—	1874	—
Non-Russell Group														
Higher managerial and professional occupations	236	30.4	274	24.4	3341	21.5	130	21.8	1506	22.6	1002	18.8	9138	22.3
Lower managerial and professional occupations	258	33.2	345	30.7	4926	31.8	201	33.7	2158	32.4	1687	31.7	12097	29.5
Intermediate occupations	107	13.8	176	15.7	2253	14.5	76	12.8	968	14.5	792	14.9	5692	13.9
Small employers and own account workers	38	4.9	79	7.0	1189	7.7	41	6.9	474	7.1	469	8.8	3693	9.0
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	35	4.5	66	5.9	951	6.1	32	5.4	351	5.3	378	7.1	2563	6.2
Semi-routine occupations	81	10.4	115	10.2	1876	12.1	77	12.9	806	12.1	645	12.1	5230	12.7
Routine occupations	21	2.7	68	6.1	972	6.3	39	6.5	399	6.0	347	6.5	2611	6.4
Total with known occupations	776	100.0	1123	100.0	15508	100.0	596	100.0	6662	100.0	5320	100.0	41024	100.0
Unknown	85	—	164	—	2412	—	99	—	953	—	960	—	5363	—
21 and over														
Russell Group														
Higher managerial and professional occupations	6	14.3	4	12.5	27	11.7	3	13.6	11	11.2	1	16.7	483	24.8
Lower managerial and professional occupations	10	23.8	7	21.9	56	24.2	7	31.8	20	20.4	2	33.3	548	28.2
Intermediate occupations	10	23.8	6	18.8	60	26.0	4	18.2	31	31.6	2	33.3	331	17.0

2004

	Physics		Chemistry		All Biological Sciences		Of which: Molecular Biology, Biophysics & Biochemistry		Psychology		Sports Science		Other Science subjects	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Small employers and own account workers	3	7.1	2	6.3	8	3.5	1	4.5	1	1.0	0	0.0	62	3.2
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	2	4.8	1	3.1	4	1.7	—	0.0	1	1.0	0	0.0	46	2.4
Semi-routine occupations	7	16.7	8	25.0	51	22.1	3	13.6	26	26.5	1	16.7	388	19.9
Routine occupations	4	9.5	4	12.5	25	10.8	4	18.2	8	8.2	0	0.0	88	4.5
Total with known occupations	42	100.0	32	100.0	231	100.0	22	100.0	98	100.0	6	100.0	1946	100.0
Unknown	29	—	31	—	162	—	23	—	62	—	2	—	1073	—
Non-Russell Group														
Higher managerial and professional occupations	6	8.8	8	11.4	139	6.4	4	8.0	69	6.4	34	5.3	1148	10.0
Lower managerial and professional occupations	16	23.5	17	24.3	635	29.3	11	22.0	328	30.6	198	30.7	2999	26.0
Intermediate occupations	17	25.0	15	21.4	465	21.5	11	22.0	259	24.2	110	17.1	2676	23.2
Small employers and own account workers	3	4.4	2	2.9	99	4.6	1	2.0	43	4.0	34	5.3	529	4.6
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	5	7.4	4	5.7	51	2.4	2	4.0	19	1.8	18	2.8	448	3.9
Semi-routine occupations	11	16.2	17	24.3	586	27.1	18	36.0	264	24.6	205	31.8	2883	25.0
Routine occupations	10	14.7	7	10.0	190	8.8	3	6.0	90	8.4	45	7.0	850	7.4
Total with known occupations	68	100.0	70	100.0	2165	100.0	50	100.0	1072	100.0	644	100.0	11533	100.0
Unknown	31	—	68	—	1548	—	31	—	769	—	469	—	7992	—
2004 total	2435	—	2797	—	27735	—	1701	—	11632	—	7612	—	94921	—

2005

	Physics		Chemistry		All Biological Sciences		Molecular Biology, Biophysics & Biochemistry		Of which: Psychology		Sports Science		Other Science subjects	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Under 21 Russell Group														
Higher managerial and professional occupations	415	32.2	420	30.7	1615	32.0	267	31.4	558	31.0	58	30.1	7187	34.1
Lower managerial and professional occupations	399	31.0	419	30.7	1633	32.4	279	32.8	618	34.4	66	34.2	6497	30.8
Intermediate occupations	197	15.3	196	14.3	720	14.3	119	14.0	263	14.6	24	12.4	2788	13.2
Small employers and own account workers	65	5.0	83	6.1	328	6.5	59	6.9	107	5.9	15	7.8	1407	6.7
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	64	5.0	66	4.8	193	3.8	32	3.8	63	3.5	5	2.6	821	3.9
Semi-routine occupations	111	8.6	120	8.8	395	7.8	72	8.5	133	7.4	19	9.8	1760	8.4
Routine occupations	37	2.9	62	4.5	159	3.2	23	2.7	57	3.2	6	3.1	614	2.9
Total with known occupations	1288	100.0	1366	100.0	5043	100.0	851	100.0	1799	100.0	193	100.0	21074	100.0
Unknown	202	—	230	—	789	—	169	—	230	—	32	—	3371	—
Non-Russell Group														
Higher managerial and professional occupations	239	29.1	267	24.1	3473	20.8	125	22.3	1523	21.3	1067	17.9	9121	22.0
Lower managerial and professional occupations	266	32.4	328	29.5	5223	31.4	165	29.4	2294	32.0	1900	31.8	12124	29.3
Intermediate occupations	111	13.5	149	13.4	2412	14.5	82	14.6	1060	14.8	869	14.6	5650	13.6
Small employers and own account workers	44	5.4	74	6.7	1337	8.0	47	8.4	546	7.6	532	8.9	3682	8.9
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	45	5.5	63	5.7	1015	6.1	35	6.2	385	5.4	419	7.0	2580	6.2
Semi-routine occupations	80	9.7	156	14.1	2162	13.0	77	13.7	917	12.8	783	13.1	5708	13.8
Routine occupations	36	4.4	73	6.6	1037	6.2	30	5.3	440	6.1	397	6.7	2543	6.1
Total with known occupations	821	100.0	1110	100.0	16659	100.0	561	100.0	7165	100.0	5967	100.0	41408	100.0

2005

	Physics		Chemistry		All Biological Sciences		Molecular Biology, Biophysics & Biochemistry		Of which: Psychology		Sports Science		Other Science subjects	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Unknown	143	—	253	—	3801	—	179	—	1489	—	1484	—	10670	—
21 and over														
Russell Group														
Higher managerial and professional occupations	12	21.8	7	19.4	31	11.6	5	17.2	6	5.6	1	25.0	487	20.4
Lower managerial and professional occupations	12	21.8	9	25.0	70	26.2	6	20.7	37	34.6	0	0.0	631	26.4
Intermediate occupations	7	12.7	7	19.4	51	19.1	7	24.1	19	17.8	2	50.0	521	21.8
Small employers and own account workers	5	9.1	4	11.1	17	6.4	1	3.4	8	7.5	0	0.0	90	3.8
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	2.2	2	6.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	54	2.3
Semi-routine occupations	11	20.0	7	19.4	72	27.0	6	20.7	34	31.8	1	25.0	498	20.8
Routine occupations	8	14.5	2	5.6	20	7.5	2	6.9	3	2.8	0	0.0	109	4.6
Total with known occupations	55	100.0	36	100.0	267	100.0	29	100.0	107	100.0	4	100.0	2390	100.0
Unknown	34	—	35	—	142	—	13	—	62	—	1	—	1169	—
Non-Russell Group														
Higher managerial and professional occupations	11	15.9	5	7.2	152	6.8	5	8.3	71	6.6	39	5.6	1187	10.0
Lower managerial and professional occupations	11	15.9	16	23.2	643	28.6	15	25.0	327	30.3	194	27.9	3084	26.0
Intermediate occupations	17	24.6	15	21.7	459	20.4	12	20.0	243	22.5	123	17.7	2673	22.5
Small employers and own account workers	5	7.2	4	5.8	121	5.4	2	3.3	54	5.0	42	6.0	559	4.7
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	3	4.3	2	2.9	47	2.1	0	0.0	19	1.8	16	2.3	409	3.4
Semi-routine occupations	14	20.3	22	31.9	626	27.9	23	38.3	279	25.9	215	30.9	3065	25.8
Routine occupations	8	11.6	5	7.2	198	8.8	3	5.0	85	7.9	67	9.6	898	7.6

2005

	Physics		Chemistry		All Biological Sciences		Of which: Molecular Biology, Biophysics & Biochemistry		Psychology		Sports Science		Other Science subjects	
	No.	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
Total with known occupations	69	100.0	69	100.0	2246	100.0	60	100.0	1078	100.0	696	100.0	11875	100.0
Unknown	42	—	92	—	1715	—	59	—	875	—	476	—	8062	—
2005 total	2654	—	3191	—	30662	—	1921	—	12805	—	8853	—	100019	—

2006

	Physics		Chemistry		All Biological Sciences		Of which: Molecular Biology, Biophysics & Biochemistry		Psychology		Sports Science		Other Science subjects	
	No.	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
Under 21														
Russell Group														
Higher managerial and professional occupations	469	35.7	452	32.7	1508	32.6	240	34.0	542	31.5	45	30.8	7446	35.5
Lower managerial and professional occupations	397	30.2	412	29.8	1527	33.0	197	27.9	597	34.6	53	36.3	6405	30.5
Intermediate occupations	186	14.2	197	14.3	590	12.7	84	11.9	222	12.9	20	13.7	2685	12.8
Small employers and own account workers	54	4.1	91	6.6	289	6.2	55	7.8	105	6.1	12	8.2	1346	6.4
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	58	4.4	59	4.3	207	4.5	41	5.8	68	3.9	5	3.4	825	3.9
Semi-routine occupations	112	8.5	131	9.5	358	7.7	65	9.2	134	7.8	7	4.8	1676	8.0
Routine occupations	38	2.9	39	2.8	150	3.2	23	3.3	55	3.2	4	2.7	596	2.8
Total with known occupations	1314	100.0	1381	100.0	4629	100.0	705	100.0	1723	100.0	146	100.0	20979	100.0
Unknown	211	—	227	—	679	—	106	—	233	—	32	—	2980	—
Non-Russell Group														
Higher managerial and professional occupations	212	27.1	279	23.8	3228	20.5	132	22.9	1339	20.6	1133	19.1	8616	21.8
Lower managerial and professional occupations	262	33.5	390	33.3	4888	31.1	167	28.9	2063	31.8	1789	30.1	11717	29.6
Intermediate occupations	97	12.4	147	12.5	2324	14.8	80	13.9	948	14.6	905	15.2	5390	13.6

2006

	Physics		Chemistry		All Biological Sciences		Molecular Biology, Biophysics & Biochemistry		Of which: Psychology		Sports Science		Other Science subjects	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Small employers and own account workers	55	7.0	83	7.1	1283	8.2	41	7.1	520	8.0	536	9.0	3640	9.2
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	44	5.6	71	6.1	922	5.9	31	5.4	328	5.1	392	6.6	2374	6.0
Semi-routine occupations	81	10.4	140	11.9	2083	13.3	98	17.0	874	13.5	797	13.4	5235	13.2
Routine occupations	31	4.0	62	5.3	983	6.3	28	4.9	418	6.4	394	6.6	2550	6.5
Total with known occupations	782	100.0	1172	100.0	15711	100.0	577	100.0	6490	100.0	5946	100.0	39522	100.0
Unknown	143	—	269	—	3634	—	162	—	1504	—	1401	—	10662	—
21 and over														
Russell Group														
Higher managerial and professional occupations	6	13.6	3	8.1	21	10.9	3	20.0	14	15.2	0	0.0	377	20.6
Lower managerial and professional occupations	14	31.8	11	29.7	52	26.9	2	13.3	23	25.0	3	60.0	474	25.9
Intermediate occupations	6	13.6	5	13.5	50	25.9	3	20.0	33	35.9	0	0.0	364	19.9
Small employers and own account workers	2	4.5	2	5.4	14	7.3	1	6.7	4	4.3	0	0.0	69	3.8
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	1	2.3	1	2.7	5	2.6	—	0.0	1	1.1	0	0.0	50	2.7
Semi-routine occupations	10	22.7	13	35.1	40	20.7	4	26.7	14	15.2	1	20.0	404	22.0
Routine occupations	5	11.4	2	5.4	11	5.7	2	13.3	3	3.3	1	20.0	95	5.2
Total with known occupations	44	100.0	37	100.0	193	100.0	15	100.0	92	100.0	5	100.0	1833	100.0
Unknown	17	—	25	—	183	—	15	—	79	—	4	—	1432	—
Non-Russell Group														
Higher managerial and professional occupations	8	15.4	7	12.1	126	6.9	4	10.3	63	7.1	35	5.7	898	9.9
Lower managerial and professional occupations	15	28.8	17	29.3	505	27.5	9	23.1	237	26.7	186	30.4	2188	24.2

2006

	Physics		Chemistry		All Biological Sciences		Of which: Molecular Biology, Biophysics & Biochemistry		Of which: Psychology		Sports Science		Other Science subjects	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Intermediate occupations	6	11.5	7	12.1	318	17.3	6	15.4	171	19.3	90	14.7	1937	21.4
Small employers and own account workers	1	1.9	2	3.4	100	5.4	2	5.1	54	6.1	33	5.4	432	4.8
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	4	7.7	1	1.7	43	2.3	1	2.6	20	2.3	14	2.3	322	3.6
Semi-routine occupations	12	23.1	18	31.0	532	29.0	12	30.8	245	27.6	188	30.7	2475	27.4
Routine occupations	6	11.5	6	10.3	213	11.6	5	12.8	98	11.0	66	10.8	797	8.8
Total with known occupations	52	100.0	58	100.0	1837	100.0	39	100.0	888	100.0	612	100.0	9049	100.0
Unknown	60	—	98	—	2185	—	66	—	1139	—	601	—	10273	—
2006 total	2623	—	3267	—	29051	—	1685	—	12148	—	8747	—	96730	—

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Departments: Tribunals

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by his Department on industrial tribunals in the last 12 months. [153091]

Jonathan Shaw: In the financial year 2006-07, DEFRA settled two employment tribunals at a total cost of £11,087.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will review the storage and use of pumps and flood barriers by the Environment Agency for emergency use in the event of a flood. [152883]

Mr. Woolas: During recent flooding events, the Environment Agency used a centralised register of equipment and manpower to facilitate inter-regional and inter-organisation aid. This register and its use will be assessed as part of lessons learned.

Flowers: Conservation

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken since May 2005 to protect wildflower meadows and to encourage the planting of wildflowers. [154836]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 21 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1035W to the hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne).

Also, the recent addition of more wildflower species and habitat types, such as traditional orchards, to the list of priority species and habitats in the UK will bring benefits for wildflowers through targeted conservation action.

Fly Tipping

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what distinction Flycapture makes between *(a)* low-level fly-tipping by householders and *(b)* waste crime. [153727]

Joan Ruddock: All fly-tipping, small or large, is a crime. The Flycapture database, which was set up in 2004 by DEFRA, the Environment Agency and the Local Government Association, records the number of fly-tipping incidents dealt with by the Environment Agency and local authorities. Flycapture records incidents broken down by waste type, land type and size of fly-tip.

The categories for incidents by size are:

(i) single black bag

(ii) single item

(iii) car boot load or less

(iv) small van load

(v) transit van load

(vi) tipper lorry load

(vii) significant/multiple loads.

Flycapture does not record whether these fly-tips have been carried out by householders.

The Environment Agency deal with large, more serious fly-tipping incidents.

Nature Conservation: Severn Estuary

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he first received advice from English Nature recommending the Severn estuary as a Special Area of Conservation under the EU Habitats Directive; and when he expects to notify the European Commission of the Government' intention to designate the Severn estuary as a Special Area of Conservation. [152925]

Joan Ruddock: My Department received advice from Natural England recommending the Severn Estuary as a Special Area of Conservation under the EU Habitats Directive on 9 October 2006. On 31 August 2007 the Government submitted the Severn estuary to the Commission as a candidate Special Area of Conservation for adoption as a Site of Community Interest. Once the site has been adopted by the Commission, expected to be in October 2008, the UK is required to designate it as a Special Area of Conservation as soon as possible.

Weeds Act 1959

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fines have been levied for breaching the Weeds Act 1959 by preventing an authorised representative from entering a property to inspect for weeds in each year since 1997 for which figures are held. [153725]

Joan Ruddock: No fines have been imposed under the Weeds Act for preventing or obstructing an authorised representative from entering a property to inspect land since 1997.

The following number of enforcement notices have been issued since 2003:

	Enforcement notices
2003	11
2004	41
2005	77
2006	19
2007 (to date)	32

Wild Boar

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on formulating his Department's policy on wild boar management. [154877]

Joan Ruddock: Current risk assessment work is examining the impacts of feral wild boar populations. This will inform the development of the Government's policy in England, which we intend to finalise by the end of this year.

Wood: Procurement

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who the new Timber Procurement Officer is at his Department. [151752]

Joan Ruddock: The Department is extending the remit of the timber procurement unit in its central procurement group to tackle wider EU and international forestry objectives, as well as the ongoing development and promulgation of the UK Government' timber procurement policy. The structure and function of the reconstituted unit will be published on DEFRA's website on 1 October 2007. The Department will be writing to key stakeholders including the Chair of the EAC later this month detailing the team's structure and function.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the number of unsuccessful asylum claimants whose cases remain to be resolved; what steps have been taken to deal with such cases; what communication her Department has had with the unsuccessful claimants; how the cases of unsuccessful claimants who cannot be traced are to be dealt with; and if she will make a statement. [155102]

Mr. Byrne: At the Home Affairs Select Committee evidence session on 24 July, the Home Secretary stated that Lin Homer, the Chief Executive of the Border and Immigration Agency, would provide an update on the case resolution programme once reports can be produced on the programme in which Parliament and the wider public can have suitable confidence.

The specific circumstances of each individual will be considered on a case by case basis. Further information is therefore being solicited from individuals.

Our policy is to seek to enforce the removal of those who have no right to be here and who refuse to leave voluntarily. To achieve this we are increasing enforcement resource, recruiting additional frontline staff and seconding extra police officers; and will open a new 426 bed immigration removal centre at Gatwick next year.

Asylum: Iraq

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to her answer on 14 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 393W, on Asylum: Iraq, how many applications for asylum were made by Iraqi nationals in each year since 2000; and how many Iraqi nationals were *(a)* granted asylum, *(b)* granted leave to remain in the UK on other grounds and *(c)* deported in each year. [155098]

Mr. Byrne: Information on asylum applications, initial decisions and removals for nationals of Iraq is shown in the table. Initial decisions do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period. Removal figures do not necessarily relate to decisions made in the same period.

Information on asylum applications, initial decisions and removals for nationals of Iraq are published quarterly and annually. Copies of these publications

are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Asylum applications[1] received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, initial decisions[2] and asylum removals, 2000-06, nationals of Iraq

	Applications	Decisions						Principal applicants Removals[3,4,5]
	Total	Total decisions	Grants of asylum	Grants of ELR	Grants of Hp[6]	Grants of DL[6]	Total refusals	Grants of ELR under backlog criteria[7,8]	Non compliance refusals under backlog criteria[7,9]	Total
2000[10]	7,475	5,530	845	2,455	n/a	n/a	2,220	10	*	[11]
2001	6,680	9,035	830	1,885	n/a	n/a	6,315	n/a	n/a	90
2002	14,570	11,905	715	8,195	n/a	n/a	2,995	n/a	n/a	195
2003	4,015	6,805	70	2,105	*	45	4,580	n/a	n/a	280
2004	1,695	4,815	10	n/a	—	185	4,615	n/a	n/a	770
2005	1,415	1,835	5	n/a	10	150	1,675	n/a	n/a	1,040
2006[12]	945	740	30	n/a	—	60	650	n/a	n/a	1,780

n/a = not applicable.
[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5 (— = 0, * = 1 or 2).
[2] Information is of initial decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions. Decision figures do not necessarily relate to applications received in the same period. Removal figures do not necessarily relate to decisions made in the same period.
[3] Figures include enforced removals, persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them and persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration.
[4] Removals since 2005 include persons who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.
[5] Figures for 2001-03 have been estimated due to data quality issues.
[6] Humanitarian Protection and Discretionary Leave replaced Exceptional Leave to Remain from 1 April 2003.
[7] Cases decided under pragmatic measures aimed at reducing the pre 1996 asylum backlog.
[8] May include a small number of cases where asylum has been granted.
[9] May include a small number of cases where the application has been refused on substantive grounds.
[10] May exclude some cases lodged at Local Enforcement Offices between January and March 2000.
[11] not available
[12] Provisional figures.

Burglary: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many domestic burglaries there were in each of the last five years in each London borough. [154895]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is given in the following table.

Domestic burglaries recorded in each London borough

London borough	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Barking and Dagenham	1,262	1,306	1,159	1,119	1,196
Barnet	2,607	2,578	2,689	2,794	2,467
Bexley	1,241	1,094	983	1,207	1,105
Brent	2,804	2,930	2,805	2,557	2,289
Bromley	1,923	2,072	1,917	2,113	1,996
Camden	3,348	2,830	2,391	2,511	2,515
City of Westminster	2,110	1,782	1,886	1,692	1,448
Croydon	2,769	2,348	2,145	2,291	2,099
Ealing	2,912	3,005	2,824	3,277	2,693
Enfield	2,864	2,624	2,251	2,433	2,390
Greenwich	1,875	1,982	1,806	1,952	1,929
Hackney	3,646	3,247	2,733	2,467	1,841
Hammersmith and Fulham	2,186	2,074	2,214	2,240	2,118
Haringey	3,403	3,289	3,184	2,851	2,709
Harrow	1,952	1,877	1,492	1,614	1,334
Havering	1,058	974	903	1,091	1,175
Hillingdon	2,023	2,048	2,056	1,847	1,874
Hounslow	1,968	2,131	1,889	1,848	1,671
Islington	3,083	2,611	2,451	2,278	2,450
Kensington and Chelsea	1,652	1,769	1,680	1,559	1,385
Kingston upon Thames	606	534	456	626	515
Lambeth	4,410	3,692	3,105	2,834	2,774
Lewisham	2,743	2,872	2,611	2,309	2,492
Merton	1,048	1,098	974	1,024	997
Newham	2,012	2,026	1,942	2,680	2,155
Redbridge	1,757	1,889	1,811	2,237	2,107
Richmond upon Thames	1,295	1,133	1,120	1,391	1,053
Southwark	3,141	3,123	2,694	2,439	2,373
Sutton	778	720	701	669	657
Tower Hamlets	2,114	1,735	1,699	2,108	1,638
Waltham Forest	2,559	2,027	1,838	1,962	1,854
Wandsworth	3,087	2,575	2,675	2,154	2,634
Total	72,236	67,995	63,084	64,174	59,933

Crime: Disabled

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what proportion of victims of crime in England and Wales over the most recent period for which figures are available were *(a)* people with disabilities and *(b)* people with mental health problems; [152976]

(2) what requirements exist to record whether victims of crime have *(a)* disabilities and *(b)* mental health problems. [152995]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

The British Crime Survey (BCS) routinely provides information on the risk of personal crimes (violence and personal theft) by whether the victim has a disability or illness. The latest results from the BCS 2006-07 are included in the following table. The BCS does not collect information on whether respondents have mental health problems.

Information on disability and mental health problems in relation to victims is recorded at a number of points during the criminal justice process by criminal justice agencies. For example, when an initial statement is taken from the victim, the MG11 form on which it is recorded requires police officers to record whether the victim is vulnerable or intimidated. The definition of "vulnerable" in the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 includes any victim who

"suffers from mental disorder within the meaning of the Mental Health Act 1983"

"otherwise has a significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning",

"has a physical disability or is suffering from a physical disorder".

Similarly, in cases that reach the point of charge or beyond, a witness care officer is required to conduct and record a detailed needs assessment that will reassess whether the victim is vulnerable or intimidated.

Proportion of adults that have been a victim of crime by disability/illness[1]

	Percentage victims once or more	
	Theft from the person	*All BSC violence*
Long standing disability/illness (limits activities)	1.3	3.3
Long standing disability/illness (does not limit activities)	1.1	2.8
No long standing disability or illness	1.2	3.7
England and Wales	1.2	3.6

[1] Prevalence risks 2006-07 BCS interviews

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by her Department on *(a)* first class and *(b)* business flights in the last 12 months. [153144]

Mr. Byrne: The Department's accounting system does not separately identify expenditure on first class, business class and standard class travel for air travel. Such information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department expects all official travel to be carried out by the most efficient and economic means available, taking into account the cost of travel and subsistence, savings in official time, management benefit, and the needs of staff with disabilities. This is in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

The Cabinet Office produces the annual list of Cabinet Ministers' overseas travel, the one for 2006-07 was published on 25 July 2007.

Departments: Flowers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by her Department on flowers in the last 12 months. [153145]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office accounting system does not separately identify spend on flowers. To provide the detail requested would incur disproportionate cost.

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* Acts and *(b)* parts of Acts received Royal Assent between 1 May 1997 and 31 July 2007 for which her Department has policy responsibility; and which provisions in those Acts (i) have not yet come into force, (ii) have been repealed prior to coming into force and (iii) have been repealed after coming into force. [154936]

Jacqui Smith: The provisions of the following Acts (which received Royal Assent between 1 May 1997 and 31 July 2007) for which the Home Secretary has policy responsibility are fully in force:

Firearms (Amendment) (No 2) Act 1997

Special Immigration Appeals Act 1997

Criminal Justice (Terrorism and Conspiracy) Act 1997

Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) (Amendment) Act 1998

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Football (Offences and Disorder) Act 1999

Criminal Cases Review (Insanity) Act 1999

Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2000

Football Disorder Act 2000

Terrorism Act 2000

Mobile Telephones Reprogramming Act 2002

Football Disorder (Amendment) Act 2002

Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003

Sexual Offences Act 2003

Extradition Act 2003

Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005

Terrorism Act 2006

Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006.

The following table lists provisions of Acts for which the Home Office has policy responsibility which received Royal Assent between 1 May 1997 and July 2007 which are not yet in force.

It is not possible to provide lists of provisions which have been repealed prior to coming into force or which have been repealed after coming into force without incurring disproportionate cost.

Act	*Sections not in force*
Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003	85(5), Sch 2(2)
Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001	78
Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004	16
Crime (International Co-operation) Act 2003	10-12, 20-25, 54-75, Sch three, Sch 4
Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001	78(7), 80(4), Sch seven para six (in part)
Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004	9, 12 and Schedules 10, 11 and 12 (in part)
Drugs Act 2005	2
Identity Cards Act 2006	1(1)-(4), 1(5)-(8), 2-24, 27-29, 30, 31-34, 35, 39, 41, 42, 43, Sch 1
Immigration and Asylum Act 1999	16 and 17, 117(5)
Immigration Asylum and Nationality Act 2006	4, 15-18, 20-22, 24-26, 31-39, 44, 47, 50(3) to (6)
Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002	10(5)(a), 17 and 18 (for certain purposes), 19-34, 35(1) (a)-(g)(i) and (2) and (3), 36, 37, 39, 40(2) and (3), 41(2) and (3), 44-47, 51 to 53, 124
Police and Justice Act 2006	7(1), 14, 17, 19(1)-(9) and (11), 20, 21, 34-38, 39(1)-(3) (5)-(7), 40(l)-(3), (5)-(7), 41 (in part), 43(1), 46 (part) and Schedules three, eight, nine, 11 and 12, and Schedules one, two, five, 13,14, and 15 (all in part)
Police Reform Act 2002	45
Private Security Industry Act 2001	17
Proceeds of Crime Act 2002	Sch 11 para 17(2) and Sch 12 (part)
Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005	120, 114(9), 117 (part), 162(3), Sch four (part), Sch nine (part), Sch 10 (part), Sch 14 (part)
Vehicle (Crimes) Act 2001	8, 34, 35, 36, Sch paras one and 2
Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006	1-14, 15-20, 43 (part), 59, 61, Sch two (part), Sch five (part)

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been appointed to her Department outside of civil service grades in the last 12 months. [153147]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by her Department on newspapers and magazines in the last 12 months. [153142]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office's expenditure on newspapers, magazines and periodicals for the last 12 months was £131,287.

Departments: Publicity

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the cost-effectiveness of advertising commissioned by her Department in the last 12 months. [148515]

Mr. Byrne: In the 12 months to July 2007 the Home Office has implemented advertising campaigns covering its policy responsibilities relating to crime reduction, drugs, internet child protection, alcohol harm reduction, recruitment of police community support officers, local trials of the single non-emergency number, employing illegal immigrants, domestic violence and the passport application procedure for first time applicants.

These policies and programmes affect the lives of millions of people and in order for them to work they must be communicated effectively. A campaign will only be implemented where there is a clear role for communications in achieving the overall policy target. All campaigns are managed with cost efficiency in mind and there are strict rules to ensure value for money on Government advertising. All advertising media are bought using COI framework media agencies which have clear targets for achieving value for money.

Effective evaluation of campaign advertising is standard departmental practice. Particular evaluation techniques will depend on the objective of the campaign and the nature of the advertising implemented, however the Department would typically use a combination of:

Spontaneous and prompted advertising awareness and recall of messages;

Changes in key audience attitudes before and after the campaign;

Changes in claimed behaviour in key audiences before and after the campaign;

Specific policy/product detail recall;

Agreement with relevant statements (pre/post);

Response to advertising where appropriate (telephone, coupon, website);

Econometric analysis;

Advertising media cost audits.

Of the major advertising campaigns undertaken during this period, the Acquisitive Crime Reduction campaign has achieved 90 per cent. recognition with 60 per cent. of respondents claiming the adverts would make them take more precautions to protect them from becoming a victim of crime.

The alcohol 'Know Your Limits' campaign achieved 84 per cent. prompted recall of the TV advertising. Additionally 82 per cent. of respondents said the advertising made them rethink the consequences of drinking too much

The Police Community Support Officer recruitment campaign generated over 52,000 requests for application packs, helping achieve the recruitment target of 16,400 recruits—with those aware of the advertising campaign twice as likely to consider being a PCSO as those who were not (13 per cent. *v.* 5 per cent.).

The FRANK drugs helpline awareness campaign has achieved recognition among 94 per cent. of its key

15 to 18-year-old audience, with 70 per cent "very" or "quite likely" to call FRANK if they needed information in the future. Additionally, 81 per cent. of young people would recommend FRANK to friends.

Additionally, the Home Office is working with Cabinet Office on a number of initiatives to improve the efficiency of civil service recruitment process, such as combining advertising with other Departments where possible to reduce advertising costs. The Home Office is also contributing to an OGC-led initiative for a central framework contract for head-hunters and recruitment consultants.

Departments: Railways

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by her Department on first class train tickets in the last 12 months. [153143]

Mr. Byrne: The Department's accounting system does not separately identify expenditure on first class travel for train travel. Such information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department expects all official travel to be carried out by the most efficient and economic means available, taking into account the cost of travel and subsistence, savings in official time, management benefit, and the needs of staff with disabilities. This is in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

The Cabinet Office produces the annual list of Cabinet Ministers' overseas travel, the one for 2006-07 was published on 25 July 2007.

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by her Department on *(a)* staff training and *(b)* communication training in the last 12 months. [153139]

Mr. Byrne: Home Office expenditure on training for the financial year 2006-07 was £29,732,614. Details of expenditure on communication training could be only provided at disproportionate cost.

The aforementioned figure includes expenditure by the core Home Office, the Border and Immigration Agency, the National Offender Management Service and the Office of Criminal Justice Reform. The latter two are now part of the Ministry of Justice.

The size of the expenditure reflects both the size of the Home Office, which employed almost 25,000 people in 2006-07, and the degree of importance the department places on equipping staff with the skills necessary to conduct their duties effectively in a changing working environment.

Frontiers: Personal Records

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether the e-borders programme will continue to have passenger name record data as an integrated part of that programme; [150833]

(2) what criteria are used to determine suitable consortia to deliver the full e-borders programme. [150834]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* The collection of Advanced Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record (PNR) data is part of the e-Borders model, and the programme is committed to integrating these elements as part of the long term solution. In the short-term, the e-Borders pilot Project Semaphore is trialling the collection of PNR data from carriers from selected routes. This will enable us to build the most robust long term solution for full capture of PNR data that meets the requirements of the border agencies and is sustainable by the industry.

The e-Borders programme will appoint the successful service provider following a comprehensive and detailed evaluation of the bidders responses. Qualitative criteria, combined with an assessment of cost will determine the most economically advantageous bid from the point of view of the Home Office. The qualitative criteria include the ability to meet the authority's business, technical and implementation requirements, while also being commercially acceptable to the Home Office.

In addition the successful consortia will be required to cross a number of financial capacity and robustness thresholds to ensure that they can meet their financial obligations over the lifetime of the contract.

Immigration Controls: EU Countries

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the cost of reinstituting border controls for people moving into the UK from EU countries. [155089]

Mr. Byrne: Border controls between the United Kingdom, European Union (EU) and European economic area (EEA) have never been withdrawn, and there are no current plans to do so.

Offenders: British Nationality

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people with convictions for *(a)* murder and *(b)* manslaughter were granted British citizenship in each of the last 10 years; [149697]

(2) how many people who had been convicted of *(a)* drug dealing, *(b)* possession with intent to supply and *(c)* other drugs-related offences were granted British citizenship in each of the last 10 years; [149698]

(3) how many people who had been convicted of benefit fraud were granted British citizenship in each of the last 10 years; [149708]

(4) how many people convicted of racist or racially aggravated crimes were granted British citizenship in each of the last 10 years; [149709]

(5) how many people convicted of crimes relating to religious extremism were granted British citizenship in each of the last 10 years; [149710]

(6) how many people convicted of violent or sexual crimes involving children were granted British citizenship in each of the last 10 years; [149711]

(7) how many foreign nationals with convictions for *(a)* rape and *(b)* other sexual assaults were awarded British citizenship in each of the last 10 years; [149712]

(8) how many people convicted of *(a)* reckless driving, *(b)* dangerous driving, *(c)* causing death by dangerous driving and *(d)* offences related to driving under the influence of alcohol were granted British citizenship in each of the last 10 years; [149739]

(9) on how many occasions she and her predecessors used their powers of discretion to disregard unspent convictions when foreign nationals have applied for British citizenship in each of the last 10 years. [149611]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answers 16 and 17 July 2007]:* It would only be possible to answer these questions by reference to the individual files, which would involve disproportionate cost.

Police: Crimes of Violence

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many assaults against *(a)* police community support officers and *(b)* regular police officers on frontline duty there were in (i) Essex and (ii) England and Wales in each of the last five years; and what percentage of all officers in each category these figures represented. [154911]

Mr. McNulty: The numbers of serious and other assaults on police officers and operational police staff are published each year in the HMIC Annual Report and have been given in the table.

These data are not available by individual rank and therefore have been provided for police officers and operational staff as combined figure.

Serious and other assaults[1] on police officers and operational police staff from 2001-02 to 2004-05[2, 3]

	Force	
	Essex	*England and Wales[4]*
2001-02		
Serious	0	400
Other	225	12,696
2002-03		
Serious	0	263
Other	260	14,097
2003-04		
Serious	1	253
Other	374	11,401
2004-05		
Serious	2	393
Other	262	12,825

[1] Data collated on behalf of and published by HMIC. Serious assaults are those for which the charge would be under Sections 18 and 20 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861. Recording practices may vary between forces.
[2] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive.
[3] Data for 2005-06 have been collated but not yet validated. Figures will be available in the HMIC Annual Report 2005-06.
[4] Greater Manchester was unable to provide data for 2003-04. Lancashire and West Midlands were not able to provide breakdowns of numbers for different assaults in 2003-04, however the number of overall assaults was 462 and 1,112 respectively. Lancashire and West Midlands were not able to provide breakdowns of numbers for different assaults in 2004-05, however the number of overall assaults was 521 and 910 respectively.

Percentage of police and operational staff being assaulted[1] from 2001-02 to 2004-05[2, 3]

Percentage

	Force	
	Essex	*England and Wales[4]*
2001-02	n/a[5]	n/a[5]
2002-03	4.9	6.6
2003-04	6.6	5.0
2004-05	6.5	5.4

[1] Data collated on behalf of and published by HMIC. Serious assaults are those for which the charge would be under Sections 18 and 20 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861. Recording practices may vary between forces.
[2] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive.
[3] Data for 2005-06 have been collated but not yet validated. Figures will be available in the HMIC Annual Report 2005-06.
[4] Greater Manchester was unable to provide data for 2003-04. Lancashire and West Midlands were not able to provide breakdowns of numbers for different assaults in 2003-04 or 2004-05.
[5] Staff strength by headcount is not available for 2001-02.

Police: Criminal Records

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many serving police officers have criminal convictions in each police force. [155084]

Mr. McNulty: Responsibility for the collation and publication of statistics relating to police discipline and misconduct rests with the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

Police: Ports

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will ensure consultation is held with the federations and representative bodies of the constables and other ranks of *(a)* Port of Tilbury police, *(b)* Port of Dover police, *(c)* Belfast Harbour police, *(d)* Northern Ireland airport police and *(e)* all other port and harbour police prior to the publication of the legislation creating a police or border force outlined in the Prime Minister's statement on proposed legislation; and if she will make a statement. [154884]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to the hon. Member on 7 September. I will ensure that copy of this letter is placed in the Library of the House.

Security: Tony Blair

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent by the Government on providing security for the right hon. Tony Blair in his capacity as the Envoy of the Quartet on the Middle East. [155118]

Mr. McNulty: It is our long-established policy not to comment on protective security arrangements (and their associated costs) for any individual.

Work Permits: Health Professions

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department further to the answer of 1 August 2007 to Question 149262 on work permits, how many work permits were issued to doctors and nurses from other African countries, broken down by country. [155103]

Mr. Byrne: The following table shows the number of African work permit applications which were approved for overseas nationals in 2006. There have been no approvals for auxiliary nurses.

The figures quoted are not provided under national statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

	2006		
	Doctor	*Nurse*	*Total*
Algeria	[1]—	0	[1]—
Botswana	5	70	75
Burundi	0	[1]—	[1]—
Cameroon	5	30	35
Congo	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Egypt	85	0	85
Ethiopia	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Gambia	0	25	25
Ghana	20	290	310
Guinea	0	[1]—	[1]—
Guyana	[1]—	180	180
Kenya	20	145	165
Lesotho	[1]—	50	50
Liberia	[1]—	0	[1]—
Libya	30	0	30
Malawi	5	70	75
Morocco	0	[1]—	[1]—
Namibia	[1]—	15	15
Niger	0	[1]—	[1]—
Nigeria	125	600	730
Rwanda	0	[1]—	[1]—
Serbia	5	0	5
Seychelles	0	15	15
Sierra Leone	5	45	50
Somalia	[1]—	5	5
South Africa	265	1,135	1,400
Sudan	30	0	30
Swaziland	0	70	70
Tanzania	10	25	35
Uganda	5	30	35
Yemen republic of	[1]—	0	[1]—
Zambia	5	195	200
Zimbabwe	20	1,610	1,630
Total	650	4,615	5,265

[1] Indicates 1 or 2

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to nearest 5.
2. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax Levy

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 18 July 2007, to question 150937, on council tax levy, whether she has considered the merits of directing local authorities to use more than 50 per cent. of the council tax generated from second homes to fund more affordable housing; and whether there are any unitary or two-tiered local authorities with such a policy. [154931]

Mr. Iain Wright: It is up to local authorities to determine how to use the income generated through council tax on second homes. Communities and Local Government has no plans to direct them on this, and neither does it hold information on how the income is used.

Departments: Contracts

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how her Department monitors contracts issued by public bodies reporting to her Department on the terms and conditions applied to their workforce. [154893]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 24 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 956W.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 152-53W, on Departments: contracts, (1) how much was spent by her Department on contracts awarded to external suppliers by public bodies it sponsors in each year since 2001; [154896]

(2) if she will make data compiled for the European Commission available to hon. Members. [154981]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1422-24W.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what measures her Department has implemented to ensure that affordable housing is available to those living in coastal towns and villages. [155037]

Mr. Iain Wright: Coastal towns and villages will benefit from the Government's plans, announced in the Housing Green Paper 'Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable'. We are providing at least £8 billion over the next three years to invest in the supply of housing, including an increase in affordable housing, initially through the Housing Corporation and then through the new homes agency. This is an increase of £3 billion compared to the previous three years and will help to deliver at least 70,000 more affordable homes a year by 2010-11. All areas, urban, rural and coastal will benefit from these resources.

Planning Policy Statement (PPS)3 for Housing encourages local and regional planning bodies to take more account of affordability when determining how many new homes are needed in their area. PPS3 includes stronger policies on affordable housing. The new definition of affordable housing will concentrate public funding and planning contributions on genuinely affordable housing. In addition, local authorities will be able to require developer contributions to affordable housing on smaller sites where it is viable.

Planning and housing policies at the local level should be based upon an up-to-date housing needs assessment for a particular area. The findings of the assessment will inform decisions on the level of

housing provision and its distribution in local development frameworks and policies on affordable housing and housing mix. It will also allow local authorities to consider the housing demands and needs of specific groups of people including families with children, older people and disabled people, as well as the precise nature and location of the area, such as coastal towns and villages.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the central Government's grant was per capita for the *(a)* Sedgefield and *(b)* Sevenoaks districts in (i) 1997-98 and (ii) 2007-08. [155047]

John Healey: The information requested is tabled as follows.

Central Government revenue grant[1] per head in Sedgefield and Sevenoaks

	Sedgefield	*£ per head Sevenoaks*
1997-98[2]	66	60
2005-06[3]	134	56
2006-07[4]	135	61

[1] Central Government grant is defined here as the sum of Formula grant (Revenue Support Grant and redistributed non-domestic rates) and Specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance (AEF), ie revenue grants paid for council's core services. Figures exclude grants outside AEF (ie where funding is not for authorities' core services, but is passed to a third party, for example, rent allowances and rebates), capital grants, funding for the local authorities' housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

[2] Specific grants within AEF to Sedgefield and Sevenoaks include Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit administration.

[3] Specific grants within AEF to Sedgefield include General Sure Start grant (£18 per head), Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (£13 per head), Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Administration, Community Empowerment Funding, Local Authority Business Growth Incentives scheme, Planning Delivery, Performance Standards Fund, Homelessness Strategies, Supporting People Programme—Housing, Local Enterprise Growth Initiative and Waste Minimisation Recycling Fund. Specific grants within AEF to Sevenoaks include Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Administration and Planning Delivery.

[4] Data for 2006-07 are provisional. Final outturn figures for 2006-07 will be available later this year.

Note:
Comparisons across years are not valid due to changes in funding and function.

Source:
Communities and Local Government Revenue Summary Return

Minister for the South West

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what visits the Minister for the South West has made in that capacity since her appointment. [154878]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Minister for the South West has embarked on an ongoing series of visits in the region. Details of the visits undertaken so far are tabulated as follows:

	Visit undertaken
13 July 2007	Regional Development Agency, Exeter
16 July 2007	Swindon
25 July 2007	Tewkesbury and Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
30 July 2007	St. Austell and Truro, Cornwall
1 August 2007	Bristol (and wider West of England visit)
21 August 2007	Tewkesbury, Gloucester and Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
23 August 2007	Poole
24 August 2007	Shepton Mallet and Taunton, Somerset

Mr. Robert Adewunmi

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the reasons for Mr. Robert Adewunmi being able to circumvent the restraint order placed upon him following his conviction for fraud relating to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. [153635]

The Solicitor-General: I have been asked to reply.

Mr. Adewunmi and his wife were arrested on 5 April 2005. Mr. Adewunmi pleaded guilty to offences of money laundering and fraudulent trading for which he was sentenced, on 10 March 2006, to a total of four years' imprisonment; his wife admitted an offence of money laundering for which she was sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

After sentence, confiscation proceedings were postponed to complete the necessary investigations. A restraint order had been made against their assets on 24 May 2005, which had a worldwide effect and also contained a provision for the repatriation of movable assets held abroad. The order also contained a clear warning that breach of the order would amount to contempt of court. This had been considered to be sufficient to prevent further dissipation of assets.

On discovery that Mr. Adewunmi had in fact breached the order, a money laundering investigation was begun; this showed how Mr. Adewunmi was able further to dissipate the assets. As a consequence of this behaviour, proceedings for contempt were taken against Mr. Adewunmi and, on 22 June 2007, confiscation orders were made against both Mr. and Mrs. Adewunmi; Mr. Adewunmi was also sentenced for a fraud on Slough borough council. In addition, Mr. Adewunmi admitted being in breach of the restraint order. As a result, he was committed to prison for 18 months' consecutive to the sentence which he was already serving.

It has been calculated that Mr. Adewunmi transferred abroad a total of £137,673.56 out of the £867,200 stolen by him; some of this money was repatriated but the majority is caught in the confiscation order which he has to pay.

Telecommunications Masts (Planning Control) Bill 2006-07

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the Telecommunications Masts (Planning Control) Bill. [154827]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Telecommunications Masts (Planning Control) Bill is due to have its Second Reading on 19 October. We are currently reviewing the permitted development rights in Part 24 of Schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995. I cannot prejudge the outcome of that review, but we will consult on any substantive proposals for change arising from it.

Thames Gateway Bridge

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on her decision to re-open the public inquiry into the Thames Gateway Bridge. [154830]

Mr. Iain Wright: The reasons for the decision to reopen the public inquiry into the Thames Gateway Bridge were fully set out in the Secretary of State's letter of 25 July. The Secretary of State has nothing further to add in respect of that decision. A copy of the letter has been placed in the Library of the House.

Travelling People: Eastern Region

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the East of England Regional Assembly's consultation on Gypsy and Traveller pitches. [154849]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Secretary of State has not assessed the East of England regional assembly's public consultation on the Gypsy and Traveller review, although my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State has written to the East of England regional assembly on some questions raised in the review. On the basis that the East of England regional assembly submits the draft revision to the Secretary of State, my right hon. Friend would appoint an independent panel to examine and advise her on that draft revision.

TRANSPORT

A14: Kettering

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the Highways Agency expects to announce costed final proposals for improving the A14 around Kettering. [154970]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency is finalising an options appraisal on how to improve the capacity of the A14 around Kettering, which I expect shortly.

It is too early to give a firm indication of any announcement on proposals that might emerge from my consideration of the Highways Agency's work.

Bridges: Safety

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the implications of the recent road bridge collapse in the United States for the safety of road bridges in the United Kingdom; and what plans she has to investigate the safety of the *(a)* Severn Bridge and *(b)* Second Severn Crossing. [155046]

Mr. Tom Harris: Immediately after the Minnesota bridge collapse, the Highways Agency began an investigation of the information it holds about bridges and other structures. From the information available regarding the bridge in Minnesota, the Highways Agency has concluded there are no bridges identical on the network of motorways and major A roads in England. The Highways Agency is however undertaking a review of its maintenance and inspection processes. If improvements are needed, these will be communicated to other UK bridge owners, including local highway authorities, who are responsible for the majority of other road bridges.

Severn Crossing Bridges

In April 2006, the Highways Agency announced that it will be undertaking a programme of inspection work on the main suspension cables for the M48 Severn bridge. Work is under way to monitor and address the corrosion that has been found in the suspension cables and over the next year, the Agency will be considering a long-term strategy for the bridge. The bridge remains safe for use, although as a precautionary measure, vehicles over 7.5 tonnes are restricted to lane one in each direction.

No additional investigations are currently planned for the M4 Second Severn Crossing. Severn River Crossing plc. is already required to undertake a rigorous inspection regime and the findings are regularly reviewed by the Government's representative and the Highways Agency.

Departments: Employment Agencies

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department paid in fees to recruitment agencies for *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent staff in each year since 1997. [151674]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport was established in May 2002.

Figures available for the Department for Transport are:

£

	(a) Temporary	*(b) Permanent*
2002-03	5,859,854	1,198,693
2003-04	10,364,482	4,021,132
2004-05	11,664,629	4,220,768
2005-06	9,856,964	8,272,596
2006-07	12,314,056	4,791,412

The table does not include Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA). I would refer the hon. Member to the annual report, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

This answer corrects the answer of 30 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 254W, which unfortunately contained some incomplete and incorrect figures.

Departments: Flowers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by her Department on flowers in the last 12 months. [153212]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In the last 12 months the Department and its agencies spent £2,029 on flowers. This related to purchases made for the victims of the letter bomb explosion at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency HQ in Swansea, the Royal opening of a new wing of the Air Accident Investigation Branch in Farnborough and as part of our employee welfare programme: flowers are sent to staff following a serious, personal and often unexpected event. This would include a serious illness, major accident or bereavement.

This excludes spend by the Highways Agency, Maritime and Coastguard Agency and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency as the requested information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Taxis

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by her Department on taxis in the last 12 months. [153213]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport Central, and three of the agencies spent £208,092 on taxis in the last 12 months. The remaining agencies do not record taxi fares separately from other travel costs and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Ministerial Code, and the Civil Service Management Code.

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by her Department on *(a)* staff training and *(b)* communication training in the last 12 months. [153206]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The total expenditure by the Department on staff training in the last 12 months was £16,659,462. This figure includes training on communication skills as the Department does not record communication training separately.

A large proportion of expenditure relates to training for the recently established Highway's Agency Traffic Officer Service.

Departments: Travel

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by her Department on first class train tickets in the last 12 months. [153210]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Travel expenditure is not recorded by class of ticket for most of the Department and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code.

Heathrow Airport: Air Pollution

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) where the air pollution receptors were located which provided data that have been used to model the environmental impact on air pollution as part of the Project for the Sustainable Development of Heathrow; and if she will make a statement; [155114]

(2) how many air pollution receptors are in place to monitor air pollution in and around Heathrow airport; where those receptors are located; and if she will make a statement; [155087]

(3) how many air pollution receptors were in place to monitor air pollution in and around Heathrow airport in each year since 2000; where those receptors were located; and if she will make a statement. [155088]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The modelling of air pollution is based on data collected from a number of monitoring sites in and around Heathrow. Their location is shown in Figure 2.1 of the Report of the Airport Air Quality Technical Panels published by the Department in July 2006, which is available on the Department's website at:

www.dft.gov.uk.

Data from these sites, in some cases since 1993, are set out in Annex 8 to the report. This also identifies new sites added in 2005 on the recommendation of the technical panels (see chapter 2) to ensure a robust data set to validate the modelling.

Heathrow Airport: Public Participation

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when her Department expects to launch the public consultation on the expansion of Heathrow airport; and if she will make a statement. [155111]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government are committed to a public consultation later this year on the future development of Heathrow airport. This was confirmed in the Progress Report on the Future of Air Transport White Paper in December 2006. A statement will be made when the consultation is launched.

Metronet: Finance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Leyton and Wanstead (Harry Cohen) of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1070W, on Metronet finance, what estimate she has made of the extent of the public finance commitment as a result of Metronet entering administration; and what proportion of the total her Department expects to pay. [154922]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Transport for London and London Underground continue to discuss the best strategy for taking Metronet out of Administration with the PPP Administrators, taking into account all the associated financial implications, in accordance with their respective duties. In advance of their conclusion, it would be inappropriate to comment on the potential public finance impacts.

Motor Vehicles: Exhaust Emissions

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicle exhaust emissions tests were carried out in *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* Bristol, *(c)* Canterbury, *(d)* Glasgow, *(e)* Middlesbrough, *(f)* Swansea and *(g)* Westminster in each of the last 10 years; how many motorists were issued with fixed

penalty notices in each area in each year because their car did not meet the necessary standards; and what total value of fines was issued by each local authority in each year. [154855]

Jim Fitzpatrick: These emissions checks are a matter for local authorities. The Department for Transport does not hold the information requested.

Noise: Pollution

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects to publish the results of the Attitudes to Noise from Aviation sources in England study; and if she will make a statement. [154856]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Provisional findings have been submitted and are being subjected to independent review by experts. This review is not yet complete, but I anticipate that the results of this study will be available by the end of this year.

Public Transport: Disabled

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance her Department has given to local authorities on improving access to public transport for disabled people. [155108]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The full guidance on Local Transport Plans: second edition, published by the Department in January 2006, contains advice on how local authorities can meet the needs of disabled people, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

Roads: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of estimated payments under her Department's private finance initiative contracts is projected to be spent on road constructions in each year between 2008 and 2019. [152470]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department is unable to make such projections, because the proportion of PFI payments to be spent on road construction will depend on the development and procurement of PFI contracts in future, and on contractor performance.

The HM Treasury website provides updated details (on a six monthly basis) of awarded PFI projects overseen by the Department for Transport. The project details include the awarding authority, date of financial close, total capital value and the annual unitary charge payment. This information is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

The forecasts of future payments are subject to the performance of the private sector contractor.

The unitary charge payments represent repayments of the capital (sum of the capital spend) of the project and will also frequently include inflation, service provision and major refurbishment.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Highways Agency spent on road improvements in each region in each of the last five years. [154923]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency's reporting systems do not provide information on a regional basis.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of road per region are the responsibility of the Highways Agency to maintain. [154924]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency is responsible for maintaining a total of 4493.8 miles of road, of which:

Highways Agency region	*Route length (Miles)*
South East	851.3
South West and West Midlands	1334.6
North	1299.0
East Midlands	1008.9

HEALTH

Ambulance Services: Standards

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of Category A emergency ambulance dispatches reached patients within the Government's target of eight minutes in *(a)* urban areas and *(b)* rural areas in the latest period for which figures are available. [155036]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not classify ambulance trusts as urban or rural, and therefore performance data are not reported against these categories.

All ambulance trusts are required to meet the same national response time standards irrespective of location. Category A calls (those presenting conditions that may be immediately life threatening) should be responded to within eight minutes in 75 per cent. of cases and Category B calls (those conditions that are serious but not immediately life threatening) should be responded to within 19 minutes in 95 per cent. of cases.

Breast Feeding: Health Education

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which hospital trusts are not fulfilling the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on breastfeeding information for new mothers. [154909]

Mr. Bradshaw: We do not have the information on the number of hospital trusts implementing the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines. However, NICE has recently consulted on new draft guidance on maternal and child nutrition including its recommendation to increase breastfeeding. The final guidance will be published later this year.

The Department supports the NICE recommendations and expects that the national health service trusts implement the NICE recommendations.

Broomfield Hospital: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Broomfield hospital private finance initiative project will receive its final approval to proceed; and if he will make a statement. [154962]

Mr. Bradshaw: The full business case for the £140 million Broomfield hospital private finance initiative scheme for Mid Essex Hospitals Services NHS Trust has been submitted for approval to the Department by East of England Strategic Health Authority. A decision will be announced in due course.

Cancer: Research

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total expenditure on research into *(a)* Hodgkin's lymphoma and *(b)* non-Hodgkin's lymphoma was in each year since 1997 from (i) his Department's Research and Development budget and (ii) the Medical Research Council. [155031]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect expenditure data at the level of detail required. Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's research and development budget has been allocated to and managed by national health service organisations. These organisations account for their use of the allocations they receive from the Department in an annual research and development report. The reports identify total, aggregated expenditure on national priority areas, including cancer. Details of individual projects supported in the NHS, including those concerned with site-specific cancers, can be found on the national research register at

www.dh.gov.uk/research

The Medical Research Council (MRC), one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research, is an independent body which receives its grant in aid from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

MRC expenditure on research on all forms of lymphoma including Hodgkin's and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, for the years for which figures are available, is shown in the table.

	£ million
1998-99	0.4
1999-2000	0.4
2000-01	0.5
2001-02	0.6
2002-03	1.0
2003-04	1.2
2004-05	1.2
2005-06	1.7

Implementation of the Department's research strategy, 'Best Research for Best Health', will result in an expansion of our research programmes and in significant new funding opportunities for health research. In particular, the Hammersmith and St. Mary's and Imperial College Biomedical Research Centre (BRC), the Oxford BRC and the University College London Hospital BRC, propose to undertake research on both Hodgkin's and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma as part of broader-based research themes to which the Department has allocated a total of £12.5 million over five years.

Chiropody

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will require primary care trusts to undertake a comprehensive assessment of local foot health needs in conjunction with local authorities; [154947]

(2) what assessment he has made of the ease of access by vulnerable and elderly persons to chiropody services on the NHS; [154953]

(3) how many NHS chiropody clinics have closed in *(a)* Wirral, *(b)* Merseyside, *(c)* the North West and *(d)* England in the last five years; [154954]

(4) what the funding per head of the population for chiropody services was in England in the latest period for which figures are available. [155099]

Mr. Bradshaw: No central assessment has been carried out and there are no plans to require primary care trusts (PCTs) to undertake an assessment of local foot health needs. It is up to PCTs to assess the needs of their local population and to determine what proportion of their resources are spent on commissioning chiropody services based on those needs. Strategic health authorities are responsible for ensuring that PCTs fulfil this duty.

We know healthy feet have a huge impact on the quality of life and we expect PCTs to provide high quality chiropody services. Guidance for access to these services is included in the national service frameworks for older people, diabetes, and long-term conditions. Chiropody is also included in practice based commissioning: early wins and top tips, and the White Paper, "Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services".

Information about how much funding PCTs allocate to chiropody services and the number of chiropody clinics are not collected centrally.

Community Hospitals: Capital Investment

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much is available to spend on community hospital capital projects in 2007-08 taking into account the carry forward of underspend of the £150 million made available for 2006-07. [155078]

Mr. Bradshaw: We announced a five-year programme to invest up to £750 million in community hospitals and services in July 2006. Funding will be available over the life of the programme and allocated in accordance with national health service capital investment plans. We have so far approved 14 schemes at a total cost of £94.6 million. As NHS capital investment plans take time to develop, we expect spending to be lower in the early years and rise in the later years.

Dental Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of people in (i) England, (ii) Gloucestershire and (iii) the Forest of Dean constituency currently registered with an NHS dentist. [154874]

Mr. Bradshaw: Since April 2006, patients no longer have to be registered with a dental practice to receive national health service care and treatment.

The closest equivalent measure to registration is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services (patients seen) in a given area over a 24-month period, expressed as a percentage of the estimated population for that area. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

The numbers of patients seen in the 24-month periods ending 31 March 2006 and 31 March 2007 and the number expressed as a percentage of the population are available in Tables C1 and C2 of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England 2006-07 report. Information is available at strategic health authority and primary care trust area in England. This report is available in the Library and at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607.

Information cannot be made available at constituency level without disproportionate cost.

Dental Services: Contracts

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the south-west region and *(c)* England have (i) refused to sign the NHS dental contract and (ii) are in dispute with the Government about the contract; and what plans he has to renegotiate the contract to improve access to NHS dentists. [155100]

Mr. Bradshaw: General Dental Services (GDS) contracts and Personal Dental Services (PDS) agreements are held with primary care trusts (PCTs). The Department collects information on the number of GDS and PDS contracts signed in dispute as at 1 April 2006 and the number of outstanding disputes. These disputes are between the contract holder and the PCT. A contract may cover more than one dentist. Information is held by PCT and strategic health authority (SHA).

The Government set out in the recent report 'NHS Dental Reforms: One year on' steps to support the NHS in further improving access. This report is available in the Library.

Information on the number of contracts signed in dispute and the number remaining in dispute as at 30 June 2007 at Cornwall PCT, South West SHA and England level is set out in the following table.

This information is also available at:

www.performance.doh.gov.uk/dental_contracts/index.htm.

Organisation	*Total number of dental contracts signed in dispute as at 1 April 2006*	*Number of dental contracts in dispute as at 30 June 2007*
Cornwall PCT	31	12
South west SHA	206	19
England	2,884	223

Departments: Contracts

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how his Department monitors contracts issued by public bodies reporting to his Department regarding the terms and conditions applied to their workforce. [154894]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not monitor the individual employment contracts issued by the public bodies that report to it. The Department's Executive non-departmental public bodies are required to comply with the parliamentary and legislative requirements, and HM Treasury administrative controls set out in the Government accounting manual. Special health authorities employ staff on national health service terms and conditions covered by nationally agreed terms and conditions under Agenda for Change. The Department's executive agencies employ civil servants and must comply with the civil service and HM Treasury rules on setting terms and conditions for their work force.

Doctors: Career Structure

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the purpose was of the Douglas Review; when his Department first saw the *(a)* draft final report and *(b)* final report; when a Minister first saw the final report; whether a Minister approved the decision not to have a press notice; and whether there is a note of the broadcast and press coverage of the report. [154966]

Mr. Bradshaw: The aim of the Review Group chaired by Professor Neil Douglas was to review the recruitment and selection process for application to specialty and General Practitioner training programmes in 2007 and make recommendations for improvement.

The Department saw drafts of the final report of the Review Group in the weeks leading up to 12 July 2007 and saw the final report on 12 July 2007. Ministers first saw the final report on 20 July 2007.

Ministers approved the decision to send the report to interested hon. Members including the Health Select Committee and Opposition Health Spokesmen, to place a copy in the Library and to place the report on the Modernising Medical Careers website. A range of stakeholders involved in the 2007 recruitment process, including the British Medical Association and Royal Colleges, were also alerted to the report's publication.

There is no note of the broadcast and press coverage of the report. The report was not produced by the Department itself, but by the review group, whose Chairman, Professor Douglas, approved the above arrangements for its publication.

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the conclusions of the Douglas reviews of MMC/MTAS. [154978]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is grateful to Professor Douglas and his review group for the contributions they have made to the 2007 junior doctor recruitment process. We have accepted and implemented all their recommendations for this year's recruitment.

We have asked Sir John Tooke, Dean of the Peninsula Medical School, to take a wider look at the issues involved so that the right lessons are learned and the recruitment process is improved for the following years.

Professor Douglas' recommendations for the future will be looked at carefully alongside those of Sir John Tooke.

Doctors: Training

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made of the impact of the reduction of junior doctors' hours on the number of procedures undertaken independently by medical specialist registrars prior to Completion of Specialist Training/Certificate of Completion of Training; and if he will make a statement. [155097]

Mr. Bradshaw: The working time directive (WTD) was implemented for the vast majority of national health service staff groups in 1998 in accordance with regulations. The Government negotiated an extension to the WTD for doctors in training to enable phased implementation from August 2004.

Local national health service trusts are responsible for assessing the impact of the European working time directive as part of their health and safety obligations. The Department is sponsoring NHS National Workforce Projects to support local implementation of WTD 2009. NHS National Workforce Projects has commissioned a range of pilots including cooperative solutions, team working, handover and escalation and 24 hour working. The pilots take in a wide variety of organisations to look at solutions which are transferable across the NHS.

Doctors: Working Hours

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what evidence there is of public demand for weekend doctors' surgeries in *(a)* Northamptonshire and *(b)* England. [154968]

Mr. Bradshaw: The general practitioners (GP) patient survey, published in July 2007, found 85 per cent. of patients in Northamptonshire Teaching PCT are satisfied with GP surgery opening hours. 7 per cent. of patients said they would like GP surgeries to open at weekends.

For England, 84 per cent. of patients are satisfied with GP surgery opening hours and 8 per cent. of patients would like GP surgeries open at weekends. Full survey results can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/PublishedSurvey/GPpatientsurvey2007/index.htm

Edenbridge Hospital: X Rays

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what date he expects to set the timetable awaited by the West Kent Primary Care Trust for the submission and consideration by his Department of the trust's bid for community hospital capital funding of a new X-ray machine at Edenbridge Hospital. [155077]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are working closely with strategic health authorities on funding priorities for the third wave of schemes for new and refurbished community hospitals and services. We will make announcements when that work is complete. All schemes will still be subject to a rigorous outline and full business case approval process.

Health Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made by his Department working with the Welsh Assembly Government, to implement a system in which responsibility between the English and Welsh NHS will be based primarily upon residency of patients. [154875]

Mr. Bradshaw: Statutory Instrument (SI) 2003 No.1497, which came into effect in June 2003, established that the national health service in England was responsible for English residents. Similarly, SI 2003 No.150 (W20) confirmed that Welsh local health boards were responsible for their resident population, including those registered with a GP in England. A protocol was agreed between the Department and the Welsh Assembly Government in 2005 to phase the operational implications of these changes. This protocol set out interim arrangements for specific border primary care trusts and local health boards, where operational responsibility would rest with the commissioner responsible for the GP with whom the patient was registered. Last year the protocol was extended until March 2008. Work is continuing between the Welsh Assembly Government and the Department to finalise the package of care and services that will be provided for patients registered with a GP across the border from their country of residence.

Health Services: Overseas Visitors

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) why those attending the World Scout Jamboree at Hylands Park in Chelmsford who were not eligible for free NHS treatment were not charged; and if he will make a statement; [154889]

(2) how much the Mid Essex hospital trust received for treating non-paying patients who went to the World Scout Jamboree at Hylands Park in Chelmsford; [154890]

(3) how many people attending the World Scout Jamboree at Hylands Park in Chelmsford who received treatment at Broomfield hospital were charged for the treatment; [154891]

(4) how many people attending the World Scout Jamboree at Hylands Park in Chelmsford who were not eligible for free NHS treatment were treated at Broomfield hospital. [154892]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not collected centrally. However, national health service hospitals are responsible for establishing whether a person is ordinarily resident, or exempt from charges under one of a number of exemption categories, or liable for charges. We expect hospitals to take reasonable measures to recover any outstanding debts.

Hospitals: Wellingborough

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to build a new general hospital in the Wellingborough area. [154983]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is for local health services to commission care for their local populations and to work with the local health community and other stakeholders to plan, develop and improve health services to meet the needs of the community.

Hospitals: West Sussex

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which clinicians support the proposal that consultation on hospital services in West Sussex should be restricted to options excluding more than one with consultant-led maternity and emergency care. [154977]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally.

Changes in locals services are a matter for local health organisations and the hon. Member may wish to approach West Sussex Primary Care Trust for this information.

Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccination

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of providing immunisation against human papilloma virus to all females under the age of 18; [155106]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the merits of offering immunisation against human papilloma virus to all girls up to the age of 18. [155107]

Mr. Bradshaw: Based on the current list price for the vaccine, vaccination of one annual cohort of girls will be in the region of £100 million.

A detailed analysis is being carried out by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) regarding the benefits and costs of introducing a human papilloma virus vaccine programme. This work is being externally peer reviewed to ensure its robustness. This review has not yet been completed and therefore JCVI will not be able to make its more detailed recommendation, including whether there will be a catch-up for older girls, until after its next meeting, on October 17.

Influenza: Vaccination

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to implement a seasonal influenza immunisation programme. [155030]

Mr. Bradshaw: Details of the seasonal influenza campaign for 2007-08 were announced via a chief medical officer letter on 30 March 2007.

Leeds Primary Care Trust: Consultants

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients under the auspices of the Leeds Primary Care Trust have been referred to consultants other than those originally selected by their GP; and in how many of these cases the permission of *(a)* the referring GP and *(b)* the patient was sought. [151428]

Mr. Bradshaw: The requested information is not collected centrally. The Yorkshire and Humberside Strategic Health Authority advises that Leeds Primary Care Trust does not encourage general practitioners to refer to individual consultants, only to appropriate specialists. Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust then allocates consultants on the basis of waiting times.

Macular Degeneration: Drugs

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to make a decision on the approval of Macugen and Lucentis for general release. [155007]

Mr. Bradshaw: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently appraising Lucentis (ranibizumab) and Macugen (pegaptanib) for the treatment of wet age-related macular degeneration. NICE published an Appraisal Consultation Document (ACD) on 14 June 2007 and we understand that, following consideration of comments received from consultees, a second ACD will be published later this year. NICE expects to publish final guidance next year. Further detailed information on this appraisal is available at:

www.guidance.nice.org.uk/page.aspx?o=207024.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts in England commission the drugs Avestin and Lucentis for the treatment of wet-eye age-related macular degeneration. [155022]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect data on the number of primary care trusts (PCTs) in England commissioning Lucentis or Avastin.

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently carrying out an appraisal of Lucentis and Macugen, and final guidance is due next year.

Where NICE has not issued guidance, PCTs are expected to make their own decisions on the funding of specific treatments based on an assessment of the available evidence.

Avastin has not been licensed for use in macular degeneration, although if a patient is willing to be prescribed a drug off-label it is available on the clinician's judgment and subject to funding by the PCT.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused NHS treatment for wet age-related macular degeneration in the most recent year for which figures are available in Northamptonshire. [155040]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held centrally.

NHS

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library guidance made available to NHS trusts between 16 and 26 August 2007. [155032]

Mr. Bradshaw: 23 approved items of communication or guidance were issued from the Department to national health service organisations during the specified period. These were either sent electronically by e-mail or mentioned in bulletins which contained links to the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk. Copies have been placed in the Library.

NHS Foundation Trusts

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS foundation trusts have been approved to date; how many trusts have applications under consideration; what the monthly average rate of approval is of foundations trusts; and if he will make a statement. [154888]

Mr. Bradshaw: 73 national health service foundation trusts (NHSFTs) have so far been authorised by Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts), accounting for almost one third of the total number of acute and mental health trusts.

All remaining trusts have a timetable to apply for NHSFT status and more trusts are becoming authorised each month. There are currently 23 trusts that have gained support from the Secretary of State and are being considered for potential authorisation. Target dates for authorisation are agreed between Monitor and applicant trusts. Further waves of trusts will continue to be put forward to Monitor. The Department is working with strategic health authorities, who are managing the NHSFT pipeline, and Monitor to increase the success rate of around two thirds of trusts becoming authorised during a first assessment.

NHS: Finance

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was held in contingency reserves by each strategic health authority *(a)* in cash terms and *(b)* as a percentage of its budget at the end of 2006-07; and how much each strategic health authority is forecasting it will hold in contingency reserves at the end of 2007-08. [155072]

Mr. Bradshaw: At the end of the financial year strategic health authorities (SHA) do not hold contingency reserves in their accounts but they do report an under or over spend against the funding available to them on a resource but not a cash basis. The value of the under or over spend reported by each SHA is shown in the following table:

£000

	2006/07 Provisional under/(over) spend at Quarter 4	*2006/07 Provisional under/(over) spend as percentage RRL*	*2007/08 Forecast under/(over) spend at Quarter 1*
North East SHA	64,511	23.8	79,924
North West SHA	206,058	28.4	129,484
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	178,022	26.8	186,521
East Midlands SHA	80,476	21.8	68,183
West Midlands SHA	33,248	8.9	76,566
East of England SHA	62,293	12.7	(6,219)
London SHA	179,790	16.4	6,634
South East Coast SHA	29,990	11.9	54,000
South Central SHA	31,648	11.2	6,500
South West SHA	94,736	23.9	58,973
England total	960,772	19.5	660,566

Source: Financial Monitoring Returns.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the investigation into the NHS IT failure in which systems in the West Midlands and North West crashed in July 2006 is expected to report. [155033]

Mr. Bradshaw: By the end of October a report of the investigation's findings will be placed in the Library and will also be available on the NHS Connecting for Health website.

NHS: Procurement

Mr. Havard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assurances he has received from the NHS supply chain that the decision making process undertaken by NHS supply chain product councils will be open and transparent; and to whom they will be accountable. [153624]

Mr. Bradshaw: The product council programme is still in the early stages. NHS supply chain have assured officials that the summaries from the meetings will be published. The NHS Business Services Authority will be represented on the council to oversee transparency, and will monitor and audit them on behalf of the Department.

Obesity

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 876W, on obesity, if he will publish the findings of the core expert review group which validated the approach taken and outputs to date; who the members of the core expert review group are; and how often the group has met since 2005. [155123]

Mr. Bradshaw: The key findings underpinning the social marketing work are published in the MRC Human Nutrition Research Centre's report, "The Healthy Living Social Marketing initiative: A review of the evidence". Details of the group members are on Page 1 of the report. The group has met on three occasions since 2005.

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 876W, on obesity, if he will give details of the new strategy building on Choosing Activity; what progress has been made on it to date; and what steps he intends to take in furthering this strategy. [155124]

Mr. Bradshaw: The work led by Ministers on a new strategy for physical activity will be taken forward as part of our wider work on obesity, nutrition and physical activity, which will be the subject of further announcements in the autumn. These will include details of national campaigns focusing on these areas.

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 876W, on obesity, if he will give details of the 5 a Day Top Tips for Top Mums campaign; how he intends to take forward work on the initiative; how much has been spent from the public purse on it; how much has been set aside for the initiative in total; and how he plans to measure the initiative's success. [155125]

Mr. Bradshaw: The "Top Tips for Top Mums" campaign aims to increase fruit and vegetable consumption in families with young children and has a particular focus on low-income families. This audience faces the most barriers to increase fruit and vegetable consumption including cost, lack of cooking skills, fussy eaters and a lack of structured mealtimes. "Top Tips for Top Mums" has been developed to show parents that helping their children to eat more fruit and vegetables is a healthy option and easier than they may think.

To take the campaign forward, we are working with our existing "5 a Day" stakeholders and engaging with new partners to support the campaign. We are developing new radio and TV fillers which will help to promote the ideas of the Top Tips campaign and encourage fruit and vegetable consumption. The fillers are planned to go live in November 2007 and are expected to achieve at least £4 million pounds worth of free advertising space over a three-year period. New web pages will launch on the "5 a Day" website to coincide with the launch of the TV and radio fillers, and will incorporate a mechanism for parents to upload and share their own Top Tips with others.

To date, we have spent approximately £481,000 on the "Top Tips for Top Mums" campaign including activity to support partnership marketing, public relations (PR) aimed at both the national and local media and on website development.

The production of the TV and radio fillers will cost £300,000 and a further £300,000 has been committed to extend the campaign initiative into 2008 to recruit key partnerships, and sustain high profile PR and media activity to promote awareness of the campaign.

We track changes in consumption in fruit and vegetables in different population groups using the Food Standards Agency Consumer Activity Survey and the Health Survey for England.

Ophthalmology: Standards

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many optometrists were *(a)* struck-off and *(b)* subject to other disciplinary action for malpractice in each of the last five years. [154907]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not hold this information. We understand that the information is available from the General Optical Council.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what additional monitoring his Department plans to carry out of the quality of services offered by optometrists. [154908]

Mr. Bradshaw: The General Optical Council (GOC) is the statutory body which regulates the optical professions. The GOCs main aims are to protect the public and promote high standards of professional conduct and education among opticians.

The GOC has an investigation committee which is responsible for investigating any concerns about the fitness to practice of registered optometrists and dispensing opticians, the fitness of student optometrists and dispensing opticians to undertake training and the fitness of corporate bodies to carry on business, in the United Kingdom.

Optometrists providing services under the national health service must be on a primary care trust (PCT) list. PCTs have powers to carry out inspections and to remove or suspend businesses or individual optometrists where they think that is justified.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what studies his Department has conducted or arranged into links between abuse of alcohol, narcotics or substances and incidence of sexually transmitted diseases. [154887]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has not conducted or arranged such studies. However, in June 2007 the Independent Advisory Group on Sexual Health and HIV published a report of a seminar they held in January 2007 on the impact drugs and alcohol have on

young people's sexual behaviour. The Department is considering the recommendations in the report and will respond in due course.

Tobacco: Marketing

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to prohibit *(a)* the sale of cigarettes from vending machines and *(b)* residual point of sale marketing of tobacco products; and if he will make a statement. [154902]

Mr. Bradshaw: Ministers are keeping these issues under constant review but there are no immediate plans for legislation.

Tobacco: Sales

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had on the impact of introducing a requirement for tobacco sellers to obtain a licence before being able to sell tobacco; and if he will make a statement. [154993]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government consulted on the introduction of licensing for tobacco products in 2006. The majority of respondents favoured the introduction of a negative licensing scheme under which a retailer is free to sell tobacco products unless they have been found to persistently flout the law on under-age sale. Following the conclusion of the consultation the Government now intend to bring forward legislation at the next first legislative opportunity.

A copy of the consultation is available in the library.

Tobacco: Young People

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to deter adults from supplying cigarettes to under-age smokers. [154994]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government have no plans at present to penalise adults for supplying cigarettes to under-age smokers. However, as part of our communications campaign on changing the age of sale for tobacco, we are making parents aware of the dangers of young people smoking through magazine feature stories. Our continuing tobacco advertising TV campaign will also help to raise awareness of the dangers of smoking and benefits of quitting. In this way, we hope to discourage adults from supplying tobacco to young people under the minimum age.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures he plans to introduce to ensure effective enforcement of the increased age of sale of tobacco products from 16 to 18 years. [154995]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government are not in a position to direct decisions on the enforcement of the age of sale law. Tobacco control legislation, including that on minimum age of sale, is enforced by local authority trading standards officers. Budgets for this are set at local level and priorities are also determined locally. However, the Department has encouraged compliance with the new law by informing retailers, teenagers, parents and schools about the change in the law, supported by guidance to retailers and signage. We are also working closely with the local authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services in the build-up to the age change, including revising guidance to enforcement officers who ensure compliance with the law.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to raise awareness of the increase in the age of sale of tobacco products from 16 to 18 years before it comes into effect on 1 October 2007. [154996]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government have been carrying out a major communications campaign on changing the age of sale since April, focusing on the two main target groups: retailers and teenagers. Retailers have been sent details about the background of the change and advice about implementation. A dedicated website has also been set up for their benefit. As well as setting up a website for them, the Government are also running a digital advertising campaign on young people's social networking sites. There will also be posters near schools and newsagents.

Details can be seen at the retailers website www.tobaccoagechange.co.uk and the young people's website www.tobacco18.co.uk.

Vaccination

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of carrying out a mass immunisation scheme for *(a)* chickenpox, *(b)* rotavirus and *(c)* influenza; [155104]

(2) whether the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation has carried out a cost-benefit analysis into the effects of carrying out a UK-wide mass immunisation scheme for *(a)* chickenpox, *(b)* rotavirus and *(c)* influenza. [155105]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has commissioned an expert subgroup to look at the benefits of vaccinating children with chickenpox vaccine and the benefits of vaccinating older adults with a vaccine to protect against Shingles.

An expert subgroup has reviewed the evidence on the benefits of vaccinating children with Rotavirus vaccine, including two published papers[1] on the cost-effectiveness of introducing Rotavirus vaccination in the United Kingdom. This will be presented to JCVI at a future meeting.

Influenza immunisation has been recommended in the UK since the late 1960s, with the aim of directly protecting those at a higher risk of serious morbidity and mortality. The JCVI regularly appraise the benefits of flu vaccination among groups considered to be at risk.

[1] Jit M, Edmunds WJ Evaluating rotavirus vaccination in England and Wales. Part II. The potential cost-effectiveness of vaccination.

Vaccine. 2007 May 16;25(20):3971-9. Epub 2007 Mar 13.

PMID: 17400341 (PubMed—in process)

Harris JP, Jit M, Cooper D, Edmunds WJ. Evaluating rotavirus vaccination in England and Wales. Part I. Estimating the burden of disease.

Vaccine. 2007 May 16;25(20):3962-70. Epub 2007 Mar 15.

PMID: 17395343 (PubMed—in process)

York NHS Trust: Waiting Lists

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting times for *(a)* elective in-patient admissions and *(b)* first out-patient appointment were in each specialty at York NHS Trust in each year since 1996-97. [154941]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is in the following tables:

In-patient waiting times for York Health Services Trust 1997 to 2007

Median waiting time for elective admission (weeks)

	Specialties									
Quarter ended March each year	*General surgery*	*Urology*	*Trauma and orthopaedics*	*Ear, nose and throat (ENT)*	*Ophthalmology*	*Oral surgery*	*Anaesthetics*	*General medicine*	*Obstetrics and Gynaecology*	*All specialities*
1997	13.3	8.5	16.6	11.5	16.6	16.1	7.7	7.5	10.9	12.0
1998	20.5	9.3	17.3	13.0	25.4	22.8	7.0	8.5	11.4	15.9
1999	11.6	9.5	16.7	14.9	19.1	12.8	n/a	8.4	14.8	13.1
2000	14.6	10.6	18.6	15.3	18.8	12.0	6.9	n/a	13.7	15.2
2001	15.1	9.9	19.4	15.8	23.6	8.4	n/a	n/a	11.7	15.7
2002	17.2	10.5	19.2	20.1	21.4	7.7	n/a	n/a	14.0	16.8
2003	12.5	10.9	18.3	16.2	17.7	9.5	n/a	n/a	15.4	14.6
2004	13.4	9.6	12.9	9.6	9.8	10.8	7.1	12.0	13.9	11.7
2005	10.5	9.5	12.2	7.8	8.0	10.4	4.1	10.6	14.1	10.2
2006	10.0	9.3	10.2	8.4	5.9	8.3	5.1	4.7	9.2	8.5
2007	6.7	5.6	8.8	8.6	4.7	7.3	6.5	6.4	6.7	6.6

Note:
Only includes specialities with over 100 patients.
Source:
Department of Health KH07.

Out-patient waiting times for York Health Services Trust 1997 to 2007

Median waiting time for first outpatient appointment from a general practitioner referral to a consultant (weeks)

	Speciality					
Quarter ending March each year	*Anaesthetics*	*Dermatology*	*General surgery*	*Urology*	*Trauma and orthopaedics*	*ENT*
1997	10.2	4.5	3.9	10.1	11.1	6.3
1998	n/a	6.7	5.9	11.9	10.6	8.2
1999	9.9	9.2	7.6	16.5	13.0	9.5
2000	11.8	8.0	7.3	13.1	14.3	11.7
2001	8.7	7.2	3.9	7.8	13.0	7.0
2002	9.8	10.6	3.5	7.8	10.1	8.8
2003	8.9	10.7	4.8	7.9	11.6	9.6
2004	12.8	7.9	5.5	9.9	7.8	11.7
2005	17.9	7.4	6.3	11.0	8.8	11.9
2006	8.2	6.2	5.9	7.5	6.7	7.0
2007	n/a	3.1	3.1	n/a	3.6	2.6

Quarter ending March each year	*General medicine*	*General-urinary medicine*	*Oral surgery*	*Geriatric medicine*	*Neurology*	*Obstetrics and Gynaecology (Obstetrics antenatal)*
1997	8.0	n/a	7.2	n/a	12.4	3.3
1998	8.4	n/a	4.1	n/a	11.1	3.3
1999	9.6	n/a	3.8	3.5	18.4	5.8
2000	9.7	n/a	5.0	3.8	13.2	5.5
2001	9.2	n/a	4.2	5.7	19.8	6.4
2002	8.6	2.0	7.0	5.6	30.3	6.3
2003	8.2	2.0	3.8	6.5	13.4	6.6
2004	9.2	2.0	6.1	3.8	14.3	6.5
2005	7.7	2.0	7.5	3.3	11.5	6.4
2006	6.4	2.0	6.8	3.5	7.5	n/a
2007	3.8	n/a	3.6	n/a	4.3	n/a

Quarter ending March each year	Obstetrics and Gynaecology (Gynaecology)	Ophthalmology	Orthodontics	Paediatrics	Rheumatology	Total
1997	3.6	9.3	8.4	7.1	7.8	5.9
1998	4.3	9.9	11.6	8.4	7.3	6.6
1999	7.7	10.6	15.8	5.9	8.4	8.4
2000	8.3	11.5	17.6	7.5	5.5	8.9
2001	3.6	8.8	10.4	6.1	6.0	6.9
2002	3.7	7.9	11.3	6.5	6.8	6.1
2003	3.9	6.9	15.5	6.8	8.5	6.4
2004	5.0	7.8	15.6	5.9	9.9	6.4
2005	3.6	6.8	17.2	6.0	8.3	6.4
2006	3.8	4.8	9.9	7.2	7.9	5.4
2007	2.1	4.0	n/a	3.3	4.4	3.5

Note:
Only includes specialities with over 100 patients
Source:
Department of Health QM08

TREASURY

Air Passenger Tax

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was raised by air passenger duty in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006; and how much he estimates will be raised in 2007. [155015]

Angela Eagle: The following revenues were raised from air passenger duty in the respective calendar years:

	£ million
2005	900
2006	950
2007[1]	2,000

[1] Forecast.

Auctions: Internet

Martin Horwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which suppliers have been added to the list of electronic auction framework agreements held by the Office of Government Commerce; and what recent assessment his Department has made of the market in intellectual copyright related to electronic auctions. [154869]

Angela Eagle: OGCbuying.solutions, an agency of the Office of Government Commerce, is responsible for electronic auction framework agreements.

No new suppliers have been added to the electronic auction framework agreements and no recent assessment of the market in intellectual copyright has been made.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 90W, on the Building Schools for the Future programme, how many recommendations were made to *(a)* the Department for Education and Skills and *(b)* HM Treasury as a result of the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit's review. [153611]

Andy Burnham: Priority reviews, regardless of topic, typically contain between half a dozen and two dozen recommendations.

Child Benefit: EU Nationals

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many claims for *(a)* child benefit and *(b)* child tax credit made by A8 nationals in the last 12 months were made in respect of children living outside the UK. [154842]

Jane Kennedy: At the end of June 2007 there were around 14,000 A8 nationals receiving child benefit for a child or children living in another EEA country.

The information requested on the child tax credit is not available.

Child Benefit: Overseas Residence

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 413W, on tax credits (1) how many individuals claiming child tax credit and child benefit in respect of children living abroad were asked in the last 12 months to provide a copy of the birth or adoption certificate for the children in question in order to verify their application; [155013]

(2) how many checks of claims for child tax credit and child benefit in respect of children living abroad were carried out in the last 12 months. [155014]

Jane Kennedy: A person making a claim for child benefit must provide HMRC with documentary evidence of the child being claimed for, such as a birth certificate, adoption certificate or passport. HMRC would only require a person making a claim for the child tax credit to furnish them with documentary evidence of the child being claimed for if they had not claimed child benefit.

All claims for tax credits and child benefit are subject to a wide range of checks throughout the life of each claim.

Child Trust Fund

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the effect of the Gini coefficient on wealth of the Child Trust Fund since its introduction; and if he will make a statement. [152712]

Kitty Ussher: No estimates are made for this effect. Furthermore, to the extent that published wealth estimates exclude children, the Child Trust Fund could have no impact on this measure of wealth distribution until 2020, when the first Child Trust Fund account holders reach age 18.

The Child Trust Fund promotes saving and financial education and will ensure that in future all children have a financial asset at age 18, regardless of family background.

Companies: Registration

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the basis was for the decision to abolish the three-month Companies House filing date extension for companies with overseas interests; and if he will make a statement. [152708]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

The automatic three-month extension which companies with overseas interests could claim for filing their accounts with the registrar of companies, conferred by section 244(3) of the Companies Act 1985, was repealed by the Companies Act 1985 (International Accounting Standards and Other Accounting Amendments) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 2004/2947, regulation 9).

It was considered that this provision (which was introduced in 1976) was no longer justifiable in an era of rapid global communications, and there is no such provision in the Companies Act 2006.

Any company that anticipates real difficulty in meeting the deadline for filing accounts may apply for a discretionary extension to be granted under section 244(5) of the 1985 Act (section 442(5) of the Companies Act 2006).

Council Tax: Valuation

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the agreement signed between the Valuation Office Agency and Rightmove redacting commercially confidentiality information. [143662]

Jane Kennedy: No contract exists between the Valuation Office Agency and Rightmove. However, the contract between Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and Rightmove.co.uk Limited with minor redactions will be placed in the Library.

Customs Officers: South West Region

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the planned reduction is in the number of permanent customs officers who cover small ports and airports in Devon, Cornwall and Dorset as part of the Law Enforcement Business Plan; what assessment he has made of the role of such officers in combating illegal drugs imports; and if he will take steps to prevent the proposed reduction in numbers being implemented. [154852]

Jane Kennedy: There are no plans to reduce the number of permanent customs officers covering small ports and airports in Devon, Dorset and Cornwall.

Debts: Business

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the loss in revenue to the Exchequer from private equity businesses offsetting debts on one business in their ownership against profits elsewhere in their ownership to minimise or eliminate tax liability in each of the last five years. [152613]

Kitty Ussher: Interest on debt is in general treated as a business expense for tax purposes. Most major tax systems adopt the same approach and international capital markets and global businesses are structured on this basis. There are no plans to review this fundamental principle. However, on the 8 March 2007 Government announced a review of the tax treatment of the use of shareholder debt to replace the equity element in highly leveraged deals.

There is no special interest tax relief for private equity-owned companies, the tax rules apply to all companies regardless of ownership.

As HMRC does not specifically take into account private equity backed companies in their tax records it is not possible to provide this estimate.

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* first class and *(b)* business flights in the last 12 months. [153172]

Angela Eagle: For details of the Department's expenditure on travel and subsistence in 2006-07 I refer to the answer to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) given on 25 July 2007. Of this expenditure, £144,788 was on first class flights and £1,004,269 was on business class flights.

All travel and subsistence is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Code, Travel by Ministers and the Civil Service Management Code.

Departments: Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether policy on financial capability is within the remit of his Department following the recent machinery of Government changes. [152913]

Kitty Ussher: HM Treasury has retained the policy lead for financial capability within government. This was unaffected by the recent machinery of Government changes.

Departments: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of people employed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are disabled. [153592]

Angela Eagle: The latest available statistics on the disability status of civil servants in Departments and agencies are as at 30 September 2006 and are published in 'Civil Service Statistics 2006' at Table P. This document is produced by the Office for National Statistics and can be accessed from the following website addresses:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/2006CivilServiceStatistics.pdf

Departments: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1066W, on Departments: disclosure of information, on how many occasions his Department has used a section 36 exemption to withhold information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that was agreed by the departmental Minister; [153453]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1066W, on Departments: disclosure of information, who his Department's departmental Minister was on *(a)* 1 January 2007 and *(b)* 5 July 2007; [153454]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 66W, on Departments: freedom of information and the Ministry of Justice aggregated statistics, what information has been requested of his Department under the Act in the last six months. [153616]

Angela Eagle: The Ministry of Justice produces an annual report on FOI in central Government, which includes a table summarising the use of exemptions by each Department. The report for 2006 was published in June 2007.

The departmental Minister for HM Treasury on 1 January 2007 was Financial Secretary, Mr. John Healey. As Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury since 2 July, my responsibilities include those of departmental Minister.

The Treasury has had around 3,000 FOI requests since January 2005; it would exceed the costs limit to provide lists of the requests made to HMT. HMT meets the reporting standards agreed by the then Department for Constitutional Affairs with the House.

Departments: Legislation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Bills introduced by his Department in the last five years did not contain sunset clauses; and if he will make a statement. [152483]

Angela Eagle: There were no sunset clauses in the Child Trust Funds Act 2004, the National Insurance Contributions and Statutory Payments Act 2004, the Regulation of Financial Services (Land Transactions) Act 2005, the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005, the National Insurance Contributions Act 2006, the Investment Exchanges and Clearing Houses Act 2006, the Planning Gain Supplement (Preparations) Act 2007 or the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007.

The remaining Acts that received Royal Assent during this period were Appropriation, Consolidated Fund Acts, Finance Acts and other tax legislation. These do not contain sunset provisions but may be time limited or temporary in effect in whole or in part.

The appropriateness of a sunset clause for the whole or part of any proposed legislation is considered on a case-by-case basis. It is also addressed when a regulatory impact assessment relating to legislation is being prepared.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how the Department for Education and Skills' settlement for the years covered by the comprehensive spending review period announced in the 2007 Budget will be divided between its two successor Departments. [153364]

Andy Burnham: Full details of the settlements for all Departments, including those involved in Machinery of Government changes, will be announced in the comprehensive spending review.

Departments: Railways

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by his Department on first class train tickets in the last 12 months. [153171]

Angela Eagle: For details of the Department's expenditure on travel and subsistence in 2006-07 I refer to the answer to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) given on 25 July 2007. Of this expenditure, £285,219 was on first class rail travel.

All travel and subsistence is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Code, Travel by Ministers and the Civil Service Management Code.

This figure includes most, but not all, first-class train travel by HMT staff. We do not hold central records of train tickets bought with corporate credit cards or for which paper claims are submitted. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Emigration

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many British emigrants there were from the United Kingdom aged between *(a)* 0 to 16, *(b)* 16 to 25, *(c)* 26 to 35, *(d)* 36 to 45, *(e)* 46 to 55, *(f)* 56 to 65 and *(g)* over 65 years in each of the last five years; [155119]

(2) how many non-British European Union emigrants there were from the United Kingdom in each of the last five years, broken down by country of origin; [155120]

(3) how many British emigrants there were from the United Kingdom in each of the last five years, broken down by country of destination; [155121]

(4) how many non-European Union emigrants there were from the United Kingdom in each of the last five years, broken down by country of origin. [155122]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 September 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to respond on behalf of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to your questions concerning:

i) How many British emigrants there were from the UK aged between (a) 0 to 16, (b) 16 to 25, (c) 26 to 35, (d) 36 to 45, (e) 46 to 55, (f) 56 to 65 and (g) over 65 years in each of the last five years;

ii) How many non-British European emigrants there were from the UK in each of the last five years, broken down by country of origin;

iii) How many British emigrants there were from the UK in each of the last five years broken down by country of destination;

iv) How many non-European emigrants there were from the UK in each of the last five years, broken down by country of origin.

The data are presented in the attached tables 1 to 4.

The Office for National Statistics uses the UN definition of an international migrant as someone who changes their country of usual residence for at least a year so that the country of destination effectively becomes the country of usual residence.

The specific details requested mean that estimates are only available based on International Passenger Survey (IPS) data. This means that these estimates exclude most asylum seekers, migration between the UK and the Irish Republic, and adjustments for those who change their intention about their length of stay in the UK, and hence their migrant status.

Table 1: International migration: estimates from the International Passenger Survey, time series 2001 to 2005, British emigration by age, United Kingdom

Thousand

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
All ages	133	164	170	184	174
0-15	15	15	18	17	20
16-25	27	38	32	34	29
26-35	38	42	44	51	47
36-45	26	31	40	29	40
46-55	13	20	15	24	14
Over 55	14	18	20	29	25

Note:
The 65+ age group has been combined with 56 to 65 as none of the 65+ values are statistically robust.

Table 2: International migration: estimates from the International Passenger Survey, time series 2001 to 2005, non-British European Union emigration by country of birth, United Kingdom

Thousand

Citizenship	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
European Union 15					
All countries of birth	40	42	42	31	31
European Union[1] (including UK)	36	40	40	29	30
Other countries	*4*	*2*	*3*	*1*	*1*
European Union 25					
All countries of birth	—	—	—	34	47
European Union[1] (including UK)	—	—	—	33	45
Other countries	—	—	—	*1*	*1*

[1] The 'European Union' grouping used in standard outputs exclude the UK because international migration must involve changes of residence between the UK and the rest of the world. However, the UK is included in this table because it contains data based on both citizenship and country of birth and there are a small number of British born emigrants who are non British-EU citizens.

Notes:
1. Estimates are provided by main country groupings as data for individual countries of birth are not sufficiently robust.
2. Full details of country groupings are available in the notes to tables section of International Migration Series MN no. 32 (http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=507)
2. Italicised estimates are not statistically robust (defined as standard error >30 per cent.) but have been included for completeness.

Table 3: International migration: estimates from the International Passenger Survey, time series 2001 to 2005, British emigration by top five countries of destination and broad country groupings, United Kingdom

Number (Thousand)

2001	
All countries	133
Top five countries	
Australia	31
United States of America	15
Spain	*15*
Germany	*13*
New Zealand	8
Broad country groupings	
European Union	41
Commonwealth	53
Old Commonwealth	47
New Commonwealth	7
Other Foreign	38
2002	
All countries	164
Top five countries	
Australia	27
Spain	24
United States of America	18
France	13
Netherlands	10
Broad country groupings	
European Union	68
Commonwealth	54
Old Commonwealth	44
New Commonwealth	10
Other Foreign	42
2003	
All countries	170
Top five countries	
Australia	36
Spain	33
France	18
United States of America	13
Germany	13

Table 3: International migration: estimates from the International Passenger Survey, time series 2001 to 2005, British emigration by top five countries of destination and broad country groupings, United Kingdom

	Number (Thousand)
Broad country groupings	
European Union	71
Commonwealth	63
Old Commonwealth	55
New Commonwealth	9
Other Foreign	35
2004	
All countries	184
Top five countries	
Australia	37
Spain	29
United States of America	16
New Zealand	15
France	15
Broad country groupings	
European Union	68
Commonwealth	73
Old Commonwealth	62
New Commonwealth[1]	12
Other Foreign	42
2005	
All countries	174
Top five countries	
Australia	34
Spain	29
France	27
New Zealand	15
United States of America	10
Broad country groupings	
European Union	74
Commonwealth	68
Old Commonwealth	62
New Commonwealth	6
Other Foreign	32

Notes:
1. Italicised estimates are not statistically robust (defined as standard error >30 per cent.) but have been included for completeness.
2. Full details of country groupings are available in the notes to tables section of International Migration Series MN no. 32 (http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=507)

Table 4: International migration, estimates from the International Passenger Survey, time series 2001 to 2005, non-European Union emigration by country of birth, United Kingdom

						Thousand
		2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
All		77	99	102	92	107
European Union (including UK)		4	4	5	6	3
Commonwealth	All	41	50	50	48	57
	Old Commonwealth	28	37	35	31	36
	Australia	16	17	15	15	15
	Canada	1	6	2	4	3
	New Zealand	6	10	8	5	8
	South Africa	5	4	9	7	10
	New Commonwealth	13	13	16	16	20
Other Foreign countries	All	33	45	47	38	48
	Other Europe	10	14	12	3	7
	United States of America	6	15	10	8	12
	Other America	2	2	3	3	6
	Middle East	2	3	1	2	2
	Other other foreign	13	11	20	23	20

Notes:
1. Italicised estimates are not statistically robust (defined as standard error >30 per cent.) but have been included for completeness.
2. Full details of country groupings are available in the notes to tables section of International Migration Series MN no. 32 (http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=507)

Employee Shares and Securities Unit: Standards

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of Form 42 applications that could not be received and processed by the Employee Shares and Securities Unit owing to a breakdown of a fax machine on 6 July; and what his latest estimate is of the number of fines that were imposed upon employers for late filing as a result. [154840]

Jane Kennedy: No estimates have been made by HMRC of the number of Form 42 annual employee share scheme returns that could not be faxed to the Employee Shares and Securities Unit by employers on 6 July 2007. Employers who have an obligation to send a Form 42 return to HMRC are asked to send it in by post or by making an online filing before 7 July following the end of the tax year.

No penalties have been imposed to date for Form 42 returns relating to the tax year 2006-07 made late that were submitted after the 7 July deadline.

Employment: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of disabled people who are employed (i) full and (ii) part-time. [153586]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 September 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions about the number and proportion of disabled people who are employed full-time and part-time. (153586)

The attached table shows the number and proportion of disabled people of working age who are in full or part-time employment for the three months ending March 2007. These estimates are not seasonally adjusted.

Estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Disabled[1] people of working age[2] either in full and part-time employment, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Three months ending March 2007	*Number (thousand)*	*Proportion (percentage)[3]*
In employment	3,473	49.6
of which:		
Full-time	2,427	34.7
Part-time	1,046	14.9

[1] Includes those who have a long-term disability which substantially limits their day-to-day activities and those who have a long-term disability which affects the kind or amount of work they might do.
[2] Includes men aged 16 to 64 and women age 16 to 59.
[3] Disabled people in employment including full and part-time as a percentage of all disabled people of working age.
Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Families

Mr. Allen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2141-43W, on families, what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the creation of financial instruments to enable expenditure to be made on early intervention funded by the later savings to be made from having done so; and if he will make a statement. [152966]

Andy Burnham: The Chancellor has not commissioned or evaluated any specific research into the creation of financial instruments to enable expenditure in this area. However, to inform the comprehensive spending review, the Joint HM Treasury-DCSF review "Aiming high for children: supporting families", part of the Children and Young People review, was published in March 2007. It set out the Government's strategy for building resilience, support for those who need it most, and early intervention. The review committed the Government to increased resources for Sure Start, parenting support, and other early intervention measures.

Family Records Centre

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether a public search room in Central London will be provided should the proposed closure of the Family Records Centre in Islington in April 2008 go ahead; and whether a change in the law is required before this facility may be withdrawn; [153732]

(2) what measures will be implemented following the proposed closure of the Family Records Centre in Islington in April 2008 to meet the needs of customers with learning disabilities and people who do not have English as their first language; [153733]

(3) whether the Registrar General complied with her duty to consult *(a)* staff and *(b)* their representatives in connection with the proposed closure of the Family Records Centre in Islington in April 2008. [153734]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Registrar General, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 September 2007:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions asking (i) whether a public search room in Central London will be provided should the proposed closure of the Family Records Centre in Islington in April 2008 go ahead; and whether a change in the law is required before this facility may be withdrawn; (ii) what measures will be implemented following the proposed closure of the Family Records Centre in Islington in April 2008 to meet the needs of customers with learning disabilities and people who do not have English as their first language and (iii) whether the Registrar General complied with her legal duty to consult in connection with the proposed closure of the Family Records Centre in Islington in April 2008 (a) staff and (b) their representatives. (153732, 153733, 153734)

The General Register Office will not provide a public search room in Central London following the closure of the Family Records Centre. The Births & Deaths Registration Act 1953 requires the Registrar General to make available a public index for birth, marriage, death and civil partnership but does not state a geographical location. There is therefore no requirement to change legislation.

The National Archives at Kew have copies of the GRO indexes on microfiche and between April 2008 and March 2009 will be provided with copies of the Adoptions and Civil Partnership indexes and the most recent birth, deaths and marriage indexes.

GRO provides assistance through its call centre staff in Southport for people with learning disabilities to provide advice and guidance in obtaining the required certificate. The call centre uses Language line where necessary for customers who do not have English as their first language. The provision of these facilities is not changing.

I can confirm that I have met my obligations in relation to consultation with staff and their representatives on the closure decision.

Financial Services: VAT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken in respect of infringement proceedings instigated against the United Kingdom by the European Union regarding the UK's refusal to allow businesses from outside the European Union in the financial services and insurance industries to reclaim value-added tax incurred on goods and services from UK suppliers; and if he will make a statement. [154841]

Jane Kennedy: The Government believe that UK VAT legislation in this area properly implements EU VAT Directives. The legislation also conforms with a clear decision of the UK Court of Appeal on the meaning of the relevant EU law. The UK will therefore contest the infringement proceedings.

HM Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will require the HM Revenue and Customs Tax Credit Office to respond to the

correspondence from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs. Shukri Artham. [154928]

Jane Kennedy: The Chairman of HM Revenue and Customs wrote to my right hon. Friend about his constituent on 3 September 2007.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall, North of 24 July on a constituent, PO Ref 3/02553/2007; and what the reasons are for the time taken to reply. [155018]

Angela Eagle: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall, North of 4 July on a constituent, PO Ref 5/02306/2007; and what the reasons are for the time taken to reply. [155020]

Jane Kennedy: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Pensions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the cost to the Exchequer of pension contribution holidays since 1985. [154826]

Kitty Ussher: Pension contribution holidays cause no direct loss in tax revenue to the Exchequer.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 24 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1010-1W, for what reasons it is not permissible for more than 25 per cent. of the total of a private pension to be drawn in cases where the total of the pension rights are larger than one per cent. of the lifetime allowance. [154873]

Kitty Ussher: The Government provide pensions tax relief to support saving to produce an income in retirement. These reliefs include the ability to take up to 25 per cent. of a pension fund as a tax free lump sum, but it is right that the remainder should be used to produce an income throughout retirement.

Other savings vehicles such as ISAs are available for individuals to make additional savings for other purposes.

Personal Savings

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the underlying savings ratio was in the first quarter of 2007 excluding the contribution made to household pension funds; and if he will make a statement. [153481]

Kitty Ussher: The household saving ratio in 2007Q1 excluding the change in the net equity of households in pension fund reserves was 0.8.

Public Sector: Pensions

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to announce the Government's total accrued liability in relation to public service pension schemes as at March 2006. [147364]

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimates he has made of the reduction in the accrued liability for public service pensions if mandatory retirement ages were abolished. [148707]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Gentlemen to the answer the former Chief Secretary (Mr. Stephen Timms) gave on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 393W.

A new estimate will be published in the autumn.

Queen's Flight

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the new aircraft being purchased for the Queen's Flight. [152458]

Andy Burnham: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions on a wide variety of issues with organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. In line with the practice of previous administrations, this Government do not comment on the contents of these discussions. I refer the hon. Member to the press notice issued by the Department for Transport on 23 May concerning the procurement of the royal and ministerial air service.

Stamp Duties

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the average stamp duty paid by first-time buyers. [152853]

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average stamp duty paid by a first time buyer was in *(a)* each Government office region in England and *(b)* England in the last period for which figures are available. [153721]

Kitty Ussher: HMRC administrative systems do not identify whether a stamp duty land taxpayer is a first time buyer. It is not therefore possible to derive an estimate of the average stamp duty land tax paid by first time buyers. However, it is estimated that close to half of all first time home buyers are exempt from stamp duty land tax, taking into account the £125,000 starting threshold and the enhanced £150,000 threshold which is available in 2,000 disadvantaged wards.

Taxation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate *(a)* direct and *(b)* indirect taxes as a percentage of gross income for households with an income (i) lower and (ii) higher than (A) 95 per cent., (B) 99 per cent., (C) 75 per cent. and (D) 25 per cent. of all households; and if he will make a statement. [152707]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 September 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will estimate (a) direct and (b) indirect taxes as a percentage of gross income for households with an income (i) lower and (ii) higher than (A) 95 percent of all households, (B) 99 percent of all households, (C) 75 percent of all households and (D) 25 per cent. of all households. (152707).

Estimates of household income and related taxes are provided in the ONS analysis 'The effects of taxes and benefits on household income'. The latest analysis for 2005/06 was published on the National Statistics website on 17th May 2007 at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/taxesbenefits. The analysis is based on data from the Expenditure and Food Survey, which is a sample survey covering approximately 7,000 households in the UK.

Gross income includes income from wages, occupational pensions, self-employment income, investment income, and income from state benefits, all before tax. Direct taxes include income tax, national insurance contributions and council tax. The indirect taxes include VAT, duties, and a number of smaller items such as television licences. Indirect taxes also include intermediate taxes—these are indirect taxes paid by companies which are deemed to be passed onto households through the prices they pay for goods and services. A more detailed breakdown showing each of the different taxes appears in the annual article.

Indirect taxes, when expressed as a proportion of gross income, appear particularly high for those on lower income, although this result needs to be interpreted carefully. Estimates of indirect taxes are estimated based on household expenditure. It should be remembered that measured expenditure will not necessarily balance with measured income for the year. This is especially true for low income households where average measured income is significantly lower than average expenditure. For these households, indirect taxes (which reflect expenditure) are not being met solely from current income, and so indirect taxes are very high when expressed as a proportion of gross income.

There are a number of plausible reasons why for some households, expenditure might exceed income. Households with low incomes may draw on their savings or borrow in order to finance their expenditure. In addition, the lower income households in particular include some groups, who have, or report, very little income (for example, self-employed people starting a business or someone who has just been made redundant). In these cases, expenditure is not being met from current income. Some types of receipts are not included as income in the EPS e.g. inheritance and severance payments. In some cases, the information given on expenditure is not consistent with that on income received because of timing differences.

It is usually accepted that surveys have problems picking up data from extremely high income households. With the EPS having a sample of approximately 7,000 households, interpreting data for this high income group should be done with caution.

Taxes as a percentage of gross income[1]—United Kingdom, 2005-06

	Percentage
Indirect taxes[2]	
Income lower than 99% of all households	15
Income higher or equal to 99% of all households	7
Income lower than 95% of all households	16
Income higher or equal to 95% of all households	9
Income lower than 75% of all households	18
Income higher or equal to 75% of all households	11
Income lower than 25% of all households	25
Income higher or equal to 25% of all households	13
Direct taxes[3]	
Income lower than 99% of all households	20
Income higher or equal to 99% of all households	24
Income lower than 95% of all households	20
Income higher or equal to 95% of all households	26
Income lower than 75% of all households	17
Income higher or equal to 75% of all households	24
Income lower than 25% of all households	10
Income higher or equal to 25% of all households	22
Total taxes	
Income lower than 99% of all households	35
Income higher or equal to 99% of all households	31
Income lower than 95% of all households	36
Income higher or equal to 95% of all households	35
Income lower than 75% of all households	35
Income higher or equal to 75% of all households	35
Income lower than 25% of all households	35
Income higher or equal to 25% of all households	35

[1] Households are ranked by equivalised disposable income.
[2] Includes VAT, Vehicle Excise duty and taxes on tobacco, alcohol and hydrocarbon oil.
[3] Income tax, Employees' National contributions (Including tax relief at source on life assurance premiums) and Council tax and Northern Ireland rates after deducting discounts.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Taxation: Domicile

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fact-finding exercises were undertaken as part of the review of the residence and domicile rules launched in Budget 2002; and if he will make a statement. [151771]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 5 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1186W.

Valuation Office Agency: Freedom of Information

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) of 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1888W, on the Valuation Office Agency: Freedom of Information, what the subject was of each request made in 2006; and what the outcome was of each request. [150627]

Jane Kennedy: The main subject for the 211 Freedom of Information Act requests received in 2006 related to Local Taxation Work (160), District Valuer Services (36), Customer Services (5), Human Resources (3) and Miscellaneous (7). In 106 cases the Agency provided the information in full, in 36 cases in part, and in 23 requests the information was not held. In the remaining 46 cases the Agency declined to provide the information.

Valuation Office Agency: Rightmove

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Minister in which Department gave the authorisation for the contract between the Valuation Office Agency and Rightmove. [143665]

Jane Kennedy: The decision to proceed with the contract between Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (as parent department of the Valuation Office Agency) and Rightmove.co.uk Limited was taken by the VGA, in accordance with the delegated authority in Section 3 of its Framework Document (2005 Edition). Ministerial authorisation was not required.

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the contract between the Valuation Office Agency and Rightmove plc was signed. [143666]

Jane Kennedy: No contract exists between the Valuation Office Agency and Rightmove.

The contract between Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and Rightmove.co.uk Limited was signed by HMRC on 1 July 2005 and by Rightmove on 4 July 2005.

VAT: Uniforms

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the amount raised in 2006 from VAT on the sales of school uniforms. [155005]

Jane Kennedy: No such estimate has been made.

Welfare Tax Credits: Northamptonshire

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of tax credit assessments for claimants in Northamptonshire have involved under or over payment in the most recent year for which figures are available. [154967]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the number of overpaid and underpaid awards at local authority level in 2005-06 are published in "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards 2005-06. Supplements on Payments in 2005-06. Geographical Analyses". This is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

JUSTICE

Crime: Mentally ill

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research his Department has conducted into whether people with mental health problems who are *(a)* victims of crime and *(b)* witnesses of crime face particular difficulties when seeking access to justice. [152977]

Bridget Prentice: My Department has a research programme examining the experiences of vulnerable court users in both civil (including family) and criminal proceedings. One of the identified groups is individuals with mental health problems. Within this programme, we have commissioned two complimentary literature reviews, due for publication by 2008. One focuses on how people with mental health problems access and experience justice and the barriers they face. The other focuses more on the implementation and impact of legislation on individuals with mental health problems. These reports discuss, but do not specifically delineate between victims and witnesses.

During 2007 we expect to commission a 12-16 month project to determine how effectively the court system supports the complex and specific needs of individuals with mental health problems, learning disabilities or limited mental capacity. The focus will be on parties, victims and witnesses in both civil (including family) and criminal proceedings.

The Office for Criminal Justice Reform published a report on the evaluation of the use of special measures for Vulnerable and Intimidated Witnesses (VIWs), one of the criteria for which is having a mental disorder. The report found that VIWs were, and felt, better assisted than prior to the implementation of the special measures. But there continued to be a significant unmet need. However, there have been substantial developments in Government work relating to victims and witnesses since this piece of research was commissioned in 2000-01, which qualifies the conclusions of the study. The report has been placed in the libraries of the House and can also be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/rdsolr0106.pdf.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what support is available within the court process to assist people with mental health problems who are *(a)* victims of crime and *(b)* witnesses of crime. [152978]

Bridget Prentice: The Government have introduced 165 Witness Care Units, give £30 million annually to Victim Support including the Witness Service in every court and made improvements to court facilities which support all victims and witnesses of crime.

Under the statutory Code of Practice for Victims of Crime the police are obliged to identify vulnerable and intimidated victims and Witness Care Units are obliged to undertake a needs assessment to identify practical and emotional needs including special measures at trial.

The Government have introduced special measures for those witnesses (including victims who have to give evidence in court) who are vulnerable or intimidated. The definition of "vulnerable" in the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 includes any victim who

"suffers from mental disorder within the meaning of the Mental Health Act 1983"

"otherwise has a significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning",

"has a physical disability or is suffering from a physical disorder".

Special measures include live links, video recorded evidence-in-chief, screens so witnesses cannot be seen by the defendant and intermediaries for those with communication difficulties.

Crime: Victims

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the reasons are for the proposal to sub-contract statutory victim liaison work in the London probation area to outside contractors; and if he will make a statement. [155051]

Mr. Hanson: The Government are wholly committed to ensuring that a high quality service is provided to victims of serious crimes and to rebalancing the criminal justice system towards victims. The victim liaison service is a key part of delivering that commitment since it provides victims with both a means of being kept informed as the offender's sentence progresses and opportunities to make representations on issues relating to their safety in the event of the prisoner being released.

The Government value the public sector and believe it must continue to play a major role in probation services. However, all current providers should be open to challenge and be given the opportunity to demonstrate that the services they offer are the best available. The Offender Management Act 2007 has established probation trusts, accountable through contract to the Secretary of State. We have asked probation boards to consider whether other providers have the capability to deliver service improvements and to contract with those providers who can demonstrate a more effective use of resources. This approach will allow the probation boards and trusts to focus more effectively on the core activity of offender management, and bring other providers in to deliver other services where appropriate.

As part of the move to the competitive provision of services, probation boards have been given a target of contracting out 10 per cent. of their service budget by the end of 2007/08. The London Probation Board has been working closely with the Regional Offender Manager to identify the services most appropriate for this process, and victim liaison is an area of operation where it has been agreed that steps should be taken to develop the use of external providers.

If the decision is taken to contract out the service, the statutory responsibility, and accountability for service delivery, would remain with the London Probation Board. Consequently, the London Probation Board would be accountable for ensuring that any contractor delivered its statutory responsibilities to the high standard required.

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* business class and *(b)* first class flights in the last 12 months. [153031]

Bridget Prentice: It is not possible to list the costs spent on *(a)* business class and *(b)* first class flights by the Department in the last 12 months as the expenditure is not separately identifiable within the Department's accounts and may be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the "Ministerial Code" and "Travel by Ministers", copies of which are available in the Library of the House for the reference of Members. The Cabinet Office has recently published the annual list of Cabinet Ministers' overseas travel for 2006-07.

All official travel by civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the "Civil Service Management Code", a copy of which is also available in the Library of the House for the reference of Members.

Departments: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of people employed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are disabled. [153591]

Bridget Prentice: Tables 1 and 2 following show the total permanent staff and number of disabled staff employed by the former Department for Constitutional Affairs and its Agencies as at 30 September 2006, the latest published figures taken from the Office for National Statistics Civil Service employment statistics. Tables 3 and 4 show the total permanent staff and number of disabled staff currently employed by the Ministry of Justice and its Agencies as at 30 June 2007 taken from their respective internal Human Resource records. Published figures will be available in September 2007.

Table 1 shows the total permanent staff and number of disabled staff currently employed by the former DCA as at 30 September 2006.

Table 1

Depts and agencies	Declared disabled	Non-disabled	Not declared or non-response	Total	Percentage: Declared disabled	Percentage: Not declared or non-response
Department for Constitutional Affairs (excl. agencies)	100	1,510	510	2,120	4.6	24.1

Table 2 shows the total permanent staff and number of disabled staff employed by the former DCA Agencies as at 30 September 2006.

Table 2

Depts and agencies	Declared disabled	Non-disabled	Not declared or non-response	Total	Percentage: Declared disabled	Percentage: Not declared or non-response
HM Courts Service	630	17,160	4,310	22,090	2.8	19.5
Land Registry	540	7,670	60	8,270	6.5	0.7
National Archives	30	110	410	560	5.9	74.5
Public Guardianship Office	10	260	70	340	3.9	19.7
Tribunals Service	90	1,610	1,270	2,960	3.0	42.7
Scotland Office	0	50	20	70	0.0	32.4
Wales Office	n/a	50	10	60	n/a	17.2

Table 3 reflects the total permanent staff and number of disabled staff currently employed by the Ministry of Justice excluding its Agencies as at 30 June 2007.

Table 3

MOJ department	Total staff (headcount)	Disabled staff (headcount)	Percentage of disabled
Ministry of Justice (excluding Agencies)	2,139	97	6.14
Office for Criminal Justice Reform	247	6	3.40
National Offender Management Service	1,425	16	1.97
Corporate Services[1]	250	250	[2]
Total[3]	3,811	119	3.83

[1] An estimate for the staff transferring from the Home Office to the MOJ HQ corporate services is provided, as the exact figure of staff is not yet confirmed.
[2] Estimate.
[3] An average percentage of the total number of declared responses is provided excluding the estimate for corporate services.

Table 4 reflects the total permanent staff and number of disabled staff currently employed by the Ministry of Justice Agencies as at 30 June 2007.

Table 4

MOJ department	Total staff (headcount)	Disabled staff (headcount)	Percentage of disabled
HM Prisons Service	50,092	1,614	6.04
HM Courts Service	21,129	582	3.48
Public Guardianship Office	337	12	4.90
Tribunals Service	2,938	85	5.26
Scotland Office and Office of Advocate General	82	*	—
Wales Office	52	*	—
Land Registry	8,324	519	6.2
National Archives	591	30	5.08
Northern Ireland Court Service	748	32	5.85
Total[1]	84,293	2,874	5.25

[1] An average percentage of the total number of declared responses is provided excluding the Scotland Office and Office of Advocate General and Wales Offices. An asterisk (*) denotes a number below five (not added into total). Code of Practice does not follow figures to be published that would identify individuals. Where numbers are suppressed the percentages are not shown and are indicated by a dash (—).

Departments: Flowers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent by his Department on flowers in the last 12 months. [153030]

Bridget Prentice: It is not possible to list the costs spent on flowers by the Department in the last 12 months as the expenditure is not separately identifiable within the Department's accounts and may be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the name is of each special adviser in his Department. [153027]

Bridget Prentice: The names of the Secretary of State's special advisers are Mark Davies and Declan McHugh. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister will announce this information along with the pay band of each special adviser and the total pay bill cost of special advisers for the previous financial year in his annual written ministerial statement shortly.

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent by his Department on newspapers and magazines in the last 12 months. [153033]

Mr. Wills: My Department spent approximately £15,000 on subscriptions for newspapers and magazines in the last 12 months. This figure includes central purchases for courts, tribunals and offices. Costs of newspapers and magazines taken by the National Offender Management Service and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform are not included as they have yet to be transferred from the Home Office. Costs of subscriptions held locally by courts, tribunals and other business areas for which my Department is responsible can be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice to which periodicals his Department subscribes. [153034]

Mr. Wills: My Department holds subscriptions for the periodicals in the following list. Periodicals taken by the National Offender Management Service and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform are not included as the subscriptions have yet to be transferred from the Home Office. Details of subscriptions held locally by courts, tribunals and other business areas for which my Department is responsible, could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

Administrative Court Digest
Adoption and Fostering
Adviser
Amicus Curiae
Architect's Journal
Asylum and Nationality Law
Australian Law Journal
Australian Law Librarian
Barrister Magazine
Birmingham Post
Bookseller
Britain Today
British Tax Review
Building
Building Costs Information Service
Building Services Journal
Butterworths Family & Child Bulletin
Cambridge Law Journal
Caterer and Hotelkeeper
Centre For European Reform
Child and Family Law Quarterly
Civil Justice Quarterly
Community
Company Law Newsletter
Computers and Law
Construction Law Journal
Construction News
Construction Unit: Monitor
Counsel
Crash
Credit Today
Criminal Justice Matters
Criminal Law Week
Current Law Week
Daily Express
Daily Mail
Daily Record
Daily Star
Daily Telegraph
Design Week
Disability Rights Bulletin
Economic Trends
Economist
Edge
Electoral Studies
Employment Law Journal
Equal Opportunities Review
Estates Gazette
European Human Rights Law Review
European Intellectual Property Review
European Law Review
Eurosource
Evening Standard
Family Law Journal
Financial Times
Fire
Fire Safety Engineering
Firefighter
Freedom of Information Journal
German Times
Government Opportunities
Green's Employment Law Bulletin
Guardian
Health Service Journal
House Magazine
House of Commons Daily Hansard
House of Commons Sessional Information Digest
House of Commons Weekly Information Bulletin
House of Lords Daily Hansard
Human Rights Updater
IDS Brief
In House
Independent
Independent Lawyer
India Link International
Industrial Law Journal
Industrial Relations Law Bulletin
Info Regio
Inside Housing
Inside Times
Insolvency Intelligence
Intellectual Property Quarterly
International and Comparative Law Quarterly
International Family Law
International Journal Children's Rights
International Journal Evidence and Proof
International Journal of Constitutional Law
International Journal of Evidence and Proof
Internet Newsletter for Lawyers
IPU Review
IRS Employment Review
Journal of Business Law
Journal of Immigration
Journal of Intellectual Property Law and Practice
Journal of Judicial Administration
Journal of Law and Society
Journal of Legal History
Journal of Personal Injury Law
Journal of Personal Insolvency
Journal of Planning
Journal of Planning and Environmental Law
Journal of Private International Law
Journal of Social Security Law
Journal of Social Welfare and Family Law
Journal of the Law Society of Scotland
Judicial Review

Justice Journal
Justice of the Peace and Local Government Law
Landlord & Tenant Review
Law of Education
Law Quarterly Review
Law Society's Gazette
Lawyer
Legal Action Group Bulletin
Legal Business
Legal Executive
Legal Information Management
Legal Quarterly Review
Licensing Review
Litigation Funding
Litigation Letter
Litigation Practice
Lloyd's Maritime and Commercial Quarterly
London Gazette
Londoner
Magistrate
Magnet
Managing Information
Media Lawyer
Medical Law Review
Medical Litigation
Mirror
Modern Law Review
Morning Star
Muslim
National Geographic
National Institute Economic Review
Standard
New Law Journal
New Scientist
New Statesman
Official Journal (C series)
Overseas Trade
Parliamentarian
Parliamentary Affairs
Parliamentary Brief
Parliamentary Monitor
Payroll Managers Review
Personal & Medical Injuries Law Letter
Police Review
Practical Lawyer
Privacy Law and Business: International Newsletter
Privacy Law and Business: UK Newsletter
Privacy Laws and Business: International Newsletter
Private Eye
Professional Negligence
Property Law Journal
Property Week
Prospect
Public Expenditure
Public Law
Public Money and Management
Public Servant
Regional Metro
Regional Trends
Science In Parliament
Simon's Weekly Tax Intelligence
Socio-Legal Newsletter
Solicitors' Journal
Spectator
Statute Law Review
Sun
Sunday Mirror
Tax Journal
Taxation
Times
Tips & Advice Internet
Tribunals Journal
Tribune
Western Mail
Which? Magazine
Whitehall and Westminster World
Youth Justice

Departments: Railways

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent by his Department on first class train tickets in the last 12 months. [153032]

Bridget Prentice: It is not possible to list the costs spent on first class train tickets by the Department in the last 12 months as the expenditure is not separately identifiable within the Department's accounts and may be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the "Ministerial Code" and "Travel by Ministers", copies of which are available in the Library of the House for the reference of Members. All official travel by civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the "Civil Service Management Code", a copy of which is also available in the Library of the House for the reference of Members.

Departments: Redundancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent by his Department on redundancy payments in the last 12 months. [153038]

Bridget Prentice: Since its creation on 9 May 2007, the cost of redundancies (including voluntary redundancies) of staff leaving the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has been £2,283,840[1]. Prior to the MoJ, the Department for Constitutional Affairs was responsible for such costs. For the period 1 July 2006 to 8 May 2007 redundancy payments totalled £7,471,574.

This relates to 97 departures during this 12-month period, mainly resulting from a restructuring exercise undertaken in Her Majesty's Court Service aimed at streamlining the organisation and reducing management overheads. Wherever restructuring could not be achieved through natural wastage, particularly in the more senior grades, volunteers for early departure were sought to avoid the need for compulsory redundancies.

[1] This figure is for the period 9 May to 30 June 2007

Departments: Taxis

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent by his Department on taxis in the last 12 months. [153029]

Bridget Prentice: It is not possible to list the costs spent on taxis by the Department in the last 12 months as the expenditure is not separately identifiable within the Department's accounts and may be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the "Ministerial Code" and "Travel by Ministers", copies of which are available in the Library of the House for the reference of Members. All official travel by civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the "Civil Service Management Code", a copy of which is also available in the Library of the House for the reference of Members.

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* staff and *(b)* communication training in the last 12 months. [153036]

Bridget Prentice: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only by identifying individual staff training records for those staff that transferred from the Home Office prior to the creation of the Ministry of Justice on 9 May 2007 and would incur disproportionate cost.

During the financial year 2006-07, my former Department, the Department for Constitutional Affairs spent £2,192,701 on staff training which included communication training.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent by his Department on staff away days in the last 12 months. [153037]

Bridget Prentice: The responsibility for arranging staff away days in the Ministry of Justice is for each individual directorate and the costs are met from local budgets. Therefore, the information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Tribunals

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent by his Department on cases at industrial tribunals in the last 12 months. [153035]

Bridget Prentice: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost as costs would need to be obtained from a number of sources, including various internal costs along with Treasury Solicitor costs.

Kennet Prison

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of HM Prison Kennet's places are occupied by prisoners. [153479]

Bridget Prentice: As at 24 August 2007, 136 prisoners were held at HM Prison Kennet. The final operational capacity will be 347.

Legal Aid

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was paid in legal aid to Arani and Co solicitors in each of the last five years. [153622]

Bridget Prentice: The following table shows the gross amounts paid to the solicitor firm Arani and Co during each of the last five financial years for legal aid, as recorded centrally.

Financial year	*Legal aid (£)*
2002-03	225,000
2003-04	390,600
2004-05	295,000
2005-06	664,000
2006-07	770,000

The figures in the table are gross figures. They are inclusive of VAT at 17.5 per cent. and also disbursements where paid. The firm must pay the VAT to HM Revenue and Customs.

The total sum of payments received by a firm for legal aid work during any one year does not necessarily represent the value of the work carried out during that year. In particular, they are likely to include payments for work carried out in previous years.

Not all legal aid payments are recorded centrally in a way that can be readily attributed to individual solicitor firms. Also, not all payments made to solicitor firms are recorded in the database used to compile these figures. These include manual legal aid payments and payments made for proceedings in the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division and House of Lords.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) when he expects to answer the letter to him dated 9 July from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ben Taylor, Glaisyers Solicitors; [154980]

(2) when he expects to answer the letter to him dated 12 July from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs. K. Kerry. [155065]

Mr. Wills: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor replied to the right hon. Member on 6 September 2007. I apologise for the unacceptable delay.

National Offender Management Information System

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether it remains Government policy that the main C-NOMIS base release, encompassing full prison and probation functionality, will be available no later than July 2008. [155008]

Mr. Hanson: Following consideration by the National Offender Management Service Board a decision has been made to conduct a rapid review of

the NOMIS programme. This review will consider the affordability of the overall programme and will report to Ministers in the autumn with recommendations for a revised programme.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the National Offender Management Service first advised Ministers that a review of C-NOMIS was necessary. [155010]

Mr. Hanson: I was informed of the recommendations of the NOMS Board on 31 July. On receipt of that advice I requested additional information which was provided and discussed by me with a senior official on 3 August. At that meeting I agreed the review to consider the affordability of the NOMIS programme and commissioned an audit of decision making from inception to date.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what compensation or penalty payments will be due from firms involved in the C-NOMIS project should the project be scaled back. [155012]

Mr. Hanson: No compensation or penalty payments are being discussed.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on commissioning and procuring the C-NOMIS IT system; how much of that total sum has been spent *(a)* on outside agencies and consultants and *(b)* internally within the Department, broken down by the internal divisions, agencies and services within the Department, including the Prison Service, the Probation Service and the National Offender Management Service, that spent the money; and when C-NOMIS will be operational within (i) the Prison Service and (ii) the Probation Service. [155095]

Mr. Hanson: The total NOMS expenditure of £155 million to date can be split approximately 85 per cent. contractors, suppliers and consultants, with the remainder split across in-house civil service expenditure.

Following consideration by the National Offender Management Service Board a decision has been made to conduct a rapid review of the NOMIS programme. This review will consider the affordability of the overall programme and will report to Ministers in the autumn with recommendations for a revised programme. Decisions about the project including timescales will be made once this is considered.

National Offender Management Information System: Consultants

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which consultants were engaged to advise on the C-NOMIS project; and what the total committed cost of such consultants is to date. [155011]

Mr. Hanson: In answering this I include the costs for consultants and contractors. The contract to develop the C-NOMIS system is held by Electronic Data Systems (EDS). Other contractors involved include Syscon, Steria, Sungard, and Business Objects. Consultants who have advised on the project in the last year are PA Consulting, Gartners, Ernst and Young, and the internal governmental organisation, OGC. In addition Deloitte has given support to NOMS internal audit. The total expenditure of £155 million to date can be split approximately 85 per cent. contractors, suppliers and consultants, with the remainder split across in-house civil service expenditure

National Offender Management Information System: Finance

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much public money has been *(a)* committed and *(b)* expended on the C-NOMIS project. [155009]

Mr. Hanson: The original business case for the system was based on lifetime costs to March 2020 of £234 million and expenditure to the end of July 2007 was £155 million. I have instituted a moratorium on further development work while the review of the NOMIS programme is underway.

National Probation Service

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how the tiered modalities of the National Probation Service (punish, help, change and control) include the previous core activities to advise, assist and befriend. [154965]

Mr. Hanson: The statutory requirement to "advise, assist and befriend" was deleted from the relevant legislation when the Probation Order became the Community Rehabilitation Order under the 1991 Criminal Justice Act. To advise, to assist and to befriend are all inputs in probation work with offenders. In common with most of the public sector, the probation service has been more focused in recent years upon the outcomes of its efforts rather than the inputs.

The Criminal Justice Act 2003 (s 142) sets down five purposes of sentencing. Offender Managers—Probation Officers and Probation Service Officers—are charged with implementing sentences of the court in order to achieve the purpose or purposes defined by the court for any individual sentence passed. The Offender Management Model, which has been implemented for all offenders on community sentences and around 14 per cent. of offenders in custody, sets out the NOMS end-to-end case management approach. Within this approach, Offender Managers will select one of the four broad options for which the one-word labels—PUNISH, HELP, CHANGE and CONTROL—are a "shorthand".

The Offender Management Model itself describes what these labels mean in more detail. The terms PUNISH, HELP, CHANGE and CONTROL map well against the five purposes of sentencing set out in the Act. They each attract different workload allowances for the Offender Manager. The Offender Management Model describes a case management approach with a sound working relationship between an Offender Manager and an offender at its core. Advising, assisting and befriending are approaches an Offender Manager might use in that relationship,

depending on the needs and learning style in each case, in order to achieve the outcomes sought from the sentence, but advising, assisting and befriending are no longer viewed as the objectives of probation work.

Prison Officers Association: Trade Unions

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many members of the Prison Officers' Association national committee were promoted while holding trade union office in each of the last three years; who was responsible for authorising their promotion in each case; and if he will make a statement. [153678]

Bridget Prentice: No members of the POA National Executive Committee have been promoted while holding trade union office in the last three financial years.

Prison Sentences

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders were *(a)* sentenced to serve custodial sentences and *(b)* released from prison (i) in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available, (ii) in each week in *(A)* 2006 and *(B)* 2007 and (iii) on each day in 2006. [153480]

Mr. Wills: Information on the numbers of prisoners received into all prison establishments in England and Wales between 1996 and 2005 can be found in the following table:

Receptions 1997-2006 prison establishments England and Wales

	Receptions under immediate custodial sentence[1]
1997	80,832
1998	85,908
1999	90,238
2000	91,195
2001	90,523
2002	93,615
2003	92,245
2004	93,326
2005	90,414
2006	87,996

[1] Total sentenced receptions, excluding fine defaulters (taken from table 7.2 of the Offender Management Caseload Statistics) Figures 1997-2005 have been published in Offender Management Caseload Statistics; 2006 figure is soon to be published

For each week in 2006, the number of sentenced receptions ranges between 1,200 and 1,900. The average number of sentenced receptions per day in 2006 was around 300. For each week in 2007 between January and July, the number of sentenced receptions ranges between 1,300 and 1,900.

There are quality problems with the data on sentenced prisoners finally released from prison which mean that we do not have a consistent series to compare with receptions. We expect to have reliable data for 2007 in early 2008. In general, weekly discharges were around 1,400 to 2,400 in 2006 and 1,200 to 2,000 between January and July 2007.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prison Service: Manpower

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers there were in the UK in each year since 1996; and how many are currently in post. [154881]

Mr. Hanson: The available information provided in the table relates to prisons in England and Wales. Information about prisons in Scotland and Northern Ireland is the responsibility of the Scottish Executive and Northern Ireland Office respectively.

Officer grade staff in public sector Prison Service and Contracted Prisons in England and Wales[1,2,3,4]

As at 31 March	*Officers*
1996[5]	24,593
1997	23,058
1998	23,602
1999	24,113
2000	24,346
2001[5]	24,023
2002[5]	23,681
2003	24,527
2004[5]	25,461
2005[5]	26,246
2006	26,747
2007	27,053
31 July 2007[6]	27,222

[1] Figures include both publicly and privately managed prison establishments but not secure training centres.
[2] Figures are provided on a headcount basis, i.e. a part-time officer counts as one.
[3] Figures relate to prison officers, senior officers and principal officers within the public sector Prison Service and prison custody officers within contracted prisons.
[4] Officers employed within public sector Prison Service Headquarters are included.
[5] Data for private sector prisons are not available for 1996 and incomplete for 2001, 2002, 2004 and 2005.
[6] Data are not available for private sector prisons. The total as at 31 March 2007 has been used as a best estimate of the figure as at 31 July 2007.

Prison Service: Pay

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the starting salary of a prison officer was in 1997 in *(a)* monetary and *(b)* real terms; and what the starting salary of prison officers was as at 1 September. [155000]

Mr. Hanson: Prison officer starting salary was £14,791 in 1997 and £17,744 on 1 September 2007. A new entrant prison officer on starting salary in 1997 will have received increases in the period 1997 to 1 November 2007 to take them to £27,530, an increase of 86.1 per cent. in monetary terms and 58.6 per cent. in real terms.

Prison Service: Public Appointments

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether there has been a race impact assessment of the HM Prison Service policy on managed appointments; and if he will make a statement. [153658]

Bridget Prentice: No impact assessment on the HM Prison Service managed appointments policy has been undertaken. The list of the functions and policies considered to be relevant to the general statutory duty to promote race equality is kept under regular review, and the latest programme of areas for impact assessment is reflected in the Prison Service Associate Race Equality Scheme Annual Report.

Prisoner Release: Young People

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many juvenile criminals *(a)* asked for and *(b)* received help to resettle on release from imprisonment in each of the last five years. [154910]

Mr. Hanson: The Ministry of Justice and the Youth Justice Board do not hold the exact information requested but figures are available on the number of young people released from custody as part of the Detention and Training Order (DTO). This has been the main custodial sentence for young people since April 2001 and will make up the majority of young people released from imprisonment. The DTO has been designed so that half of the sentence is served in custody and the other half under supervision in the community. The aim of the DTO is to provide a clear focus on planned and constructive use of time spent in custody and effective supervision and support after release. This includes a strong emphasis on training and rehabilitation throughout.

The number of young people on a Detention and Training Order released to the community from custody is available for the last four financial years. These are as follows:

	Number
2003-04	5,151
2004-05	5,245
2005-06	5,574
2006-07	5,544

All of these young people will have received rehabilitative programmes that will assist in their resettlement back into the community.

Prisoners

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many new prison places have *(a)* been made available and *(b)* been put out of use since 21 July 2006; and in which prisons these places were located. [153478]

Bridget Prentice: From 1 August 2006 to 31 July 2007, a total of 2,537 places were made available and 1,053 places were taken out of use at the following prisons in England and Wales:

Albany
Altcourse
Ashfield
Bedford
Belmarsh
Blundeston
Brockhill
Camp Hill
Chelmsford
Cookham Wood
Dartmoor
Deerbolt
Doncaster
Downview
Durham
East Sutton Park
Everthorpe
Featherstone
Forest Bank
Foston Hall
Frankland
Full Sutton
Garth
Gloucester
Grendon
Guys Marsh
Haslar
Hindley
Holloway
Hull
Huntercombe
Kennet
Kingston
Kirkham
Lancaster
Leeds
Lincoln
Lindholme
Liverpool
Long Lartin
Low Newton
Lowdham Grange
Maidstone
Moorland Open
Mount
Norwich
Nottingham
Onley
Parc
Parkhurst
Pentonville
Peterborough
Portland
Prescoed
Preston
Reading
Risley
Rye Hill
Send
Shrewsbury
Spring Hill
Stafford
Stoke Heath
Styal
Swansea
Verne

Wandsworth
Wellingborough
Wetherby
Whatton
Winchester
Wolds
Woodhill
Wormwood Scrubs
Wymott

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average number of people sent to prison was in each year since 1996. [154882]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the total number of first receptions into prison establishments in England and Wales in each year from 1996-2005.

	Number
1996	119,009
1997	124,168
1998	130,962
1999	134,316
2000	128,866
2001	130,934
2002	135,820
2003	135,042
2004	132,961
2005	132,058

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Rehabilitation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners, sentenced to indeterminate sentences for public protection, are accommodated in prisons which do not run the rehabilitative programmes such prisoners are required to complete before they can be considered for release. [154933]

Mr. Hanson: A review undertaken in August 2007 indicated that approximately 120 prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection (IPPs) were in prisons which do not provide accredited offending behaviour or drug treatment programmes. This equated to approximately 4 per cent. of the IPP population and includes those newly sentenced and waiting allocation. The situation will of course change daily as prisoners move. Whether an individual requires a programme, and if so, which programme, will depend upon the assessment of their risk and needs. Not all prisons provide the same programmes.

Re-offenders

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the two-year reconviction rates were in each year since 1995 in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* South East England and *(c)* Kent. [154915]

Mr. Wills: The table shows the available figures for the two year re-offending rate for adult offenders in England and Wales in the first quarter of each year. It shows the proportion of these offenders who committed a proven offence within two years of their release from prison or the commencement of a community sentence.

	Two year re-offending rate (percentage)
2000	57.6
2002	58.5
2003	57.6
2004	55.5

Figures for earlier years are not comparable with these data. Further information is available in the most recent Statistical Bulletin on adult re-offending which can be found at the following addresses:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb0607.pdf

No data are available at regional or county level.

Young Offenders: Custodial Treatment

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many places there are for under 18-year-olds in the prison estate; and how many such places are filled. [150914]

Mr. Hanson *[pursuant to the reply, 19 July 2007, Official Report, c. 590W]:* Unfortunately, two sets of figures in the table were inadvertently transposed. These were: the figures for places commissioned in secure training centres and places commissioned in secure children's homes; and those for places occupied in those establishments.

The corrected table is as follows:

Places commissioned, available and occupied in the secure estate for children and young people, 17 July 2007

	Young offender institutions	*Secure training centres*	*Secure children's homes*
Places commissioned	2,979	277	235
Places declared unavailable	72	0	0
Places available	2,907	277	235
Occupancy	[1]2,791	261	228

[1] Includes 356 over-18 year olds

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Drugs

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what technical methodologies were used in compiling the 2007 UN report on heroin production in Afghanistan. [155116]

Meg Munn: The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has not yet released the full Afghanistan Opium Survey for 2007 which will contain details of the methodology used. However, we believe this year's opium survey used similar methodology to that used in the 2006 survey. This is described in detail in the 2006 Opium Survey available at:

http://www.unodc.org/pdf/research/AFG05%20_full_web_2006.pdf.

The UNODC calculated opium poppy cultivation by use of a sampling approach that combined interpretation of satellite imagery with field surveys on the ground. In order to estimate opium yield per hectare, the UNODC measured both the size of opium capsules and the density of cultivation.

The 2006 Opium Survey stated that the extent of heroin production is more difficult to establish, as opium in Afghanistan is primarily exported to foreign markets, where it is subsequently processed into heroin. Additionally, heroin laboratories, by their nature, are clandestine.

Cambodia: Politics and Government

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support the *(a)* UK, *(b)* EU and *(c)* UN has pledged to aid the bringing to trial of those involved in the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia; and when he expects talks on procedural issues to be resolved. [143224]

Meg Munn: *[pursuant to the reply, 18 June 2007, Official Report, c. 1473W]:* I regret that an inaccurate answer was given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Makerfield (Mr. McCartney) the then Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department of Trade and Industry to part of the hon. Member's question. The answer given states that the UK has contributed £1.5 million to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia. In fact, to date, £1 million has been contributed. Further payments will be made this year.

Coalition Information Centre

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the *(a)* history and *(b)* role of the Coalition Information Centre. [155112]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Member for Harlow (Bill Rammell) then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to my hon. Friend the Member for Nottingham, North (Mr. Allen) on 9 July 2003, *Official Report*, columns 816-817W.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) if he will place in the Library all documents *(a)* sent to and *(b)* sent from the Coalition Information Centre between August 2002 and September 2002 on (i) the preparation and (ii) the drafting of the September 2002 Iraq dossier; [155113]

(2) if he will make a statement on the role of the Coalition Information Centre in *(a)* the preparation and *(b)* the drafting of the September 2002 Iraq dossier (i) prior to 9 September 2002 and (ii) since 9 September 2002. [155115]

Dr. Howells: The circumstances surrounding the drafting of the Government document 'Iraq's Weapons of Mass Destruction—the Assessment of the British Government', published on 24 September 2002, were set out extensively in the evidence to the inquiry by Lord Hutton published on 28 January 2004. During his inquiry, Lord Hutton had access to all documents he wished to see.

I explained the position further in response to the hon. Member's questions on this issue during the recent debate in Westminster Hall on 13 June, *Official Report*, columns 293-296 WH.

Departments: Location

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whom he has consulted on the proposed move of the FCO Legalisation Office; and what effect he anticipates such a move will have on the costs applied to users. [155048]

Meg Munn: A final decision has yet to be taken on the relocation of the Legalisation Office. Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) met with a large group of around 40 representatives from a cross-section of the Legalisation Office's customers in the FCO on 3 July. The background and reasons why the Legalisation Office needed to be moved from its current location were discussed in great detail. An option of moving the Legalisation Office to Milton Keynes was raised and attendees at the meeting were given the opportunity to comment on the proposal. As a result of the views expressed at this meeting, the record of which has been shared with those in attendance and others, and subsequent smaller meetings with other interested parties, such as the Confederation of British Industry, further consideration is being given to the available options.

Until a decision on where the Legalisation Office will be based has been taken, the costs to users cannot be determined. However, any new fees would be in accordance with HM Treasury guidelines.

Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people have been appointed to his Department outside Civil Service grades in the last 30 days. [153041]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not hold central records of staff recruited outside the civil service grades on short-term contracts for particular projects. To collate this information would incur disproportionate cost.

The FCO publishes information annually on appointments to the public bodies for which it is responsible. Data for 2006-07 were published on 9 May in the FCO departmental report.

Departments: Temporary Accommodation

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's staff posted overseas are *(a)* living in temporary accommodation and *(b)* living in tents in each country. [154903]

Meg Munn: Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff are sometimes required to live in temporary or special accommodation in exceptional circumstances. At present in Iraq and Afghanistan we have 36 staff in accommodation based on factory-converted freight containers, and 28 staff in small, hardened concrete, accommodation units. It is expected these will remain

in use for the foreseeable future. We also have one officer currently living in a tent within a UN compound in Juba, Sudan. Our embassy in Khartoum is actively seeking secure permanent accommodation for this officer.

Ethiopia: Human Rights

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on alleged on-going human rights abuses in Ethiopia. [154825]

Meg Munn: The Government treat with concern any allegations of human rights abuses, wherever they occur.

We closely monitor the human rights situation in Ethiopia, in consultation with our international partners. The UK raises its concerns on human rights with the Ethiopian Government at regular opportunities, including at senior levels. We shall continue to do so.

Most recently, our Ambassador in Addis Ababa raised concerns about the human rights situation in the Ogaden region of Ethiopia with Ethiopian Ministers during August. My noble Friend the Minister with responsibility for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, has also raised concerns about the human rights situation in Ethiopia with the Speaker of the Ethiopian Parliament, when he visited the UK in July, and, during August, with the Ethiopian Ambassador to the UK.

In the Ogaden region of Ethiopia, we understand that a UN assessment team will provide an appraisal of the current situation there after visiting the region. We look forward to this assessment.

The Government welcome the pardoning of the political opposition leaders in Ethiopia who were recently convicted of serious crimes. This move should help create the conditions for improved political dialogue in Ethiopia, including the human rights situation.

European Constitution Treaty

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received on the decision by the Government not to hold a referendum on the EU Treaty; and if he will make a statement. [154829]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, on which the Government proposed a referendum is now defunct. The mandate for a Reform Treaty agreed by the European Council states clearly:

"The constitutional concept, which consisted in repealing all existing Treaties and replacing them by a single text called "Constitution", is abandoned."

The subject of a referendum on the proposed Reform Treaty has been discussed on many occasions, including in parliamentary debates, questions and evidence sessions. The UK's only ever national referendum was on European Economic Community membership in 1975. The Reform Treaty will be an amending Treaty in the tradition of Maastricht, Amsterdam and Nice, none of which were subject to a referendum in this country.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) whether declarations attached to the draft EU Constitution are legally binding on EU institutions; [154957]

(2) whether the UK will be seeking any alterations to the draft EU Constitution in the course of the inter-governmental conference; [154958]

(3) whether the Government has sought advice from the European Court of Justice (ECJ) as to the justiciability of the draft EU Constitution by the ECJ; [154960]

(4) if he will list all legal advice the Government has received on the draft EU Constitution. [154961]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, on which the Government proposed a referendum is now defunct. The mandate for a Reform Treaty agreed by the European Council states clearly:

"The constitutional concept, which consisted in repealing all existing Treaties and replacing them by a single text called "Constitution", is abandoned."

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the progress of the inter-governmental conference as soon as the House returns following the summer recess. [154959]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government are committed to keeping Parliament fully informed of the progress of the inter-governmental Conference (IGC), including during summer recess. I will give evidence to the Foreign Affairs Committee on 12 September. In a letter to the European Scrutiny Committee on 31 July my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said that:

"All IGC papers which are not classified or circulated in confidence will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and forwarded to the Committee Clerks for information. Where there is any uncertainty over a document's status we will press the Council Secretariat and Presidency for permission to share it with Parliament."

To date, all IGC papers have been circulated.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to hold a referendum on the EU Reform Treaty. [155016]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, on which the Government proposed a referendum is now defunct. The mandate for a Reform Treaty agreed by the European Council states clearly:

"The constitutional concept, which consisted in repealing all existing Treaties and replacing them by a single text called "Constitution", is abandoned."

The UK's only ever national referendum was on European Economic Community membership in 1975. The Reform Treaty will be an amending Treaty in the tradition of Maastricht, Amsterdam and Nice, none of which were subject to a referendum in this country.

Krishna Maharaj

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on developments relating to the clemency application of Krishna Maharaj; and what further steps his Department intends to take. [154976]

Meg Munn: Further to the letter sent by my right hon. Friend the Member for Makerfield then the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department of Trade and Industry of 22 May to the governor of Florida in support of Krishna Maharaj's clemency petition, our consul in Orlando attended Mr. Maharaj's clemency waiver hearing on 9 August.

The Aides to the Florida Clemency Board granted a waiver which means his clemency case could be heard by the full clemency board, including Governor Crist, as early as December. We welcome this decision and remain in close contact with Mr. Maharaj's legal team about the full consideration of his clemency plea by the Florida Clemency Board.

We continue to offer appropriate consular assistance to Mr. Maharaj and our consul in Orlando last visited him on 24 August.

Nigeria: Capital Punishment

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations on behalf of the 18 Nigerian men in the state of Bauchi charged with sodomy and who potentially face deaths by stoning. [154823]

Meg Munn: The charges of sodomy against the 18 Nigerian men in the state of Bauchi, Nigeria, have been replaced with charges of indecent behaviour and vagrancy, for which the death penalty would not be given. Our high commission in Abuja followed the trial closely and discussed the case with the accused men's defence counsel and local non-governmental organisations, whose view was that making representations might be counter productive now that the charges had been reduced. Consequently no representations were made but we shall continue to monitor the case.

Occupied Territories

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last made representations to the Israeli government on the building of settlements on the West Bank. [154838]

Meg Munn: The UK continues to make clear that settlements are illegal under international law and settlement construction is an obstacle to peace. The Roadmap makes clear that Israel should freeze all settlement construction including the "natural growth" of existing settlements, and dismantle all outposts built since 2001. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary is in regular contact with his Israeli interlocutors on a number of issues concerned with advancing the Middle East Peace Process. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, together with his EU counterparts, expressed concern at the continued settlement activity in the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council conclusions on 23 July.

Our ambassador in Tel Aviv raised our concerns about Israeli settlement activity with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 28 August.

Pakistan: Blasphemy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what further representations has he made in the case of Younis Masih who was sentenced to death in Pakistan for blasphemy. [154824]

Meg Munn: Together with our EU partners, we most recently raised our concerns over the number of blasphemy cases and convictions—including the case of Younis Masih—with the Government of Pakistan in late June 2007. We also expressed our hope that the Government of Pakistan would take appropriate measures to protect effectively the rights of all minorities. The UK's opposition to the death penalty in all circumstances is well known.

Palestinians: Entry Clearances

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reason members of the Palestinian under-19 football team were refused visas to travel to the UK. [155058]

Meg Munn: The members of the Palestinian under-19 football team were refused entry clearance to the UK for the reasons stated on their refusal notices. Under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998 UKvisas is unable to disclose details of individual applications.

In reaching these decisions the entry clearance officers (ECOs) at our consulate-general in Jerusalem considered the applicants' circumstances and reasons for visiting the UK. An entry clearance manager reviewed the ECOs' decisions and was satisfied that they were in accordance with the immigration rules.

Sudan: Embassies

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to acquire a suitable property for British embassy staff to live and work from in Juba. [154904]

Meg Munn: We want to upgrade the living and office accommodation of the British representation in Juba as soon as possible. Despite the difficulties of finding a suitable property in Juba, our embassy in Khartoum is actively pursuing options to secure improved accommodation.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs following the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, if he will *(a)* create a consulate general and *(b)* increase the numbers of British embassy staff in Juba, southern Sudan. [155041]

Meg Munn: We have no plans to establish a consulate in Juba, but we are currently reassessing our representational needs in southern Sudan and will keep the level of staffing and the status of our representation there under review.

Yuan Weijing

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Chinese government over the detention of the Chinese justice campaigner, Yuan Weijing. [154906]

Meg Munn: My noble Friend the Minister with responsibility for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, raised immediate concern for the well-being of Yuan Weijing when he met Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Yesui during his visit to Beijing on 28-30 August. We continue to monitor this case.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 18 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 357W, what the reasons are for the reduction in funding for the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service in recent years. [152221]

Mr. Timms: BERR provided the level of funding required for ACAS to achieve its objectives. The annual budget was supplemented by Investment Funding of £15.2 million for efficiency savings for the three years from 2005-06 and Capital Funding of £1.2 million for 2005-06, £1.0 million for 2006-07, and £1.0 million for 2007-08.

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department plans to take to offset the loss of trade for independent human resources advisers if the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service is enlarged to provide free dispute resolution services to small and medium-sized enterprises as outlined in the Success at Work consultation document; and if he will make a statement. [153439]

Mr. Timms: At present ACAS has a statutory duty in certain circumstances to provide conciliation services for employment disputes before they become tribunal claims. The Government have recently consulted on whether ACAS should be given more capacity to provide such services. The Government will publish its response to the consultation in the autumn. That response will take into account the potential impact on independent advisers of any expansion of ACAS's activity in this area.

Bank Services: Fees and Charges

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he plans *(a)* to regulate and *(b)* to assess the viability of the regulation of penalty bank charges by legislative means. [152904]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 26 July 2007]:* The OFT is already investigating the fairness of charges on current accounts under the Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations, and is also carrying out a market study into current account pricing. The Government have no plans at present to introduce further regulation given the current OFT work. It will be for the OFT to take or recommend any action in the light of its findings.

Chemicals: Health Hazards

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the presence of harmful chemicals in household items; and if he will make a statement. [151746]

Mr. Thomas: The Department has not commissioned or evaluated any specific research on the presence of harmful chemicals in household items.

The safety of products containing chemicals is governed by the Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations 2002, which is administered by the Health and Safety Executive. These regulations require that manufacturers identify the dangers of products containing chemicals and package them safely. If hazardous, the product must be labelled with warning symbols indicating the dangers and with phrases explaining the dangers and how to use the product safely.

The Department administers the General Product Safety Regulations 2005, which implement the EC general product safety directive (2001/95/EC). These regulations apply to all consumer products that are not covered (and to the same extent) by specific safety legislation. The regulations require that manufacturers ensure that products present the minimum risk compatible with the product's use and that they are accompanied by appropriate warnings and instructions for use.

Chemicals: Regulation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to introduce legislation to control the use of chemicals in household products; and if he will make a statement. [153748]

Mr. Thomas: The safety of household products containing chemicals is governed by the Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations 2002, which is administered by the Health and Safety Executive. These regulations require that manufacturers identify the dangers of products containing chemicals, classify them under an EC-wide classification system and package them safely. If the product contains hazardous chemicals it must be labelled with the appropriate warning symbols indicating the hazards and with phrases explaining the dangers and how to use the product safely.

In those cases where correct labelling and packaging of products is insufficient to reduce the risks adequately, restrictions on the marketing and use of dangerous chemicals used in household products are

introduced under European Directive 76/769/EEC and its amendments. The Department has put in place legislation implementing a number of these directives which has had the effect of restricting or prohibiting the marketing and use of approximately 1,000 chemicals, or groups of chemicals, in household products.

The Department also administers the General Product Safety Regulations 2005, which implement the EC General Product Safety Directive (2001/95/EC). These regulations apply to all consumer products that are not covered (and to the same extent) by specific safety legislation. The regulations require that manufacturers ensure that products present the minimum risk compatible with the product's use and that they are accompanied by appropriate warnings and instructions for use.

Conditions of Employment

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which elements of the 2004 Warwick Agreement have been implemented by the Government. [153527]

Mr. McFadden: The final report of Labour's National Policy Forum in July 2004 formed part of the May 2005 general election manifesto. The Government remain committed to fulfilling their manifesto over the course of this Parliament.

Departments: Air Conditioning

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on the hire of mobile air conditioning units in each of the last five years. [151935]

Mr. Thomas: I am unable to answer the question in respect of the Department's HQ Estate as the information is not held in an easily retrievable format and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The agencies spent £3,700 on hiring mobile air conditioning units in 2006, but nothing in the four previous years

Departments: Catering

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of *(a)* beef, *(b)* sheep meat, *(c)* pork and *(d)* dairy products used in his Department in the most recent period for which figures are available were imported products. [150795]

Mr. Thomas: The information requested is as follows:

	Imported (percentage)
Meat and poultry	
Poultry meat	0
Beef and veal	0
Mutton and lamb	0
Pork	0
Diary	
Whole eggs (i.e. in shells)	0
Fresh milk (e.g. whole, semi skimmed, skimmed)	0
Cheese	5

Departments: Flowers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent by his Department on flowers in the last 12 months. [153131]

Mr. Thomas: The Department has spent £675 on flowers in the last 12 months.

Departments: Industrial Disputes

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department's employment dispute resolution procedures involve a mediation stage. [150861]

Mr. McFadden: The Department's employment dispute resolution procedures involve a voluntary mediation stage.

Departments: Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many press officers are employed by his Department. [153135]

Mr. Thomas: 12 press officers are employed by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and two press officers are employed by UK Trade and Investment.

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what legislative provisions introduced by his Department's predecessor since 1997 have not yet been brought into force. [149562]

Mr. Thomas: The information is in the following table:

Act	*Provisions not yet in force*
Competition Act 1998	Section 1(a)
Employment Rights (Dispute Resolution) Act 1998	Section 4
Petroleum Act 1998	Schedule 4 paras 8, 10, 11, 13, 34 and 40
Employment Relations Act 1999	Schedule 7, para 4(6)
	Schedule 9, Parts 1 and 8

Act	*Provisions not yet in force*
Electronic Communications Act 2000	Sections 1 to 6
Postal Services Act 2000	Schedule 9 of section 80 of the Post Office Act 1969 in so far as it extends to the Bailiwick of Guernsey
Utilities Act 2000	Section 20(7)
	Section 75
Employment Act 2002	Section 28(4)
	Section 30(1),(2) and (4)
	Section 44
Communications Act 2003	Sections 272 to 274
	Section 299(1)
	Sections 299(3) and 299(4)
	Section 300
	Section 401
	Section 409
	Schedule 6 (which has been repealed)
	Schedule 12, paras 5 and 6
	Schedule 17, para 133(2)
Energy Act 2004	Section 89 (for the purposes of defining "relevant place" (other than where that term is used in section 93), "generate", "system" and "premises" in the Electricity Act 1989)
	Sections 90 to 92
	Section 139
	Section 140(1)
	Section 180
	Schedule 23, Part 2, para 1, 3
Consumer Credit Act 2006	Section 5(1) to (4), (7) and (10)
	Section 3 for remaining purposes
	Section 4 for remaining purposes
	Section 23
	Section 26
	Section 27
	Section 28 for remaining purposes
	Sections 29 to 33
	Section 34
	Section 35 for remaining purposes
	Section 36 for remaining purposes
	Sections 37 to 58
	Section 62
	Section 64
	Section 69(1) insofar as it relates to paras 18 to 28 of Schedule 3
	Section 70 for remaining purposes
	Schedule 1, paras 1 to 10 and 12 to 16
	Schedule 3, paras 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26 to 28
	Schedule 4 for remaining purposes
Work and Families Act 2006	Sections 3 to 10
	Section 11(2) and (3)
	Schedule 1
	Paras 1 to 5, 10 to 15, 16(2), 17 to 20, 22, 24 to 30, 35 to 61
Companies Act 2006	Some of the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 are already in force but the majority are not. Each of the provisions remaining to be brought into force is scheduled to be brought into force on one of the following dates: 1 October 2007, 6 April 2008 or 1 October 2008.
Consumers, Estate Agents and Redress Act 2007	Whole Act except sections 60 to 62 and 65 to 67.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what legislative provisions introduced by his Department's predecessors since 1997 have been repealed. [149563]

Mr. Thomas: The information is as follows:

Act	*Provisions repealed*
Competition Act 1998	Section 4
	Section 5
	Section 7
	Sections 12 to 16
	Section 17
	Section 20 to 24
	Section 32(2)
	Section 33(2)
	Section 41
	Section 48
	Section 53
	Section 55
	Section 56
	Sections 66 to 70
	Section 73(7)
	Schedule 1 paras 3 and 6
	Schedule 2
	Schedule 3 para 2
	Schedules 4 to 6
	Schedule 7 para 2(1)(a), (3)(a) and (4), 4, 6(5),7(4) and 10
	Schedule 8 paras 1, 4 and Part II
	Schedule 9 paras 2 to 4, 6 to 7,
	Schedule 10 Part I, para 2 and Parts IV and V
	Schedule 11
Employment Rights (Dispute Resolution) Act 1998	Section 13

Act	*Provisions repealed*
	Section 14(1)
	Section 17(4)
	Schedule 1 , para 19, 21, 23 and 26
Fossil Fuel Levy Act 1998	Whole Act
National Minimum Wage Act 1998	Section 8
	Section 23
	Schedule 2
	Amendments relating to the remuneration etc of Agricultural Workers
	Part 1 :The Agricultural Wages Act
	Para 4: sub-para (1)
	Para 5, Para 6, para 7: sub-para (2)
	Part 2: The Agricultural Wages (Scotland) Act Para 15
Petroleum Act 1998	Schedule 4: paras 8, 10, 11, 13, 34, 40
	Schedule 5: the repeals of the Employment (Continental Shelf) Act 1978, of section 287(5) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1 992, and of section 201(5) of the Employment Rights Act 1996
Wireless Telegraphy Act 1 998	Whole Act
Employment Relations Act 1999	Section 10(6)
	Section 17
	Section 18(5)
	Section 28(1) and (2)
	Section 33(1) and (3)(a)
	Section 37(2)
	Section 40
	Schedule 4, paras 4, 6, 7, 13, 14, 15(a), 17 to 30 31 (a) 37, 40, 41
	Schedule 6, paras 2, 3, 5(2), 7(3), (4), 9, 10(2), 11(2), 14, 15(2), 16(2)
	Schedule 8 paras 2, 4, 6, and 7
Electronic Communications Act 2000	Sections 1 to 6
	Section 11
	Section 12
Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2000	Section 10(2)
	Schedule, para 1
Postal Services Act 2000	Section 20
	Schedule 7 sub-paras 3(2)(h) and 3(2)(1)
Utilities Act 2000	Section 20(7)
	Section 75

Act	*Provisions repealed*
	Schedule 8: the repeals of or in the Gas Act 1986 (sections 5(1), (2), 7A(12), 8A(1), 36(1), (2)(a), (c), (d) Schedule 2A, Schedule 2B, paras 7(2), 8(2)(b), 8(4) to (6), 8(8) and 9(5) the Consumer Protection Act 1987 and the Gas Act 1995, section 3(2), Schedule 1 and Schedule 3.
Regulatory Reform Act 2001	Whole Act except section 13(1)(b) and (2), the definition of "the 1994 Act" in section 14 and section 15(1) and (2).
Employment Act 2002	Section 5
	Section 6(2)(a)
	Section 18
	Section 41
	Schedule 6
	Para 1 (a), (b), 9, 10 Schedule 7
	Paras 3, 26(3), 33(3), 48(2), 49(3), 52
Enterprise Act 2002	Section 39(2),
	Section 40(1),(2),(8)(b)
	Section 51(2)
	Section 52(1),(2)
	Section 53(2)(c)
	Section 69
	Section 121(2)(b),(4)(c)(i), (10)
	Section 168(3)(a),(4)(a) and (i),(5)(d)
	Section 191
	Section 194(5)
Office of Communications Act 2002	Section 2
	Sections 4 to 6
	Paras 1(4), 8(5), 17(8) and (9) and 20 of the Schedule
Communications Act 2003[1]	Sections 152 to 163
	Sections 165 to 184
	Sections 393 (1)(b) and 393(5)(a), (b) and (1), 394(2)(c)
	Section 404 (4)(b) and (c)
	Section 404 (5)
	Section 407
	Section 410(1)(b)
	Schedule 1, paras 1 and 2 Schedule 5
	Schedule 6
	Schedule 7
	Schedule 8, paras 13 to 36
	Schedule 17, paras 6 to 18, 23, 24, 26, 32 to 38, 46, 64 to 69, 72 (2), 145 to 151, paras 175(2) and 175(3)
	Schedule 18, paras 6, 20,21, 23(1)(c)(i), 23(2), 55, and 63
	Schedule 19, Notes 1 and 3

Act	*Provisions repealed*
Companies (Audit, Investigations and Community Enterprise) Act 2004	Sections 1 to 13,
	Sections 19 and 20
	Section 37(4)
	Section 39(4)
	Section 40(8)
	Section 40(9)
	Section 54(1), (4) and (9)
	Schedule 1
	Schedule 2 (Parts 1 and 2 and paras 22 to 24 and 26 of Part 3)
	Schedule 6 (paras 1 to 9)
	Schedule 7 (para 5(1)
Energy Act 2004	Section 89 (other than for the purposes of defining "relevant place" where that term is used in section 93 of the Energy Act 2004)
	Sections 90 to 92
	Section 139
	Section 140(1)
	Section 180
	Schedule 23, Part 1, the repeals in the Pipe-lines Act 1962, the Gas Act 1986, section 4(1)(b) of the Electricity Act 1989 and the Petroleum Act 1998

[1] Many of the sections repealed in the Communications Act have been reinserted into the new consolidated Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006.

Departments: Marketing

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he has received any complaints about the new name of his Department being interpreted by some computers as a database error; and if he will make a statement. [151780]

Mr. Thomas: I have received no such complaints.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he is considering any change to the name of the Department to prevent interpretation of the name as a database error by some computers; and if he will make a statement. [151781]

Mr. Thomas: I am not considering any change of name for my Department.

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants within his Department's areas of responsibilities in the last 12 months. [149060]

Mr. Thomas: £969,303 was spent on overnight accommodation for civil servants within this Department's areas of responsibilities in the last 12 months (July 2006 to June 2007). This includes both UK and overseas overnight accommodation.

These data are obtained from the Department's hotel booking agent and its travel agent. The figures will not include any accommodation bookings made outside of these arrangements as this information is not centrally captured.

Departments: Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many people aged *(a)* over 55 years of age and *(b)* over 60 years of age have been recruited by his Department in each of the last three years; and what percentage in each case this is of the number of new recruits in each year. [145699]

Mr. Thomas: The following table provides the requested recruitment information. The data refer to external recruits to the Department and do not include transfers from other Government Departments.

	New recruits over 55 years of age		*New recruits over 60 years of age*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2004	9	6	2	1
2005	11	8	1	0.7
2006	9	7	1	0.8

Departments: Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last three years; and at what total cost. [146979]

Mr. Thomas: The former Department of Trade and Industry awarded non-consolidated bonuses in two formats:

(a) Special bonuses to recognise performance in particularly demanding tasks or situations. Staff in receipt of a special bonus may also receive an annual performance award.

(b) Annual performance awards paid for highly successful performance as part of the annual pay award.

Based on the information available the number of staff receiving these awards in the last three years and total amount of bonuses for which this information can be provided is in the following table.

	Special bonuses		*Performance awards*			
Financial year[1]	*Number of staff receiving*[2]	*Total value (£)*	*Number of staff receiving*[2]	*Total value (£)*	*Total value (£)*	*Percentage of pay bill*
2004-05	1,261	498,592	1,274	1,563,180	2,061,772	1.18
2005-06	1,237	572,902	1,257	1,808,630	2,381,532	1.39
2006-07	919	491,669	1,286	2,532,180	3,023,849	1.81

[1] Financial year running from 1 April to 31 March.
[2] Data presented as number of staff awarded bonuses, rather than number of bonuses awarded (as stated in the question) based on the latest data available.

Note:
The special bonuses and performance awards for non-SCS staff are paid on a non-consolidated, non-pensionable basis and do not increase the Department's pay-bill costs each year. For the SCS the Senior Salaries Review Body determines the level of expenditure to cover bonuses.

Departments: Postal Services

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what volume of correspondence his Department sent *(a)* by Royal Mail and *(b)* by other commercial delivery services in each of the last five years; and what the reasons were for the use of other commercial delivery services. [150442]

Mr. Thomas: The information is tabled as follows:

Outgoing 1st/2nd Class Royal Mail Volumes from: DTI HQ Buildings

	Number
2002-03	426,301
2003-04	526,654
2004-05	341,761
2005-06	271,396
2006-07	194,831

Royal Mail Special Delivery Items

	Number
2002-03	2,117
2003-04	2,189
2004-05	1,499
2005-06	1,543
2006-07	1,911

Royal Mail International

	Number
2002-03	16,449
2003-04	10,799
2004-05	9,848
2005-06	7,393
2006-07	5,824

Royal Mail Same Day Courier Service Consignments[1]

	Number
2004-05	3,074
2005-06	2,941
2006-07	2,536

[1] Other commercial delivery services used at present are Parcelforce for UK timed next day/48-hour courier services and Lewis Day Transport for international courier services.

Parcelforce Consignments[1]

	Number
2004-05	4,636
2005-06	5,910
2006-07	4,664

[1] Figures recorded from beginning of current contracts. Prior information not available.

Lewis Day Consignments[1]

	Number
2004-05	513
2005-06	853
2006-07	824

[1] Figures recorded from beginning of current contracts. Prior information not available.

Other service providers include Government Mail and FCO Diplomatic Bag which I would not class as commercial delivery services.

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent by his Department on newspapers and magazines in the last 12 months. [153128]

Mr. Thomas: The Department's expenditure on newspapers and magazines in 2006-07 was £100,115.

Departments: Publicity

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the cost-effectiveness of advertising commissioned by his Department and its predecessor in the last 12 months. [148688]

Mr. Thomas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 279W.

Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will bring forward proposals to allow contractors employed by his Department to apply for internal job vacancies advertised within his Department; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [152989]

Mr. Thomas: In common with other Government Departments, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform recruits its staff within the Framework laid down by the Civil Service Order in Council 1995 and the Recruitment Code issued by the Civil Service Commissioners. This sets out the legal basis for our recruitment policies and practice. The principles and the Code are mandatory and must be followed when any post is opened to competition from outside the civil service. One of the fundamental principles of the Code sets out that external appointments must be made on merit on the basis of fair and open competition.

Any contractors in my Department who have been recruited though this method may apply, subject to relevant skills and competencies, for internally advertised job vacancies.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much the Department paid in fees to recruitment agencies for *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent staff in each year since 1997. [151667]

Mr. Thomas: It is not possible to identify from the Department's accounting system, how much the Department paid in fees to recruitment agencies for *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent staff in each year since 1997. This information can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Redundancy Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent by his Department on redundancy payments in the last 12 months. [153123]

Mr. Thomas: The cost of redundancies (including voluntary redundancies) of staff leaving the former DTI (now the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform) during the 12 months to 30 June 2007 was £16.49 million.

Departments: Taxis

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent by his Department on taxis in the last 12 months. [153132]

Mr. Thomas: The DTI spent £349,075 during the 12 month period 2006-07. This figure includes taxi spend in both the UK and overseas. To obtain more up to date figures would entail disproportionate cost.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Departments: Travel

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent by his Department on first class train tickets in the last 12 months. [153129]

Mr. Thomas: The Department spent £1,264,527 on first class train tickets during the 12 month period 2006-07. To obtain more up to date figures would entail disproportionate cost.

First class rail travel entitlement is part of the terms and conditions of service for staff in senior grades within the senior civil service. However all staff are encouraged to travel standard class where appropriate and should take advantage of discounted or other cost effective travel options which may be available (e.g. special offers, day returns) wherever practical. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* first class and *(b)* business flights in the last 12 months. [153130]

Mr. Thomas: The amount spent on first class and business flights for the 2006 calendar year was:

	£
(a) First Class Flights	173,035
(b) Business Class Flights	2,584,247

The figures include both UK and overseas flights.

To obtain up to date figures would entail disproportionate costs.

Domestic Appliances: Standards

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to improve international manufacturing standards, with particular reference to the energy efficiency of household appliances. [153306]

Mr. Timms: The Government are committed to working closely with industry including manufacturers, retailers and service providers to encourage them to manufacture, procure and sell more energy efficient products.

Examples of this work include the Market Transformation Programme, the Retail Environmental Sustainability Expert Group and our work with the European Commission on the development of further measures for improving Ecodesign for Energy-using Products.

In addition, the Government's Energy White Paper published on 23 May 2007 proposed a policy package to raise product standards with the potential to save up to 3MtC by 2020. The White Paper also announced proposals in consumer electronics. For example, we are aiming to reduce the stand-by power requirement of new TVs by 85 per cent. by 2015, compared to today's average.

Electronic Equipment: Exports

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* fridges, *(b)* washing machines, *(c)* cookers, *(d)* televisions, *(e)* video recorders, *(f)* computers and monitors and *(g)* other items of household electrical equipment were exported from the UK in each of the last five years; and how many items of each type of equipment were exported to each country in each year. [151933]

Mr. Thomas: Detailed information is published by HM Revenue and Customs in their Overseas Trade Statistics and at their website

www.uktradeinfo.com.

The following table shows recorded figures for the value and numbers of exports for selected standard international trade classification (SITC) codes.

	77521		*77511*		*69731 & 77586*		*761*		*76381*		*75220 & 75230*	
SITC	*Value*	*Number*	*Value*	*Number*	*Value*	*Number*	*Value*	*Number*	*Value*	*Number*	*Value*	*Number*
2002	23.9	0.4	20.4	0.1	241.8	4.9	619.6	9.0	186.9	90.9	2,795.7	7.4
2003	28.0	1.5	24.1	0.2	222.7	4.4	582.0	5.3	164.8	3.3	2,669.0	3.9
2004	30.2	0.4	35.1	0.2	161.8	2.5	806.2	6.3	198.2	2.4	2,427.6	3.6
2005	41.5	1.5	55.0	1.1	155.8	1.8	798.0	6.8	225.3	2.0	2,434.6	4.1

	77521		77511		69731 & 77586		761		76381		75220 & 75230	
SITC	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number
2006	48.7	0.8	59.1	0.4	146.2	2.0	1,071.0	10.1	395.5	3.1	2,979.6	10.6

Notes:
These SITC codes represent:
77521: refrigerators, household type (electric or other), whether or not containing a deep-freezer compartment.
77511: household or laundry-type washing machines (including machines which wash and dry), each of a dry linen capacity not exceeding 10 kg.
69731: domestic cooking appliances (e.g. kitchen stoves, cookers etc.) and plate warmers, non-electric, of iron or steel.
77586: microwave ovens, other ovens, cookers, cooking plates, boiling rings, grillers and roasters.
761: TV receivers (including monitors and projectors) whether or not incorporating radio receivers or recording/reproducing apparatus.
76381: video recording or reproducing apparatus, whether or not incorporating a video tuner.
75220: digital automatic data processing machines containing in the same housing at least a CPU and an input and output unit, whether or not combined.
75230: digital processing units, whether or not presented with rest of a system or containing one or two of: storage, input, output units.

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate his Department has made of the number of distributors of electronic equipment who are not in a distributor take-back scheme or offering a take-back yourself service; and if he will make a statement. [149076]

Malcolm Wicks: All retailers of electrical and electronic equipment are obligated to offer in store take-back unless they are members of the distributor takeback scheme. Over 2,500 retailers have joined the scheme—accounting for more than 75 per cent. of EEE retailing by sales.

The Department will be working with the enforcement agency to ensure that distributors are meeting this obligation. Free-riding will not be tolerated, and a robust process will be in place to serve notice and ultimately prosecute distributors who are unwilling to become compliant.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many council recycling centres *(a)* have and *(b)* do not have a partnership with a manufacturer's scheme for waste electrical and electronic equipment; and what estimate has been made of the cost to councils of the facilities to collect and recycle and the running of civic amenity sites necessary for the implementation of the waste electrical and electronic equipment directive. [151736]

Malcolm Wicks: Around 75 per cent. of local authorities have or are finalising agreements for clearance of their sites by producer compliance schemes. We expect all local authorities to have reached agreements with schemes in the next couple of months. Where agreements are not yet in place, local authorities can arrange for any waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) they separately collect to be treated by approved authorised treatment facilities, and then recover their costs via the settlement centre.

Local authorities are receiving between £6,000 to £9,000 per civic amenity site to finance any additional site improvements needed to accommodate separate WEEE collection areas. This is in addition to monies already provided to make site changes in advance of the introduction of the Hazardous Waste Regulations in July 2005. The costs of running civic amenity sites are covered by the local government settlement and no specific allocation has been made for WEEE collection as part of the settlement.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much has been spent by his Department on *(a)* advertising and promotional activities relating to and *(b)* the implementation of the waste electrical and electronic equipment directive. [151934]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has spent around a quarter of a million pounds on communications and awareness raising activities since the final consultation on the draft WEEE regulations began in July 2006.

The estimated costs of implementing the waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) directive are set out in the final regulatory impact assessment which was published when the WEEE Regulations were laid on 12 December 2006.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the Government has set aside contingency funds for any fines likely to result from failure to meet the deadlines of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive. [153749]

Mr. Timms: The UK Government make every effort to avoid incurring any fines in respect of the late transposition of European Commission directives. The waste electrical and electronic equipment directive has now been implemented in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. It is considered very unlikely that the UK will be subject to any fines.

Employment: Industrial Disputes

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many employment disputes were presented to tribunals in each of the last five years; and what estimate he has made of the number of cases which were settled before tribunal. [151873]

Mr. McFadden: The number of claims presented to employment tribunals is provided in the Tribunals Service (Employment) annual reports, available from Tribunals Service website. The Department has no information on the number of employment disputes that are privately settled before a tribunal claim is made.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how his Department defines *(a)* conciliation, *(b)* mediation and *(c)* arbitration for the purpose of guidance on employment disputes; and if he will make a statement. [151891]

Mr. McFadden: The terms in question are not defined in statute. They describe various forms of third-party intervention with the aim of resolving workplace disputes, but the nature of the processes to which each refers can differ according to whether they are being used in the context of collective or individual employment disputes.

Collective employment disputes

S210 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 states that:

(1) Where a trade dispute exists or is apprehended Acas may, at the request of one or more parties to the dispute or otherwise, offer the parties to the dispute its assistance with a view to bringing about a settlement.

(2) The assistance may be by way of conciliation or by other means, and may include the appointment of a person other than an officer or servant of Acas to offer assistance to the parties to the dispute with a view to bringing about a settlement.

Conciliation is a flexible process. It can be carried out in different ways according to the context of the dispute and the needs of the parties; although it always involves discussing the issues with both sides with a view to finding and recording a mutually acceptable solution. The distinguishing features of conciliation in collective employment disputes are that participation is voluntary for the parties; the conciliator's role is purely facilitative (i.e. he/she cannot formally recommend a solution or give any form of determination on the issues); and that a settlement reached in conciliation is not of itself binding in law (although on some substantive issues the outcome may be a change in employees' terms and conditions which may be incorporated into contracts of employment).

In practice, conciliation is always the first step in third-party collective dispute resolution. Only if a settlement cannot be achieved by this means will parties be encouraged to consider arbitration or mediation. Formal Terms of Reference must be agreed and drawn up before a dispute can be put to arbitration or mediation, and these are generally brokered with the assistance of a conciliator.

S212 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 states that:

(1) Where a trade dispute exists or is apprehended Acas may, at the request of one or more of the parties to the dispute and with the consent of all the parties to the dispute, refer all or any of the matters to which the dispute relates for settlement to the arbitration of

(a) one or more persons appointed by Acas for that purpose (not being officers or employees of Acas), or

(b) the Central Arbitration Committee.

The key distinguishing feature of arbitration in collective disputes is that the role of the arbitrator (in Scotland, the title is "arbiter") is to give a formal determination on the issues put before him or her. However, participation remains voluntary for the parties; and an arbitration decision is not of itself binding in law (although as with agreements reached in conciliation, the outcome can result in a change in employees' terms and conditions which may be incorporated into contracts of employment).

Neither in the 1992 Act nor any other employment legislation is there explicit mention of mediation. However, in the collective employment relations context this term refers to a variant of arbitration under which the third party makes formal recommendations rather than giving a determination. Parties entering into mediation are free to choose to accept, ignore, or use the recommendations to inform further negotiation. In other respects, the two are essentially indistinguishable.

Individual employment disputes

S211 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 states that:

(1) ACAS shall designate some of its officers to perform the functions of conciliation officers under any enactment (whenever passed) relating to matters which are or could be the subject of proceedings before an industrial tribunal.

The role of conciliation officers in individual rights claims is set out in S18 of the Industrial Tribunals Act 1996:

(2) Where an application has been presented to an industrial tribunal, and a copy of it has been sent to a conciliation officer, it is the duty of the conciliation officer

(a) if he is requested to do so by the person by whom and the person against whom the proceedings are brought, or

(b) if, in the absence of any such request, the conciliation officer considers that he could act under this subsection with a reasonable prospect of success,

to endeavour to promote a settlement of the proceedings without their being determined by an industrial tribunal.

S18(3) of the 1996 Act extends the conciliator's role to resolving certain individual disputes in which no claim has as yet been presented to an employment tribunal:

(3) Where at any time

(a) a person claims that action has been taken in respect of which proceedings could be brought by him before an industrial tribunal, but

(b) before any application relating to that action has been presented by him a request is made to a conciliation officer (whether by that person or by the person against whom the proceedings could be instituted) to make his services available to them,

the conciliation officer shall act in accordance with subsection (2) as if an application had been presented to an industrial tribunal.

Conciliation in individual rights disputes shares almost all the features of conciliation in collective disputes. The process is flexible and can be carried out in various ways according to the context and the needs of the parties, but will always involve discussing the issues with both sides with a view to finding and recording a mutually acceptable solution. Participation is voluntary for the parties, and the conciliator's role is purely facilitative (i.e. he/she cannot formally recommend a solution or give any form of determination on the issues). The critical difference, however, is that a settlement reached in the course of conciliation under S18 is legally binding in that it disposes of the claim(s) or potential claim(s) to the employment tribunal to which the terms of the settlement agreement refer.

The use of arbitration in individual disputes is confined to the Acas Arbitration Scheme, which was introduced as a result of provisions created by the

Employment Rights (Dispute Resolution) Act 1998 to provide a voluntary alternative to the employment tribunal for resolution of unfair dismissal disputes. The Scheme was introduced on 21 May 2001, initially only in England and Wales, and was extended to cover Scotland on 6 April 2004. Under the ACAS (Flexible Working) Arbitration Scheme (England and Wales) Order 2003, and analogous Scottish legislation, the Scheme was widened on 61 April 2003 to allow for referrals to arbitration in respect of claims or prospective claims under the Flexible Working Regulations 2003 which came into force on the same date.

The process of arbitration in individual disputes has much in common with that in collective disputes. Participation is voluntary for the parties. Independent arbitrators /arbiters are appointed by and paid through ACAS (but are not employees of that organisation) and give a formal determination on the issues put before them. However, in contrast to the situation in collective disputes, an arbitration decision under the statutory Scheme is binding in law, and effectively has the same force as a decision of an employment tribunal.

There is no direct parallel in individual dispute resolution for the directive form of mediation carried out in collective disputes. The term "mediation" is used in relation to the resolution of individual workplace disputes; but to describe quite different processes. Nor is the term used consistently by all commentators or practitioners. For instance, some take it to encompass all non-directive forms of third-party dispute resolution, while there are others who only use it in respect of interventions which apply certain techniques or practices. Neither these nor any of the other ways in which the term is presently used affords an entirely satisfactory definition, and so instead BERR has used the word "mediation" to describe any non-directive third-party individual dispute resolution other than that conducted by ACAS under SI 8 of the 1996 Act, which continues to be defined as conciliation. The difference between mediation and conciliation in individual rights claims therefore lies in the statutory context rather than the techniques or the identity of the provider.

Energy Supply

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the total amount of power, measured in gigawatt hours, produced in the UK by *(a)* coal, *(b)* oil, *(c)* gas and *(d)* nuclear power stations was in 2005-06; and if he will make a statement. [152928]

Malcolm Wicks: According to table 5.1 of BERR's latest "Energy Trends" publication (http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file40156.pdf), the total amount of electricity supplied in the UK during 2005-06 was as follows:

	GWh
(a) coal	136,670
(b) oil	5,540
(c) gas	143,730
(d) nuclear	75,000

Apart from renewables, it is the Government's policy not to target the proportion of electricity generated by different fuel types. These are commercial decisions for generators in a market framework designed to incentivise security of supply and carbon dioxide abatement.

Energy: France

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what new joint energy initiatives were agreed with President Sarkozy during his visit to France on 20 July 2007; and whether any additional resources have been committed to support the initiatives. [153482]

Malcolm Wicks: While my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and President Sarkozy did not endorse any new joint energy initiatives, they did agree to seek EU agreement for reduced rates of VAT for energy efficient products and energy saving materials. This would supplement existing UK VAT relief for the installation of certain energy-saving materials in houses and other residential accommodation, and the installation of certain renewable energy technologies.

Ethnic Groups: Equal Opportunities

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the effect of staff redundancies on the promotion of race equality; and if he will make a statement. [151874]

Mr. Thomas: A full diversity impact assessment covering race, disability, gender, sexual orientation, age and religion and belief is being completed. This contains considerable detailed analysis on the diversity and race profile of staff in the Department and those whose posts may be reduced as part of the restructuring of the Department. It is my intention that the diversity impact assessment will be published in December 2007.

The Department is committed to the promotion of diversity and to the achievement of the targets set out in the Diversity Strategy, including improvements in targets and culture change and to ensuring that relocation and restructuring proposals follow best practice in relation to diversity. During the current restructuring process, the Department has established a good and productive relationship with the trade unions through regular formal and informal consultations. The trade unions have acknowledged the high level of support offered to staff.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how his Department monitors staff and ethnicity data to identify any patterns of inequality or discrimination; and if he will make a statement. [151875]

Mr. Thomas: The Department's Diversity Statement includes the aim to have a workforce that reflects the diverse community we serve, and the commitment to value and make the best use of the diversity of talent in the Department so that our people fulfil their potential and create the conditions for business success.

Staff and ethnicity data are monitored in various different ways. These include:

monitoring and reporting to the Department's Diversity Steering Group.

review by the Cabinet Office and Peer Review as part of the monitoring of progress towards the targets in the Cabinet Office 10 point plan on diversity.

Diversity Impact Assessments of major internal policies.

monitoring and review of specific areas such as staff appraisal, recruitment and promotion rates and complaints in line with our commitments under the various Employment Duties.

consultation with staff network groups and the Departmental Trade Union Side.

The Department annually reviews progress against action plans detailed in the race equality scheme as part of the annual Departmental Report and legislation requires that the Secretary of State reviews and reports on the equality schemes every three years, the first of which is due in 2008. No departmental policies to date have been assessed as having adverse implications or demonstrating inequality or discrimination.

Floods: Compensation

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what criteria apply to the allocation of funds being made available by regional development agencies to businesses experiencing losses during the recent floods; and if he will make a statement. [153603]

Mr. Timms: Several Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) covering areas affected by the recent floods have set up schemes to assist recovery for businesses suffering losses. In most cases these take the form of grants of up to £2,500 available to small and medium enterprises applying for assistance.

Additionally, Yorkshire Forward has announced a scheme primarily for companies with more than 50 employees, offering grants of up to £100,000 with the amount available dependent on the number of employees. This scheme is intended to cover costs that will not be met by business continuity insurance. Under this scheme, companies with fewer than 50 employees will also be considered on a case-by-case basis for grants larger than £2,500.

Details are available on the RDA websites.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether farming businesses will be eligible for funds being made available to businesses which have suffered damage due to the recent flooding; and if he will make a statement. [153657]

Mr. Timms: Several Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) have set up schemes to provide small amounts of recovery support to businesses affected by the floods. These schemes operate under the European Commission's de minimis State Aid regulation. Aid under this regulation is restricted in the agricultural sector. RDAs can and are giving aid to agricultural businesses/farmers if they are involved in the processing and marketing of agricultural products (subject to certain exclusions) and for diversified businesses (farm shops, farm parks etc.).

The Government have great sympathy for farm businesses affected by the recent flooding. However Government policy is not to provide compensation for production losses.

Farmers have a wide range of successful risk and crisis management strategies at their disposal, including forward contracts, weather insurance, diversification and 'self-insurance' through saving and borrowing. An increasing number of farmers are making use of such tools and DEFRA is supporting their take up, by sponsoring risk and crisis management workshops in partnership with the industry.

Foreign Companies: Russia

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which companies trading within the UK are *(a)* owned and *(b)* controlled by Russian companies. [151547]

Mr. Timms: This information is not held by Companies House or UK Trade and Investment.

Fuels: Prices

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will assess, with reference to the experience of countries which have such a system, the merits of introducing in the UK a system of national fuel pricing. [153353]

Malcolm Wicks: Last year the Government carried out a full review of energy policy, culminating in a White Paper published in May this year. The Government continue to believe that fuel prices are best set through the interplay of supply and demand in an open, competitive and transparent market. Price signals which clearly reflect supply and demand conditions, including any local variations, are the most efficient way of bringing supply and demand together, through (for example) supply increase through investment in new supply capacity and demand reduction through investment in energy efficiency. Nationally regulated prices disguise these signals and may lead to waste, inefficiency and shortage as supplies fail to get to where they are most needed.

Homeworking

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate his Department has made of the number of people able to *(a)* work from home and *(b)* participate in flexible working; and what steps the Government are taking to allow more people to do so. [154818]

Mr. McFadden: The Department undertakes periodic surveys of flexible working, the most recent of which was the Third Work-Life Balance Employee Survey conducted in 2006. The research findings, published in March 2007, found that 90 per cent. of employees reported that at least one flexible working arrangement was available to them if they needed it—an increase from 85 per cent. in 2003. The survey also found that 23 per cent. of employees reported that working from home on a regular basis was available to them (an increase from 20 per cent. in 2003).

We are encouraging flexible working through the introduction of the right to request flexible working which was introduced in April 2003 for parents of young and disabled children. In April 2007 we extended this right to carers of adults. We also encourage flexible working through providing detailed guidance and promoting the benefits. The business.link.gov.uk website has a number of interactive tools. Both employers and employees can access the ACAS telephone helpline.

Housing: Standards

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what powers of entry trading standards officers have to domestic dwellings. [153518]

Mr. Thomas: The majority of trading standards legislation only gives trading standards officers powers of entry into premises that are being used for business purposes.

Trading standards officers may enter a residential property where it is also being used as a business premise. When entering premises that are a mix of domestic and business, it is common for trading standards officers to do so with a warrant and the presence of the police.

There are a few exceptions where trading standards officers may enter premises solely used as a dwelling, which generally relate to issues of health and safety or animal welfare.

Imports: ACP Countries

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what assessment he has made of the potential legal implications under the Cotonou Agreement of applying standard generalised system of preferences import duties on imports from Africa, Caribbean and Pacific non-least developed countries which are not in a position to enter into an economic partnership agreement with the EU by 1 January 2008; and if he will make a statement; [152088]

(2) what assessment he has made of the UK's responsibility under the Cotonou Agreement not to apply standard generalised system of preferences import duties on imports from Africa, Caribbean and Pacific non-least developed countries which are not in a position to enter into an economic partnership agreement with the EU by 1 January 2008; and whether he has taken legal advice on the matter. [152087]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government's 2005 position paper on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) states that

"The Commission should be ready to provide an alternative to an EPA at the request of any African, Caribbean or Pacific (ACP) country."

This remains our position. We would be very happy to consider and implement a WTO compatible alternative if put forward by any member of the ACP. However, the ACP have made it clear that they are committed to completing EPA negotiations by the end of this year and the UK Government consider it a priority to work with them towards that goal.

In the event that the deadline is not met in any of the regions, our position is that we would like to see arrangements which are least disruptive to ACP exporters and that do not leave the ACP any worse off than they are under current arrangements.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions have taken place with Capita on the outsourcing of miners' compensation claims to India. [154943]

Mr. Thomas: Capita made their initial proposal regarding off-shoring in 2006 since when detailed discussions have taken place with the Department. In reviewing the proposal, the Department was keen to ensure the stability of the Coal Health compensation process, taking into account the challenges associated with completing the compensation schemes over the next 18 months.

Industrial Disputes: Arbitration

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the average cost to *(a)* the Government, *(b)* the employer and *(c)* the employee of an employment dispute (i) resolved through an employment tribunal, (ii) resolved through mediation and (iii) in which mediation was unsuccessful. [151349]

Mr. McFadden: The most recent assessment of average costs of employment disputes to employers and employees carried out by my Department was the 2003 Survey of Tribunal Applications. The next such survey is scheduled for the first half of 2008. Information on costs to the Government is provided in the annual reports of the Employment Tribunal Service. Average costs are not available for those cases going to mediation, as the Department does not conduct research on mediation of employment disputes outside of the Employment Tribunal System.

Industrial Disputes: Mediation

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the annual costs of informing parties in employment disputes of their local mediation service. [150847]

Mr. McFadden: The Government have recently consulted on the introduction of a new advice service on dispute resolution, to provide impartial advice about different methods of resolving disputes. Such a service could encourage appropriate cases towards early mediation. We will publish our response to the consultation in the autumn. The Government's estimate of the costs of a new advice service was set out in the partial regulatory impact assessment published in the consultation paper in March 2007, copies of which were placed in the House Libraries.

Information Technology

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what support is offered to promote technology careers to those working in manufacturing sectors. [153305]

Mr. Timms: Government published "World Class Skills: Implementing the Leitch Review of Skills in England" on 18 July 2007. It sets out how Government will take forward the recommendations of the Leitch Review to ensure that manufacturing has a world class skills base to meet the challenges of technological advance. We will work closely with others to take forward the package Leitch has recommended including proposals for manufacturing.

Current support includes funding for Foundation Degrees and the Adult Apprenticeship Scheme to which the Learning and Skills Council has recently made available an additional £16.7 million. We have also established the National Skills Academy for Manufacturing which offers employers an opportunity to shape the content of skills training to meet the needs of the sector.

Insolvency

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many bankruptcy orders were made in each year since the implementation of the Enterprise Act 2002. [147074]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 11 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1542W.

Insolvency: London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many residents in each London constituency filed for bankruptcy in each of the last five years. [153641]

Mr. McFadden: Table 1 shows the number of bankruptcies in each London constituency derived from postcodes provided by bankrupt individuals.

Classifying bankrupts into geographic areas is done using the postcode that the bankrupt individual provides. The use of this in assigning an individual to a constituency is thus as reliable as the postcode information provided.

Table 1

	Bankruptcies				
Constituency	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Barking	17	46	44	59	125
Battersea	14	35	32	55	74
Beckenham	24	30	39	71	100
Bethnal Green and Bow	65	81	96	126	157
Bexleyheath and Crayford	27	42	35	68	74
Brentford and Isleworth	25	33	58	71	112
Brent East	25	19	28	44	77
Brent North	13	19	29	33	56
Brent South	9	30	34	35	64
Bromley and Chislehurst	16	23	43	71	115
Camberwell and Peckham	25	33	87	93	92
Carshalton and Wallington	32	33	59	74	119
Chingford and Woodford Green	16	16	30	53	80
Chipping Barnet	33	30	42	73	84
Cities of London and Westminster	55	64	86	105	120
Croydon Central	30	38	49	74	92
Croydon North	34	35	54	76	104
Croydon South	21	23	36	57	86
Dagenham	23	36	42	73	99
Dulwich and West Norwood	26	54	87	89	100
Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush	21	24	45	78	82
Ealing North	16	32	48	57	83
Ealing, Southall	29	26	37	57	74
East Ham	22	39	50	63	98
Edmonton	20	28	34	39	54
Eltham	29	26	46	77	95
Enfield North	22	26	45	41	79
Enfield, Southgate	24	22	40	40	54
Erith and Thamesmead	39	42	64	89	105
Feltham and Heston	19	29	62	82	90
Finchley and Golders Green	19	32	51	69	78
Greenwich and Woolwich	27	41	44	80	102
Hackney North and Stoke Newington	36	33	61	72	106
Hackney South and Shoreditch	22	43	68	123	159
Hammersmith and Fulham	41	37	76	96	102
Hampstead and Highgate	32	45	68	81	99
Harrow East	30	31	36	54	88
Harrow West	20	24	28	44	65
Hayes and Harlington	15	29	32	62	74
Hendon	33	32	42	73	88
Holborn and St. Pancras	18	60	75	121	165
Hornchurch	12	23	34	46	60
Hornsey and Wood Green	32	34	60	61	124

Table 1

Constituency	Bankruptcies 2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Ilford North	21	27	40	65	85
Ilford South	22	37	40	54	80
Islington North	32	23	70	92	113
Islington South and Finsbury	35	53	72	107	130
Kensington and Chelsea	36	59	86	89	114
Kingston and Surbiton	43	31	61	64	97
Lewisham, Deptford	16	24	40	68	93
Lewisham East	20	19	34	57	76
Lewisham West	16	27	35	55	69
Leyton and Wanstead	11	21	39	49	76
Mitcham and Morden	32	43	54	70	66
North Southwark and Bermondsey	34	52	67	116	130
Old Bexley and Sidcup	21	28	51	54	56
Orpington	24	27	41	77	97
Poplar and Canning Town	43	65	97	117	138
Putney	16	19	38	47	45
Regent's Park and Kensington North	53	64	82	131	147
Richmond Park	31	50	50	76	86
Romford	18	30	31	63	56
Ruislip-Northwood	14	22	24	50	59
Streatham	41	61	159	149	119
Sutton and Cheam	27	26	39	51	64
Tooting	18	33	23	38	45
Tottenham	22	28	53	74	93
Twickenham	46	29	49	52	83
Upminster	19	36	29	60	65
Uxbridge	18	23	27	51	69
Vauxhall	38	61	154	202	152
Walthamstow	12	27	42	56	90
West Ham	33	44	38	58	99
Wimbledon	11	21	37	37	39

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many residents in each London borough filed for bankruptcy in each of the last five years. [153642]

Mr. McFadden: Table 1 shows the number of bankruptcies in each London borough derived from postcodes provided by bankrupt individuals.

Classifying bankrupts into geographic areas is done using the postcode that the bankrupt individual provides. The use of this in assigning an individual to a borough is thus as reliable as the postcode information provided.

Table 1: Bankruptcies

Borough	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Barking and Dagenham	40	82	86	132	224
Barnet	85	94	135	215	250
Bexley	66	89	119	178	182
Brent	47	68	91	112	197
Bromley	64	80	123	219	312
Camden	50	105	143	202	264
City of London	2	5	6	7	10
City of Westminster	82	99	123	169	190
Croydon	85	96	139	207	282
Ealing	55	74	108	154	194
Enfield	66	76	119	120	187
Greenwich	77	90	121	190	250
Hackney	58	76	129	195	265
Hammersmith and Fulham	52	45	98	134	147
Haringey	54	62	113	135	217
Harrow	50	55	64	98	153
Havering	49	89	94	169	181
Hillingdon	47	74	83	163	202
Hounslow	44	62	120	153	202
Islington	67	76	142	199	243
Kensington and Chelsea	60	83	125	149	181
Kingston upon Thames	55	46	79	89	130
Lambeth	95	154	372	403	319
Lewisham	52	70	109	180	238
Merton	43	64	91	107	105
Newham	61	98	112	150	243
Redbridge	51	73	95	143	195
Richmond upon Thames	65	64	81	103	136
Southwark	69	107	182	246	274
Sutton	59	59	98	125	183
Tower Hamlets	102	131	169	214	249
Waltham Forest	31	55	96	134	216
Wandsworth	48	87	93	140	164

Nanotechnology

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to support the manufacturing of micro and nanotechnology. [153308]

Mr. Timms: The Government recognise that MicroNanotechnologies (MNT) have the potential to deliver enormous benefits for society and the economy from the development and manufacturing of new materials and devices, and are committed to supporting industry in harnessing the commercial opportunities offered by such new and emerging technologies, as outlined in our 10-year Science and Innovation Investment Framework, published in 2004.

The delivery mechanism for such support is now the Technology Strategy Board (TSB), which is a non-departmental public body reporting to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. The TSB,

comprising mainly experienced business leaders, identifies the new and emerging technologies critical to the growth of the UK economy into which government funding and activities can be directed.

Over the period 2005 to 2008, £320 million is available to businesses in the form of grants to support research and development in the technology areas identified by the TSB. This includes £90 million already invested in MNT via the following three mechanisms:

Collaborative R&D projects of which there are 49 so far with combined eligible project costs of £61 million and grant support totalling £35 million.

MicroNanoTechnology Centres of which there are 24 so far with a total budget of £172 million and grant support totalling £55 million. Of the 24 facilities, 10 fall specifically under the umbrella of "Nanofabrication".

The MicroNanoTechnology Knowledge Transfer Network, which was launched in May 2007 to take forward the work of the MicroNanoTechnology community.

Future decisions on technology and funding priorities will lie with the TSB.

New Businesses: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many new businesses established in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex received Government (i) funding and (ii) assistance in each of the last five years. [151368]

Mr. Timms: Between 2004 and 2006 Sussex Enterprise (the Business Link for Sussex) provided funding and assistance to 45 new businesses in Eastbourne and 172 new businesses in East Sussex, a breakdown by year follows. In this case, new businesses are defined as those that were less than 12 months old at the time of the assistance.

	Eastbourne	*East Sussex*
2006-07	21	79
2005-06	17	72
2004-05 (6 months only)	7	21

Before October 2004 it is not possible for Sussex Enterprise to provide figures as a new database was adopted at that time; nor is it possible for the data to be disaggregated further without incurring disproportionate cost.

Neither Eastbourne borough council nor East Sussex county council provided direct assistance to businesses over the course of the period.

Further data on the number of businesses receiving funding or assistance from other sources are not stored centrally.

Nuclear Power

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost was of civil nuclear reactors generating electricity in the last year for which figures are available; and how much of that sum was accounted for by the cost of *(a)* maintenance, *(b)* staff salaries, *(c)* security, *(d)* transport of radioactive materials, *(e)* radioactive waste removal, *(f)* radioactive waste storage, *(g)* purchasing nuclear fuel, *(h)* radioactive accidents, *(i)* non-radioactive accidents and *(j)* accident insurance. [151936]

Malcolm Wicks: As regards British Energy, the company's accounts for the financial year 2006-07 show operating costs as follows:

Nuclear fuel costs, consisting of the costs of procurement of uranium, conversion and enrichment services and fuel element fabrication (front end) and the costs of reprocessing, long-term storage and eventual disposal of the resulting waste products (back end), full provision is also made for the projected back end costs of unburnt fuel at station closure): £278 million

Materials and services costs, comprising the operating expenses of all power stations and support functions (including station maintenance and insurance costs): £562 million

Staff costs across the whole of British Energy, totalling an average of 5,939 employees (4,148 at nuclear stations, 275 at Eggborough, and 1,516 in engineering, technical and corporate support): £374 million.

As regards the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, the total cost of civil nuclear reactors generating electricity in the financial year 2006-07 was £273.17 million. This is broken down as follows:

	£ million
Maintenance	30.10
Staff Salaries	94.06
Security	7.81
Transport of Radioactive Materials	5.27
Radioactive Waste Removal	1.62
Radioactive Waste Storage	0.70
Purchasing Nuclear Fuel	45.99
Radioactive Accidents	0
Non-Radioactive Accidents	0
Accident Insurance	25.5

The NDA purchases its accident insurance through an insurance programme which, subject to policy terms and conditions, covers all of its sites. This includes sites which generate electricity from nuclear power such as Oldbury and Wylfa; sites which generate electricity by other means such as Maentwrog (hydro); fuel fabrication sites such as Springfields; sites that are now in decommissioning such as Trawsfynydd, Hunterston and Chapelcross; multi-activity sites such as Sellafield; and finally non-nuclear administrative sites such as offices. Insurers give no premium breakdown across the sites in the NDA estate. The total premium including insurance premium tax for all classes of insurance across all NDA sites was £25.5 million for financial year 2006-07. The NDA estimate between 7.5 per cent. and 17.5 per cent. of this is allocated to sites which generated electricity from nuclear power.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects to receive the respective reports on *(a)* plutonium and uranium and *(b)* spent nuclear fuel management options commissioned from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority by his predecessor Department; and what opportunity there will be for stakeholders and independent experts to comment on the reports. [152279]

Malcolm Wicks: The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority gave a commitment in its strategy to assess the options for managing uranic materials, as well as the full life cycle implications of spent fuel management. A report entitled 'Uranium and Plutonium Macro-Economic Study' was published on the NDA's website (www.nda.gov.uk) on 2 July 2007 and is available to stakeholders for comment. A report on 'Spent Fuel Management Options' is in the course of preparation and will be available in the autumn. Stakeholders and independent experts contributed to the development of the reports through the NDA's 'Materials Issue Group' which is a sub-group of the NDA's National Stakeholder Group.

Overseas Trade: Russia

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the net value was of *(a)* imports from Russia to the UK and *(b)* exports from the UK to Russia in the latest year for which figures are available. [151549]

Mr. Thomas: Table 9.3 of the ONS "Balance of Payments Pink Book 2007" shows UK imports of goods and services from Russia to have been worth about £6,492 million in 2006 and UK exports of goods and services to Russia to have been worth about £3,427 million.

Post Offices

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to publish his response to the Post Office network consultation which closed on 8 March. [152760]

Mr. Timms: The Government published their final proposals for the future of the post office network on 17 May in response to the public consultation.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on which dates his Department instigated consultations on post offices in the last five years; what the consultation period was in each case; and which regions were covered in each case. [154821]

Mr. McFadden: On 14 December 2006, the Government initiated a 12 week national public consultation on its proposals for the Post Office network. The consultation period ended on 8 March 2007 and the Government provided a response on 17 May.

Post Offices: Scotland

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post offices there were in Scotland at the end of March 2007. [153010]

Mr. Timms: I understand that the number of Post Office branches in Scotland reported by Post Office Ltd. at the end of March 2007 was 1651.

Post Offices: Yorkshire and Humberside

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has for the post office network in Batley and Spen. [152733]

Mr. Timms: The Government published their final proposals for the future of the post office network on 17 May in response to the public consultation. Post Office Ltd. now has operational responsibility for implementing these measures.

Price Fixing: Alcoholic Drinks

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many complaints his Department has received of alleged price fixing by *(a)* the brewing industry and *(b)* companies which own public houses. [150720]

Mr. Timms: Ensuring that markets operate freely and fairly is a matter for the independent competition authorities, rather than for Government. The UK competition framework has established the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) as an independent statutory body which is responsible for ensuring that markets operate competitively, and it has the powers to investigate and take action if companies are abusing a dominant position in a market or behaving anti-competitively. Complaints would be directed to the OFT.

The Department currently handles around 50,000 letters a year and approximately 200,000 e-mails on a wide range of issues. Further breakdown in the form requested is not available.

Regional Development Agencies: Public Appointments

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform who the board members are of each regional development agency; and what the *(a)* political affiliation and *(b)* biography is of each. [153739]

Mr. Timms: All the names of appointments and re-appointments for the RDA Boards (except for the London Development Agency where appointments are made by the Mayor) are announced in Parliament as a matter of course and this information is stored with their biographies in the Library.

Some information regarding the political activity of board members is obtained during the appointment and re-appointment process but is currently not available in the Library. This information is included in all press notices released when appointments or re-appointments are announced.

However, the political activity information that can be requested is restricted by the Office for the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA) Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments and does not cover information about membership of political parties or voting preferences.

Regional Development Agencies: Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the names are of trade union representatives appointed to each regional development agency. [153417]

Mr. Timms: The current trade union representatives appointed to the regional development agencies are as follows:

1. Advantage West Midlands—Gerard Coyne
2. East of England Regional Development Agency—Karen Livingstone
3. East Midlands Development Agency—Neville Jackson
4. North West Regional Development Agency—Dave McCall
5. ONE North East—Kevin Rowan
6. South East Development Agency—Phil Wood
7. South West Regional Development Agency—Nigel Costley
8. Yorkshire Forward—Stella Guy
9. London Development Agency—Mick Connolly.

Renewable Energy

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he has taken to promote the generation of renewable energy locally by individuals and communities. [150606]

Malcolm Wicks: We published the Government's strategy for the promotion of microgeneration in March 2006. We are implementing the range of financial and non-financial support measures it outlines, including providing grants for the installation of microgeneration technologies by individuals and communities among others. Further information on the programme can be found at:

www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk.

The Energy White Paper reinforces our commitment to the microgeneration strategy, and also includes measures to remove barriers to the more widespread use of distributed energy.

In addition, we have provided funding to the sustainable energy network pilot scheme since 2005. Through three advice centres in England and Northern Ireland, we have been promoting renewable energy locally in the following ways:

providing effective advice and support resource for householders;

facilitating the development of the supply chain; and,

helping to develop local partnerships and networks both at an individual and community level.

Further information on the pilot scheme can be found at:

http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/aboutest/what/EnergySavingTrustAdviceCentres.

Renewable Energy: Government Assistance

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what grants, loans or other assistance is available to homeowners for renewable energy installation in their homes; whether local authorities will be required to provide assistance to homeowners for such installations; what incentive is proposed for landlords, including social landlords, to arrange for such installations; and if he will make a statement. [150282]

Malcolm Wicks: The Low Carbon Buildings Programme with a budget of £86 million over three years provides capital grants for the installation of microgeneration to households, schools, social and local authority housing, businesses, charities and the public sector. Further information on the programme can be found at:

www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk.

In addition, local authorities and regional development agencies have a key role to facilitate and support the uptake of microgeneration technologies through their powers and responsibilities for planning and regeneration. Further information can be found in the Heat and Distributed Generation chapter of the Energy White Paper, May 2007 at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file39387.pdf.

Renewable Energy: Incentives

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what incentives his Department has put in place to encourage consumers to switch to renewable energy sources. [150608]

Malcolm Wicks: The Low Carbon Buildings Programme with a budget of £86 million over three years provides capital grants for the installation of microgeneration to households, schools, social and local authority housing, businesses, charities and the public sector. Further information on the programme can be found at:

www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk

The Government also place a requirement on all licensed electricity suppliers to supply a specific and annually increasing proportion of their sales from sources of renewable energy. Suppliers who fail to meet their obligation in this way have, instead, to make a payment of £34.30 for each MWh of electricity which they do not supply from renewable sources. This obligation means that consumers will, to some degree depending on how their supplier is meeting their obligation, already be consuming electricity from renewable sources.

The Government recognise the need for transparency to allow consumers to make informed decisions when considering whether to switch to a green tariff and both Ofgem and the Energy Savings Trust have recently published consultations on this issue.

Research Council: Finance

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to his recent letter to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Selly Oak, how much of the £68 million taken from unspent funds in the Research Council was spent to meet expenditure on *(a)* the restructuring of British Energy, *(b)* meeting the shortfall in EU structural funds, *(c)* the collapse of MG Rover and (d) increased spend on the technology programme and space projects. [148732]

Mr. Thomas: The transfer (from current and historical underspends in the science budget) was necessitated by and used to meet an overall shortfall in DTI non-science budgets. The shortfall arose because of unforeseen pressures on the non-science budget (including those mentioned) in the context of a very tight DTI settlement (excluding science) from Spending Review 2004.

The transfer was considered only once all other options in the non-science budgets had been exhausted. This included managing down pressures and making wide-ranging cuts in other areas.

The funding released by these measures, alongside the transfer of money from science, was used to fund the remaining non-science pressures. It is not possible to determine the division of the transfer of funds from science between the examples mentioned. This is not how budgets are allocated or managed.

Royal Mail: Disabled

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of employees of Royal Mail had disabilities in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [153422]

Malcolm Wicks: This is an operational matter for which Royal Mail has direct responsibility. I have therefore asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Adam Crozier, to provide a direct reply to the hon. Member.

Shops: Closures

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, what estimate his Department has made of the number of *(a)* village shops and *(b)* post offices in Cornish villages with a population of less than (i) 1,000, (ii) 2,000 and (iii) 5,000 inhabitants which have closed in the last five years. [152125]

Mr. Timms: Information on the number of local post offices that have closed is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. Alan Cook the Managing Director has been asked to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Estimates of the number of shops which have closed in villages are not produced, for Cornwall or any area.

Supermarkets: Ethics

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will bring forward proposals to make the ethical code of practice for UK supermarket retailers applying to workers in developing countries enforceable through legislation; and if he will make a statement. [152604]

Mr. Thomas: The UK believes that the adoption of voluntary practices are effective means to improve labour standards in developing countries. We encourage high standards of behaviour through our support of initiatives such as the Ethical Trading Initiative and believe such voluntary initiatives have made an important contribution to the implementation of best practice throughout the supply chain. UK companies should behave responsibly and always observe the standards and laws of the country in which they operate. Enforcement of standards is best dealt with at a national level. The UK is strongly committed to the work of the International Labour Organisation and to promoting the internationally agreed ILO core labour standards which cover freedom of association and the right to organise and collective bargaining; the ending of forced and child labour; and the ending of discrimination in employment.

Telephone Services: Fees and Charges

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received from telephone services consumers complaining about surcharges for using other methods than direct debit to pay their telephone bills; and what steps he is taking to prevent such practices by telephone services providers. [153458]

Mr. Timms: The Department has received a number of representations from members of the public on this issue and these have been referred to Ofcom. On 6 June Ofcom announced it will carry out a full Review of communications providers' additional charges. The Review will cover charges for non-direct debit payments, as well as other additional charges including late payment, restoration of service and early termination fees. It will cover fixed and mobile operators, and pay TV services.

Ofcom will look at the nature and level of charges levied by communications providers and how well signposted and transparent such charges are. It will investigate how far consumers are aware of additional charges, whether they are able and willing to shop around on the basis of core prices and additional charges rather than just core prices, and whether there are certain groups of consumers who are unable to do this and therefore may be disadvantaged.

Ofcom expects to announce the conclusions of its Review in the autumn.

Tribunals: Compensation

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will commission research into the level of *(a)* awards to and *(b)* costs incurred by successful claimants at employment tribunals; and if he will make a statement. [150549]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 18 July 2007]:* The Department has approved plans to undertake the next periodic Survey of Employment Tribunal Applications (SETA) in 2008. This sample survey will collect data on the level of awards to and costs incurred by claimants and employers involved in employment tribunal claims. Findings from SETA 2008 will be published in the Employment Relations Research Series (ERRS) by the end of 2008.

The last SETA was conducted in 2003. Results were published by the Department in 2004 as ERRS No. 33 "Findings from the Survey of Employment Tribunal Applications 2003".

Turbines: Pencader

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether public funding has been provided for the purpose of building wind turbines in Pencader. [152715]

Mr. Timms: On-shore wind is a commercially viable technology and the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform is not aware of any public funding, outside of the Renewables Obligation, made available to a wind project in Pencader.

Written Answers to Questions

The following answers were received between Monday 10 September and Wednesday 12 September 2007

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Security

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reasons are for UK aviation security policy differing from that aviation security policy recommended by the EU; and if she will make a statement. [155137]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The UK is required to implement the measures mandated in European aviation security legislation, which also acknowledges member states' freedom to set more stringent requirements where they judge this to be warranted. The UK aviation security regime reflects the Government's assessment of the measures appropriate in this country.

Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people have been appointed to her Department outside civil service grades in the last 30 days. [153214]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In the period 27 June to 26 July, the Department for Transport appointed one non-executive director, who does not have a civil service grade, in the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

In addition, the Department publishes information annually on appointments for which it is responsible in its annual report. The 2007 annual report was published in May 2007.

Departments: Reviews

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Gateway reviews were undertaken by her Department in each of the last five years. [155153]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport was formed in the summer of 2002. Information on DFT projects is only held from that point in time.

The Department for Transport can confirm that the following number of Gateway Reviews have been carried out since summer 2002:

	Number
2002	110
2003	31
2004	65
2005	53
2006	68
2007	251

[1] Summer to end of the year
[2] To 6 September 2007.

Highways Agency: Finance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of the Highways Agency's regional directorates over-spent on their budgets in each of the last five years. [154925]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The agency's two major spending directorates, Traffic Operations and Major Projects, include several regional-based operating units. The numbers of units have changed as the agency has developed. The following table summarises the position:

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Regional operating units	7	8	9
Number overspending against original budget	3	5	6
Number overspending against agreed forecast outturn	0	0	0

Similar performance data are not available for 2002-03 and 2003-04.

Budgets are set prior to the beginning of each financial year and are not adjusted in year. The agency actively manages the budget by reallocating resources where necessary to deal with new pressures and changing priorities to ensure that the overall budget is fully utilised. Hence there are managed over and under-spends against budget at lower levels. In each of the three years in the previous table the agency has utilised over 99 per cent. of its overall budget, with no overall overspends:

	Resource budget			*Capital budget*		
	Budget	*Outturn*	*Variance*	*Budget*	*Outturn*	*Variance*
2002-03	5,021	4,938	83	670	736	(-66)
2003-04	4,003	3,873	130	651	438	213
2004-05	4,174	4,170	4	623	610	13
2005-06	4,709	4,664	45	755	753	2
2006-07	5,134	5,118	16	1,124	1,117	7

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent on each of the 21 projects listed currently as on hold on the Highways Agency website. [154926]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The 21 projects listed as "on hold" on the Highways Agency website comprise eight major schemes which were being prepared to enter the Government's national roads programme and 13 route management strategies.

The major schemes and their respective expenditure are as follows:

Project	*£ million Spend to date*
A1 Adderstone to Belford dualling	0.696
A1 Morpeth to Felton dualling	4.126
A66 Penrith to Temple Sowerby	
A66 Appleby to Brough	
A66 Temple Sowerby to Appleby	0.732

Project	£ million Spend to date
A66 dualling Bowes Bypass	
A66 dualling Cross Lanes to Greta Bridge	
A66 dualling Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor	0.583
Grand total for A66 schemes	1.315

Following the regional funding allocations (RFA) announcement in July 2006, the above schemes were not prioritised for funding by the relevant regions.

The remaining 13 listed as on hold are studies known as route management strategies (RMSs). The strategies were intended to develop route based plans for future investment in the maintenance, operation and improvement of the network. With the growing emphasis on regional planning, transport decisions are linked to regional objectives and priorities. In response to this the Highways Agency is developing its forward planning on a regional basis through the recent publication of the regional network reports (RNRs) available on the Highway Agency website. A total of £301,712 has been spent on RMSs.

Roads: Accidents

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many recorded accidents there were on the A264 between Lington Green and Rusthall in each of the last 10 years. [155197]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of reported personal injury road accidents on the A264 between Langton Green (at the junction with The Green) and Rusthall (at the junction with Rusthall Road) are given in the following table:

	Number of accidents
1997	16
1998	11
1999	8
2000	10
2001	11
2002	5
2003	12
2004	8
2005	8
2006	9

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations he has received from teaching unions on his Department's academies programme; and if he will make a statement. [155251]

Jim Knight: The Secretary of State has received a number of representations from the teaching unions on a range of subjects including the academies programme.

Children: Examinations

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research he has commissioned into the impact of assessments and testing on children's future engagement with education. [155166]

Jim Knight: The Department for Education and Skills part-funded a review by the EPPI-Centre on the impact of summative assessment and testing on students' motivation for learning. The review's report was published in 2002 and can be accessed at www.eppi.ioe.ac.uk/cms/

City Academies

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to his answer of 2 August 2007 to question 152922, on City Academies, when officials from his Department first discussed with Essex local education authority the possibility of establishing city academies in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Colchester. [155301]

Jim Knight: Officials first met with officers from Essex county council on 18 March 2005 to discuss the vision of establishing an academy within Essex. The first meeting to discuss an academy in Colchester was on 5 January 2007.

Departments: Catering

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of *(a)* beef, *(b)* sheep meat, *(c)* pork and *(d)* dairy products used in his Department in the most recent period for which figures are available were imported products. [150798]

Jim Knight: For the period 1 January to 30 June 2007 the percentage of imported beef, sheep meat, pork and dairy products used within DCSF Headquarters buildings was 84 per cent. of beef, 93 per cent. of lamb, 76 per cent. of pork and 7 per cent. of dairy products.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of staff formerly employed by the Department for Education and Skills are now employed by his Department. [153471]

Jim Knight: 84 per cent. of staff in the former Department for Education and Skills are now employed by my Department.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students in Tamworth claimed education allowance in each year since it was introduced, broken down by ward of residence. [148792]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold the

information about take-up and payments under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, has written to my hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 20 July 2007:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question 148792 that asked: "How many students in Tamworth claimed education allowance in each year since it was introduced, broken down by ward of residence."

Information on the number of young people who have applied, enrolled and received education maintenance allowance (EMA) is available at local authority level, but not at ward level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

EMA take-up for Staffordshire local authority area during each academic year since inception is as follows:

2004/05—3,632

2005/06—6,393

2006/07—7,803 (to end of June)

EMA Take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05,2005/06 and to date in 2006/07 is now also available on the LSC website, at the following address:

http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/Data/statistics/learner/EMA_take_up.htm

I hope you find this information useful.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what evaluation he has made of the policies of schools on entering students to GCSE examinations other than English and Mathematics. [155331]

Jim Knight: Schools take decisions on GCSE entries based on the individual circumstances of pupils, in discussion with them and parents as appropriate. Schools need to ensure that each pupil's ability is properly assessed and recognised in the areas of the Key Stage 4 curriculum that they have chosen, or are obliged, to study. This summer's results show that the number of GGSE entries overall continues to increase.

Pre-school Education

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research he has commissioned into the effectiveness of *(a)* state pre-school education and *(b)* privately funded pre-school provision in raising pupil attainment in the short and long term. [155167]

Jim Knight: To assess the benefits of funded early education, delivered in a wide range of maintained and private, voluntary and independent settings, my Department commissioned the Effective Pre-school and Primary Education 3-11 (EPPE 3-11) study. This study, which began in 1997, followed 3,000 children from the age of three to the end of Key Stage 2 (at age 11) and will continue to do so until the end of Key Stage 3 at age 14. So far, the study has demonstrated that children who attend pre-school are better prepared for school, have better cognitive and social development at age six and seven (Key Stage 1), with benefits strongest for those who attended high quality pre-school for a longer duration. It has also shown high quality pre-school experience continues to have a positive impact on children's all round development at age 10.

The EPPE study has also shown it is the quality, rather than ownership of pre-school provision that is most important for improving children's attainment and that while good quality provision is found across all sectors the maintained sector provides the highest quality provision overall. We want to see quality improve across all types of pre-school provision, and we have reflected this aim in draft statutory guidance to local authorities on the duty in the Childcare Act 2006 to improve outcomes for all children and reduce inequalities between them. The guidance requires local authorities actively to engage with the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sector to improve quality. We have also provided dedicated resource (through the Transformation Fund between 2006-08 and the Graduate Leader Fund from 2008-09) to support the development of graduate leadership in the PVI sector, focusing on full day care settings.

Finally, my Department has also commissioned a number of evaluation studies that will continue to explore the relationship between different types of pre-school provision and child development outcomes including the National Evaluation of Sure Start, a study of child care quality experienced by children in the Millennium Cohort Study, and an evaluation of free child care provision for disadvantaged two-year-olds. Findings from these studies will be published by the Department later in 2008.

Primary Education: Languages

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of state primary schools in England offer teaching in a modern foreign language other than French. [155252]

Jim Knight: There are no national data available on the total number of primary schools offering modern foreign languages. However, in the autumn term of 2006, the National Foundation for Educational Research carried out research on the Department's behalf, based on a nationally representative sample of 8,000 primary schools in England. The response rate was 48 per cent. The results showed that 81 per cent. of schools were providing primary languages within class time. As it was recognised that schools already delivering primary languages might be more likely to respond, data were collected from all schools within a representative sub-sample of 500 schools from the original 8,000 primary schools. The results showed that 70 per cent. of schools in this sub-sample were providing primary languages within class time.

Figures for which languages were provided are available only for the larger sample. Of the 3,336 schools in the survey that were teaching primary languages in class time, 91 per cent. of these schools offered French. Other languages were offered by the following proportions of schools in this sample. Percentages do not add up to 100 per cent. as some schools offer two or more languages:

Languages offered at KS2 in primary schools in England

	Percentage
Spanish	25
German	12
Italian	4
Chinese	1
Japanese	1
Urdu	1
Other languages	4
No response	1

Schools: Uniforms

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to address school uniform shop monopolies, including shops run by *(a)* schools and *(b)* external enterprises. [155171]

Jim Knight: The Office of Fair Trading have indicated that schools or retailers that have expensive exclusive contracts with suppliers may, in principle, be subject to enforcement action under Chapter 1 of the Competition Act 1998, on the grounds that these exclusive agreements restrict competition between retailers to supply uniform.

The Schools Admissions Code will also tackle covert selection methods by ensuring that other school policies (such as the uniform policy) do not discourage parents from applying to the school of their choice.

The Department plans to publish updated guidance on school uniforms and related policies next month. This guidance will provide schools with advice on how to develop fair and reasonable school uniform policies.

Teachers: Languages

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of teachers of modern foreign languages in state secondary schools have a degree level qualification in the languages they teach. [155254]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the number of full-time teachers employed in maintained secondary schools by the highest post A level qualification held in the subjects they teach.

Teachers in Service. Full-time teachers in maintained secondary schools—Highest post A level qualifications[1] held in the subjects they teach[2] to year groups 7-13, England

Percentages

	Degree[3]	BEd	PGCE	Cert Ed	Other qual.	No qual.	Total teachers (Thousand)
Mathematics	42 ± 3	15 ± 2	9 ± 2	7 ± 1	2 ± 1	24 ± 2	28.2
English	51 ± 3	15 ± 2	7 ± 1	6 ± 1	1 ± 1	20 ± 2	29.4
Combined/General science	62 ± 3	12 ± 2	10 ± 2	4 ± 1	1 ± 1	11 ± 2	28.3
Biology[4]	71 ± 5	7 ± 3	11 ± 4	3 ± 2	- ± 1	7 ± 3	5.6
Chemistry[4]	72 ± 5	6 ± 3	12 ± 4	1 ± 1	1 ± 1	7 ± 3	5.2
Physics[4]	63 ± 6	11 ± 4	15 ± 4	3 ± 2	- ± -	8 ± 3	4.7
Other sciences[4]	10 ± 6	4 ± 4	5 ± 4	- ± -	- ± -	80 ± 8	1.6
French	54 ± 3	7 ± 2	10 ± 2	3 ± 1	2 ± 1	23 ± 3	16.0
German	47 ± 5	6 ± 3	13 ± 4	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	30 ± 5	6.9
Spanish	37 ± 7	8 ± 4	19 ± 6	- ± -	3 ± 2	33 ± 7	3.6
Other modern languages	18 ± 8	- ± -	9 ± 7	- ± -	3 ± 4	71 ±10	1.4
Design and technology[5]	26 ± 3	20 ± 3	7 ± 2	21 ± 3	2 ± 1	24 ± 3	20.9
ICT[5, 6]	13 ± 2	6 ± 1	8 ± 2	2 ± 1	3 ± 1	69 ± 3	18.9
Other/Combined technology[5]	30± 1 0	13 ± 8	16 ± 7	18 ± 9	2 ± 3	20 ± 9	1.6
Business studies	30 ± 5	11 ± 4	9 ± 3	4 ± 2	3 ± 2	43 ± 5	6.5
Classics	33 ± 7	- ± -	2 ± 4	2 ± -	- ± -	63 ± 7	1.0
History	57 ± 4	9 ± 2	6 ± 2	6 ± 2	- ± -	23 ± 3	13.7
Religious education	22 ± 3	8 ± 2	8 ± 2	4 ± 1	2 ± 1	57 ± 4	14.2
Geography	53 ± 4	9 ± 2	6 ± 2	5 ± 2	1 ± 1	25 ± 3	13.7
Other social studies	35 ± 5	6 ± 3	2 ± 2	2 ± 1	- ± 1	54 ± 6	4.9
Combined arts/humanities/ social studies	5 ± 3	4 ± 2	7 ± 3	1 ± 1	1 ± 1	83 ± 5	5.3
Music	59 ± 5	15 ± 4	5 ± 2	6 ± 3	2 ± 2	13 ± 4	6.3
Drama	25 ± 4	10 ± 3	12 ± 3	6 ± 2	2 ± 1	45 ± 5	8.1
Art and design	54 ± 4	10 ± 3	7 ± 2	9 ± 3	1 ± 1	20 ± 4	9.3
Physical education	25 ± 3	31 ± 3	6 ± 2	13 ± 2	2 ± 1	22 ± 2	21.4
Careers education	2 ± 2	1 ± 2	3 ± 3	4 ± 4	3 ± 4	87 ± 7	1.5
PSHE[6]	1 ± -	1 ± -	2 ± 1	1 ± -	- ± -	95 ± 1	61.4
General studies	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	1 ± 1	- ± 1	- ± -	95 ± 2	7.1

Teachers in Service: Full-time teachers in maintained secondary schools—Highest post A level qualifications[1] held in the subjects they teach[2] to year groups 7-13, England

Percentages

	Degree[3]	*BEd*	*PGCE*	*Cert Ed*	*Other qual.*	*No qual.*	*Total teachers (Thousand)*
Citizenship	2 ± 1	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	- ± 1	- ± -	94 ± 2	9.0
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	32.8
Total[2]	33 ± -	10 ± -	7 ± -	5 ± -	1 ± -	44 ± -	388.4

'-' = zero or less than 0.5.

[1] Where a teacher has more than one post A level qualification in the same subject, the qualification level is determined by the highest level reading from left (Degree) to right (Other Qual.). For example, teachers shown under PGCE have a PGCE but not a degree or BEd in the subject, while those with a PGCE and a degree are shown only under Degree.

[2] Teachers are counted once against each subject which they are teaching.

[3] Includes higher degrees but excludes BEds.

[4] Teachers qualified in combined/general science are treated as qualified to teach biology, chemistry, or physics. Teachers qualified in biology, chemistry or physics are treated as qualified to teach combined/general science.

[5] Teachers qualified in other/combined technology are treated as qualified to teach design and technology or information and communication technology. Teachers qualified in design and technology or information and communication technology are treated as qualified to teach other/combined technology.

[6] Information and Communication Technology is abbreviated as ICT and Personal Social and Health Education is abbreviated as PSHE.

'Other' not included in total percentages.

Source:

Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey 2002.

Teachers: Pay

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations he has received on teachers' pay since his appointment; and if he will make a statement. [155136]

Jim Knight: Since his appointment my right hon. Friend has received some correspondence relating to teachers' pay and had meetings with unions and others, in which a variety of issues have been discussed.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Contracts: Finance

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the savings accrued as a consequence of the Pan-Government Office solutions tender earlier this year; and if he will make a statement. [155232]

Andy Burnham: I have been asked to reply.

The savings estimated by the Office of Government Commerce for the Pan-Government solutions tender is £100 million spread over the four year period of the contract. The contract commences on 1 October 2007.

Departments: Carbon Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what changes in his Department's practice have resulted from the signing of the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme. [151272]

Phil Hope: Signing up to the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme has enabled the Cabinet Office to identify a more strategic, structured and long term approach to energy management and awareness raising practices. For example, the Cabinet Office has begun a programme of works to install passive infrared lighting controls (PIRs).

Departments: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what proportion of people employed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are disabled. [153599]

Gillian Merron: The latest available data on the disability status of civil servants in Departments and agencies are as at 30 September 2006 and are published in "Civil Service Statistics 2006" at table P. This document is produced by the Office for National Statistics and can be accessed from the following website addresses.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/2006CivilServiceStatistics.pdf

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many press officers are employed by his Department. [152991]

Gillian Merron: The Cabinet Office currently employs six press officers.

Departments: Procurement

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the savings accrued as a consequence of the use of reverse auctions as a procurement mechanism by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [155235]

Edward Miliband: Reverse auctions have not been used so far as a procurement mechanism in my Department.

Due to the nature of the Cabinet Office's procurement, the scope for exploiting the benefits of reverse auctions is limited. Where suitable opportunities arise, and the benefits would outweigh the costs, a reverse auction would be employed as the procurement mechanism.

The Cabinet Office makes extensive use of collaborative frameworks set up by other Departments where reverse auctions have been used. This will enable the Department to derive the benefits of savings in future.

Departments: Publications

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much the Cabinet Office departmental report 2007 Making Government Work Better cost to design, produce and publish. [155196]

Edward Miliband: The cost of designing, producing and publishing the Cabinet Office departmental report 2007 in print and on-line was £50,299.

Government: Procurement

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what criteria are used to determine whether to use *(a)* preferred suppliers or *(b)* reverse auctions in Government procurement projects; and if he will make a statement. [155231]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

The Government do not have preferred suppliers. The Government's policy is that public procurement decisions are to be based on value for money. Public procurers must also adhere to EU procurement rules, based on principles of non-discrimination, transparency and competitive procurement. Within this legal and policy framework, it is possible to set up framework agreements, with particular suppliers, following an appropriate competitive exercise in line with EU rules.

E-auctions (or reverse auctions) are just one of a number of procedures and techniques available to public procurers under the public procurement rules. It is ultimately for contracting authorities to decide which procurement approach, including the use of e-auctions, is appropriate on a case-by-case basis, taking into account their obligations to deliver the best value for money for the taxpayer.

The Government are determined to improve public procurement as set out in 'Transforming Government Procurement', published in January this year. It defines the vision for an improved Government procurement service, has led to the establishment of departmental procurement capability reviews and has led to the introduction of a new major projects review group in the Treasury.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether he plans to increase the use of reverse auctions as a procurement mechanism for Government *(a)* projects and *(b)* supplies; and if he will make a statement. [155234]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

Government Departments are responsible for choosing the procurement procedures and techniques they consider most appropriate, including electronic (reverse) auctions, taking into account their obligations to achieve value for money for the taxpayer.

Many procurements are subject to the requirements of the EU procurement rules. These include specific requirements for the setting up and running of e-auctions. The Government have put in place a framework agreement to enable public authorities to choose providers to run e-auctions for them, consistent with those rules.

The Government are determined to improve public procurement as set out in 'Transforming Government Procurement', published in January this year. It defines the vision for an improved Government procurement service, has led to the establishment of departmental procurement capability reviews and led to the introduction of a new major projects review group in the Treasury.

Ministers: Official Residences

Mr. Spring: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many nights Ministers have stayed at *(a)* Chevening, *(b)* One Carlton Gardens, *(c)* Hillsborough Castle and *(d)* Lord Chancellor's Apartments since 27 June. [152454]

Gillian Merron: Official residences are assigned to Ministers by the Prime Minister either on grounds of security or in order to allow them to perform better their official duties. The number of nights Ministers stay in official residences is a matter for the individual Minister, the information is not collected centrally.

Office of the Third Sector

Mr. Love: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will undertake an assessment of the attributes of successful social enterprise models; and if he will make a statement. [151337]

Phil Hope: The Government's Social Enterprise Action Plan, published in November 2006, recognised the need for further research on social enterprises. The Office of the Third Sector is currently engaging with academic organisations, the Social Enterprise Coalition, and other third sector partners to design an appropriate programme of original and useful research which is reflective of the needs of the sector as well as Government.

Offices: Deputy Prime Minister

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what use will be made of the former Deputy Prime Minister's offices. [153528]

Gillian Merron: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 12 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1641W.

Redundancy: Deputy Prime Minister

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether any staff from the Deputy Prime Minister's Office will be made redundant. [153529]

Gillian Merron: No staff from the former Deputy Prime Minister's Office have been made redundant.

WALES

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* first class and *(b)* business class flights in the last 12 months. [153250]

Mr. Hain: In the past 12 months my Department has spent £4,440 on first class flights and £2,946.50 on business class flights.

Departments: Correspondence

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many letters he and his predecessors sent in each of the last five years. [153445]

Mr. Hain: Before 2006 the Wales Office systems recorded total correspondence sent, but without details of sender. Information for that period could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

In 2006 I sent 383 letters.

The Wales Office publishes correspondence statistics in its annual report and for the Cabinet Office for the annual report to Parliament.

Departments: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what proportion of people employed by his Department are disabled. [153601]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office has a few staff with disabilities. For reasons of privacy no details are given, in line with Cabinet Office guidance.

The latest available data on the disability status of civil servants in Departments and agencies are as at 30 September 2006 and are published in "Civil Service Statistics 2006" at table P. This document is produced by the Office for National Statistics and can be accessed from the following website addresses.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/2006CivilServiceStatistics.pdf

Declaration of a disability is voluntary.

Departments: Flowers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent by his Department on flowers in the last 12 months. [153251]

Mr. Hain: In the last 12 months my Department spent £40 on flowers.

Departments: Internet

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what plans he has to review the appearance and content of the Wales Office website. [153452]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office website is now regularly reviewed and was updated in July with the latest information on legislation, including the Government of Wales Act.

A project is under way to review the current site design and functionality and management processes, bearing in mind the stakeholders the Wales Office needs to reach. A new site will be established, contracts willing, before the end of 2007.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many people have been appointed to his Department outside civil service grades in the last 30 days. [153280]

Mr. Hain: None.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many press officers are employed by his Department. [153282]

Mr. Hain: Three.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the name is of each special adviser in his Department. [153281]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office special advisers are Dr. Andrew Bold and Mr. Joe Carberry.

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent by his Department on newspapers and magazines in the last 12 months. [153248]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office does not record expenditure on newspapers and magazines separately from that on other publications, so the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Railways

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent by his Department on first class train tickets in the last 12 months. [153249]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office expenditure on first class rail tickets for the last 12 months was £72,142.82.

Departments: Redundancy Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent by his Department on redundancy payments in the last 12 months. [153243]

Mr. Hain: None.

Departments: Taxis

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent by his Department on taxis in the last 12 months. [153252]

Mr. Hain: In the last 12 months my Department has spent £2,548.87 on taxis.

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent by his Department on staff away days in the last 12 months. [153244]

Mr. Hain: In the last 12 months my Department has spent £15,109.04 on staff away days.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* staff training and *(b)* communication training in the last 12 months. [153245]

Mr. Hain: Records for training budgets are only kept in financial year.

For 2006-07 my Department spent:

(a) on staff training £13,032.66

(b) on communication training £975.

For 2007-08 the current spend to June is:

(a) on staff training £3,610

(b) communication spending nil.

Departments: Tribunals

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent by his Department on industrial tribunals in the last 12 months. [153246]

Mr. Hain: Nil.

National Assembly for Wales: Powers

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether a referendum to give primary law-making powers to the National Assembly for Wales would be subject to the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. [155211]

Mr. Hain: Yes. Section 103 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 provides for holding a referendum, subject to the provisions in Schedule 6 to that Act. Schedule 6 describes the procedure for holding such a referendum and sets out the provisions of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 which apply to different aspects of the referendum, including the referendum question itself and the process.

Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with Ministers in the Welsh Assembly Government on the role of quangos in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [152761]

Mr. Hain: I have regular discussions with Ministers in the Welsh Assembly Government on a range of issues.

The merger of quangos into the Welsh Assembly Government in 2006 has streamlined structures and processes, simplified decision making and allowed public services to become more flexible and responsive to the needs of businesses and learners.

Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many projects for which the UK Government are responsible have been built in Wales under the private finance initiative. [151854]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office does not hold this information. HM Treasury publish information on their website on all PFI projects at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Police

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the *(a)* capability and *(b)* membership of the Afghan police force and the Afghan armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [155062]

David Miliband *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The strength of the Afghan National Army (ANA) on 1 August 2007 was 40,360 against a target figure of 70,000. The reason for this disparity is because the ANA has had to be recruited and trained from an almost non-existent base since 2001. The ANA is a key ally in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) campaign, and is proving itself to be increasingly capable of conducting operations alongside ISAF partners.

The Afghan national police (ANP) is the primary law enforcement body within Afghanistan and receives training and mentoring from international donors, including through the US-led police training programme Combined Strategic Transition Command Afghanistan (CSTC-A) and the EU policing mission. The latest assessment by the CSTC-A estimates that there are around 76,000 members of the ANP drawn from all regions of Afghanistan. Our assessment is that the ANP requires further mentoring in order to be capable of conducting operations independently. Capability in policing functions is supplemented by the specialist skills of the counter narcotics police of Afghanistan, the Afghan border police and the Afghan national civil order police.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what targets have been set for reform of policing in Afghanistan; what progress has been made towards reaching these targets; and if he will make a statement. [155063]

David Miliband *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The main Afghan national police (ANP) training programme is run by the US-led Combined Security Transition Command Afghanistan (CSTC-A). The CSTC-A programme's target is for the ANP to be capable of operating effectively without international support, except in extremis, by December 2012. Support in meeting this target is provided by the EU policing mission launched in June, with the aim of improving the quality of the ANP. The latest

assessment by the CSTC-A estimates that there are around 76,000 members of the ANP drawn from all regions of Afghanistan. The agreed policing structure, signed by the Afghan Government in 2007, anticipates growth of the ANP to reach a total of 82,000.

Iran: Baha'i Sect

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment the UK Government have made of the impact of the changes in recent years in Iran's treatment of Baha'is in respect of higher education; and if he will make a statement. [155356]

Dr. Howells: We remain concerned about the treatment of religious minorities in Iran and discrimination against the Baha'i community in particular. Denial of access to higher education has been a long-term problem for Baha'i students.

After the removal of religious identification from the national university entrance examination in 2006, a number of Baha'i students sat the exam for academic year 2006-07. Although over 250 Baha'i students were admitted to various campuses across Iran last autumn, reports suggest that at least 120 were subsequently expelled as universities became aware of their religion. We are concerned that more Baha'i students may be expelled in the future.

We recently received reports that students applying for places in technical and vocational institutions for the forthcoming 2007-08 academic year have been required to complete a form which asks them to state their religion. The minority religion options listed are Christian, Zoroastrian or Jewish and the form explains that if no box is marked the applicant will be considered to be Muslim. This is a worrying return to the earlier position whereby applicants had to state their religious affiliation. We wait to see whether there will be a similar change in admission procedures for university entry this academic year.

We take this issue seriously and will continue to monitor the situation and take action as required. We have pressed the Iranian authorities on many occasions, bilaterally and through the EU, to address the discrimination against Iranian Baha'is. The EU did so most recently on 1 September, raising specific concerns about access to education. We also take action at the UN and in December 2006, we along with all EU countries, co-sponsored a resolution on human rights in Iran which expressed serious concern at

"the increased frequency of discrimination and other human rights violations against members of the Baha'i Faith, including [...] the denial of access to higher education".

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations have been *(a)* received and *(b)* made by the UK Government regarding the effects on Baha'i students of religious requirements introduced for entry to Iran's technical and vocational institutes. [155357]

Dr. Howells: The Government received reports last month from the National Assembly of the Baha'is of the United Kingdom about a change in the application procedure for Iran's technical and vocational institutes. Students applying for places at these institutions for academic year 2007-08 have been required to complete a form that asks them to state their religion. The minority religion options listed are Christian, Zoroastrian or Jewish, and the form explains that if no box is marked the applicant will be considered to be Muslim. Baha'i students are effectively excluded from studying in these institutes unless they deny their faith by having it incorrectly recorded on official forms. This is a worrying new example of systematic discrimination against members of the Baha'i minority in Iran, who have long faced restrictions on access to higher education.

We continue to raise our concerns about the treatment of the Iranian Baha'is with Iran, bilaterally and through the EU. In a meeting with the Iranian authorities on 1 September, the EU, with strong UK support, condemned such discriminatory measures used against the Baha'i community, and pressed Iran to uphold their international human rights commitments to freedom of religion and to ensure that Baha'is are given the same rights as other Iranian citizens including access to education.

Iran: Sanctions

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has held with his US counterpart about extending *(a)* financial, *(b)* trade and *(c)* travel sanctions against Iran. [155186]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary maintains regular contact with his US counterpart and other key allies on the situation in Iran. Discussions are also taking place at senior official level within the E3+3 process (UK, France, Germany, US, Russia and China) about the next stages of the international community's response to Iran's failure to respect its international obligations. This process includes discussion of possible further restrictive measures against Iran. The Government and the US administration are united in the belief that Iran must realise that its continued defiance of the UN Security Council will not be cost free.

Sudan: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs following the UN Security Council's passing of Resolution 1769, authorising the deployment of 26,000 peacekeepers to Darfur, *(a)* what discussions he has had with his counterparts in other countries, *(b)* when these discussions were held, *(c)* what actions have been taken to date and *(d)* what future actions are planned to ensure the success of the mission. [155179]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK is working closely with both the African Union (AU) and the UN to support the effective deployment of the AU-UN Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). We are in regular contact with the UN's Department for Peacekeeping Operations, which is responsible for generating the forces required. At their request, we have lobbied widely for UN member states to provide the necessary capabilities. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and my noble Friend

the Minister with responsibility for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, have been in contact with several existing and potential troop contributors. Lord Malloch-Brown is currently visiting Sudan where he is raising the need for speedy deployment of the force with the Sudanese Government.

At a meeting with the AU and UN on 7 September in Addis Ababa, the UK pressed for speedy deployments and effective integration of partner support to the AU Mission into UNAMID. We are also providing planning support to the mission. We will continue to work closely with the AU, UN and international partners to support its successful deployment.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

British Gas: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will seek to obtain from the chairman of British Gas replies to letters sent to him on 23 July, 23 August and 31 August by the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs. S. Stephenson. [155261]

Malcolm Wicks: My right hon. Friend will understand that, as an independent company, British Gas is responsible for dealing with its own correspondence. However, I understand that, in this case, British Gas has now replied to my right hon. Friend and his constituent.

Departments: Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of staff in his Department were over 60 years of age in each of the last three years. [145688]

Mr. Thomas: The percentage of staff over 60 years of age in each of the last three years is as set out in the following table:

	Age 60 and over	*Total population*	*Percentage of staff over 60*
1 January 2004	123	4,680	3
1 January 2005	131	4,424	3
1 January 2006	129	4,311	3

Note:
Based on total staff including UKTI and SBS

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to which periodicals his Department subscribes. [153127]

Mr. Thomas: The information relating to this question is not held centrally within my Department. To collate this would incur disproportionate cost.

Electricity: Billing

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the average annual domestic electricity bill for a typical consumer in *(a)* Cheltenham constituency and *(b)* each region was in each year since 1998. [155303]

Malcolm Wicks: Average domestic electricity[1] bills are published for the 15 Public Electricity Supply areas in the UK. Cheltenham is contained in the West Midlands supply region, the average bill for this region will be representative of the average price for households in Cheltenham. The data presented are for standard credit customers in cash terms, they have not been adjusted for inflation.

Average annual domestic electricity bill

£/year

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
East Midlands	261	254	240	233	228	228	239	266	321
Eastern	263	251	241	230	227	226	231	262	316
London	263	258	252	246	244	249	252	288	339
Merseyside and North Wales	280	278	271	261	260	261	274	286	357
North East	287	284	264	253	253	250	256	288	341
North West	260	257	249	239	237	235	243	270	327
Northern Ireland	326	326	308	317	325	325	329	338	360
Northern Scotland	280	277	272	266	271	275	291	304	338
South East	258	251	243	235	235	241	243	280	328
South Wales	304	297	285	282	281	283	292	315	364
South West	280	274	271	266	264	269	273	308	362
Southern	257	255	254	253	254	255	264	285	335
Southern Scotland	273	272	268	267	266	266	286	316	369
West Midlands	253	252	245	239	237	238	247	279	333
Yorkshire	256	252	250	241	239	239	248	279	335

[1] The bills for standard electricity do not include customers who are on economy 7 tariffs.

Exports: Yorkshire and Humberside

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many businesses in the Yorkshire and Humber region export goods and services. [155274]

Mr. Thomas: HM Revenue and Customs publish details of the UK Regional Trade in Goods Statistics on a quarterly basis.

In figures published on 6 September 2007 the total number of companies in the Yorkshire and Humber region exporting in the year ended March 2007 has been recorded by HM Revenue and Customs at 5,591.

HM Revenue and Customs provisional data for the first two quarters of the year 2007-08 record 4,303 companies in the Yorkshire and Humber region exporting.

Foreign Investment: Yorkshire and Humberside

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much foreign investment was received in *(a)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(b)* the City of York in each year since 2003; and what estimate he has made of the number of jobs generated from it. [155275]

Mr. Thomas: A total of 137 foreign direct investments have been recorded in Yorkshire and the Humber since 2003, of which 13 were in the City of York.

Since 2003 the number of foreign direct investments per year is:

	(a) Y and H total	*(b) York City total*
2003-04	24	2
2004-05	43	3
2005-06	29	6
2006-07	41	2
Total	137	13

It is estimated that the total number of new jobs created in Yorkshire and the Humber since 2003 is 7,349.5 of which 169.5 were in the City of York. The total number of jobs saved in Yorkshire and the Humber since 2003 is 3,722 of which three were in the City of York.

Since 2003 the number of jobs generated is:

	Y and H jobs		*York City jobs*	
	New	*Saved*	*New*	*Saved*
2003-04	2,356	460	53	0
2004-05	2,595	1,207	10	3
2005-06	1,699.5	1,021	21.5	0
2006-07	699	1,034	85	0
Total	7,349.5	3,722	169.5	3

Fuel Poverty

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to ensure that the cost of gas and electricity is affordable to fuel-poor households; and if he will make a statement. [155225]

Malcolm Wicks: BERR continues to work with the industry, OFGEM, Energywatch and the voluntary sector to ensure that fuel poor households are aware of, and take advantage of, the significant reductions that can be made in energy bills by transferring supplier, using the cheapest and simplest payment methods, installing energy efficiency measures and accessing Government and industry social and fuel poverty programmes.

In the Energy White Paper, we welcomed initiatives announced by energy companies that help their vulnerable customers to cope with high prices, and we continue to encourage more companies to take action in this area. We see the provision of assistance to help their most vulnerable customers as a key part of each company's corporate social responsibility programmes, and will be looking for each company to put in place a proportional programme of assistance.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which miners' compensation claims are to be outsourced to India; and when they were first registered with his Department. [154937]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* No claims will be outsourced to India. Capita's operation in Mumbai will handle some routine administration work on the coal health compensation schemes. None of the work will be customer facing. Nor will it involve interaction with solicitors or claimants.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what restrictions there are in his Department's contract with Capita in relation to the outsourcing of miners' compensation claims to India. [154942]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The Department's contract with Capita does not restrict the transfer of work to India. The decision to offshore is ultimately a commercial decision. The Department supported this decision to help manage risks including those associated with staff retention in the period until completion of the coal health compensation schemes.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many miners' compensation claims remain unsettled in *(a)* Bassetlaw and *(b)* nationally. [155117]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The numbers of outstanding claims are as follows:

(a) In Bassetlaw, there are 1,187 respiratory disease claims and 411 Vibration White Finger claims outstanding; and

(b) Nationally, there are 119,800 respiratory disease claims and 16,270 Vibration White Finger claims outstanding.

Natural Gas: Billing

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the average annual domestic gas bill for a typical consumer in *(a)* Cheltenham constituency and *(b)* each region was in each year since 1998. [155304]

Malcolm Wicks: Average domestic gas bills are published for the 12 local distribution zones in Great Britain. Cheltenham is contained in the West Midlands region, the average bill for this region will be representative of the average price for households in Cheltenham. The data presented are for standard credit customers in cash terms, it has not been adjusted for inflation.

Average annual domestic gas bill

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
East Midlands	316	303	292	290	309	312	331	383	473
Eastern	318	305	296	291	309	321	332	383	474
London	318	305	295	293	309	320	334	388	480
North East	309	304	294	290	309	318	332	385	474
North West	314	304	295	294	309	317	330	383	474
Northern	315	301	290	292	312	319	333	380	468
Scotland	313	307	297	294	311	320	332	384	469
South East	314	305	296	295	311	324	333	387	478
South West	312	306	299	297	312	322	334	389	478
Southern	316	307	299	296	311	322	336	390	472
Wales	313	297	291	291	306	318	335	391	460
West Midlands	317	307	297	296	313	324	333	389	480

Regional Development Agencies: Boston, Massachusetts.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many regional development agencies have offices in Boston, Massachusetts. [155236]

Mr. Timms: The information is as follows.

AWM and EMDA have a joint office in Boston under the 'British Midlands' banner.

NWDA and One NorthEast have a joint office in Boston under the 'North of England' banner.

SEEDA has an office in Boston.

EEDA, LDA, SWRDA and Yorkshire Forward have no offices there.

Renewable Energy

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of energy produced in the UK between 1 January and 30 June came from renewable sources. [154820]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The latest available data are for 2006 as a whole and show that energy produced from renewable sources in the UK amounted to 3,933 thousand tonnes of oil equivalent. Total indigenous production of energy in the UK in 2006 amounted to 196,668 thousand tonnes of oil equivalent, so in percentage terms UK renewable sources accounted for 2 per cent. In 2006, 4.6 per cent. of the electricity generated in the UK was from renewable sources.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK military personnel have lost limbs during operations in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq. [154946]

Des Browne *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The Complex Rehabilitation and Amputee Unit (CRAU) at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC), at Headley Court in Surrey became fully operational on 1 June 2006. Between that date and 6 September 2007, it has treated 24 casualties from Iraq and 12 from Afghanistan.

Prior to 1 June 2006, comprehensive information on the number of military personnel who have suffered amputations as a result of wounds received on active service was not held centrally. To provide this information would require the examination of the individual medical records of each patient who has been classified as very seriously injured or seriously injured in Iraq and Afghanistan. These records can only be viewed for non-clinical reasons with the express consent of each individual concerned, to protect patient confidentiality.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to reimburse Royal Mail to enable parcels to be posted free of charge to military personnel serving in Afghanistan and Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [155204]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: On 25 August the Ministry of Defence and Royal Mail Group announced that a free postage scheme would operate between 3 September and 7 December inclusive, and that further negotiations would take place on how to extend the scheme beyond this date.

These discussions are currently under way and it would not be appropriate to speculate on their outcome at this time. A statement on the future of the free postage scheme will be made once negotiations have been finalised.

Armed Forces: Retirement

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces approaching retirement had applications for extension of service declined in each year since 2000. [154932]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The majority of the information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Data are available, however, for Royal Navy Ratings between 2000 and 2005 and are shown as follows.

RN Ratings—Applications for Extension of Service Declined

	Number
2000	47
2001	61
2002	57
2003	57
2004	30
2005	38

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role and function the future utility vehicle under the Future Rapid Effect System programme will play in counter-insurgency. [148569]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Future Rapid Effect System (FRES) will deliver a fleet of wheeled and tracked armoured vehicles capable of operating across the spectrum of operations and protect against the most likely threats. The FRES utility vehicle operating alongside more specialist Protected Patrol Vehicles such as Mastiff could carry out a variety of tasks during counter insurgency operations including patrols and the movement of personnel and equipment.

BAE Systems: Saudi Arabia

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what requests his Department has received from the US Department of Justice for assistance with its investigation into BAE Systems; and if he will make a statement. [155029]

Des Browne *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 5 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1132W, to the right hon. Member for East Yorkshire (Mr. Knight).

Ballistic Missile Defence

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received from *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* members of the public and *(c)* campaign organisations on his written ministerial statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 71-2WS, on ballistic missile defence. [155194]

Des Browne: As of 10 September, I have received 10 letters from MPs (all but one of them forwarding correspondence from constituents), and 17 letters from members of the public (two of which were on behalf of Quaker meetings), relating to my written ministerial statement on ballistic missile defence.

Departments: Information Officers

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total expenditure on his Department's communications and media personnel was in 2006-07. [153322]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence does not record centrally expenditure on communications and media personnel across Defence where the personnel devote only a small proportion of their time to communications. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, in 2006-07 expenditure on all personnel employed by the MOD's central Directorate General Media and Communications—including all regional and support staff—was £10.4 million.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Government officials were authorised to speak to BBC Newsnight in respect of that programme's item on Wednesday 8 August about the provenance of weapons used against United Kingdom and coalition forces in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [154883]

Des Browne *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* Officials from the MOD were not authorised to speak to Newsnight about this specific issue.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will put in place increased and improved counter-indirect fire measures to protect UK service personnel serving at Basra air station in Iraq. [154905]

Des Browne *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* Improving the protection of UK service personnel at Basra Air Station has been, and continues to be, a top priority. There are a range of offensive, defensive and protective measures in place to protect our people. We continually develop our tactics, procedures and capabilities to deal with the evolving threat. I can confirm that in the last few months a number of new and improved capabilities have been put in place and the position will continue to be kept under review.

I am withholding details of specific equipment or techniques as their release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether a Government official responded to the attribution by BBC Newsnight of remarks during its programme on 8 August about the provenance of weapons used against the United Kingdom and coalition forces in Iraq to a Government official; and if he will make a statement. [155021]

Des Browne *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* An official from the MOD contacted BBC Newsnight following the report.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many helicopters there are in the UK armed services, broken down by *(a)* type and *(b)* role; and how many helicopters in the UK armed services are (i) out of service due to reduced readiness and (ii) mothballed. [154973]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The following table sets out the number of helicopters in the UK armed forces broken down by type and role as at 4 September 2007. Aircraft that are out of service due to reduced readiness has been taken to mean aircraft in the Depth Fleet, that is, aircraft on scheduled routine maintenance, repair and upgrade programmes. Mothballed has been taken to mean aircraft placed in storage in a flying or 'near flying' condition. The fleet sizes quoted cover those aircraft expected to be flown and does not include some aircraft that are currently classified as redundant or un-repairable.

Helicopter type	*Helicopter role*	*Fleet size*	*In depth fleet (as part of fleet size)*	*In storage (as part of fleet size*
Agusta A109A/AM	Light multi-role	4	0	0
Apache AH MK1	Attack helicopter	67	18	0
Chinook Mk 2/2a	Heavy lift	40	13	0
Gazelle Mk 1[1]	Light utility/reconnaissance	73	19	0
Lynx Mk 3/Mk 8	Anti-submarine & anti small surface craft	64	20	0
Lynx Mk 7/9	Multi role light utility (lift, reconnaissance, casualty evacuation)	99	33	7
Merlin Mk 1	Anti-submarine & anti surface warfare	39	11	0
Merlin Mk 3	Battlefield support helicopter	22	8	0
Puma Mk 1	Battlefield helicopter	38	13	0
Sea King Mk 3/3a	Search and Rescue (SAR)	25	8	0
Sea King Mk 4	Commando	37	8	0
Sea King Mk 5	Helicopter utility (HU)	16	5	0
Sea King Mk 6CR	Commando	5	1	2
Sea King Mk 7	Airborne surveillance and control (ASAC)	13	4	0

[1] Gazelle is being progressively removed from service. In addition to the figures provided above there are a number of Gazelle which although in storage have been cannibalised and are not in a flying or 'near flying' condition.

In addition to the aircraft in the table there are 14 Sea King Mk 6s which have been removed from service having gone beyond their out of service date and are not in a flying or 'near flying' condition.

Also the MOD has acquired six Danish Merlin aircraft that are currently in the process of being modified to theatre entry specification. There are also eight Chinook Mk3 helicopters currently being converted to a support helicopter role.

In addition to the aircraft above the Department contracts for commercially owned but military registered helicopters and the following table shows those broken down by type and role as at 4 September 2007. These aircraft are on availability contracts and are not owned by the Department.

Helicopter type	*Fleet size*	*Helicopter role*
Dauphin	2	Winching and operations to NATO ships
Bell 212	7	Utility
Bell 412	15	Utility
Squirrel	37	Flying training
Agusta A109E Power	3	Communications flight/VIP

Nuclear Weapons: Procurement

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when development work began on the high surety warhead at Aldermaston; how much has been spent on the warhead; and what the total projected cost for the new warhead is. [155195]

Des Browne: There is no programme to develop a new warhead at AWE Aldermaston.

In section 7 of the December 2006 White Paper: The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent (Cmd 6994) we explained that decisions on whether and how we may need to refurbish or replace our current warhead are likely to be necessary in the next Parliament. As part of the work to inform those decisions we are now reviewing the optimum life of our existing warhead stockpile and identifying the range of replacement options that might be available.

Royal Military Academy: Charities

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what factors were taken into account in deciding not to waive the liability charge for the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst Music on Fire charity. [152354]

Derek Twigg: Under Government Finance Accounting Regulations, there are no special arrangements for the treatment of charities, whether Service or other. The fact that a charity is to be the main beneficiary of a good or service is not sufficient justification to introduce a special charging regime or to set charges aside.

Under normal charging arrangements full costs would be levied for an event such as the Music on Fire event held by the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on 22, 23 and 24 September 2006. However, in view of the fact that the ABF works on behalf of ex-Service personnel, a

case for abatement was agreed whereby the MOD subsidised the cost of hosting this event. The contract drawn up between the MOD and the ABF stated that the charge would be 15 per cent. of the net profit from the event or the direct costs to the MOD, whichever was greater.

MINISTER FOR WOMEN

Equal Pay

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the gender pay gap was for part-time employees in *(a)* the public sector and *(b)* the private sector in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [147149]

Ms Harman: I have been asked to reply.

In 2006, the gender pay gap for part-time employees was 39.3 per cent. in the public sector and 44.1 per cent. in the private sector. This is the gap between the median hourly pay, excluding overtime, of men working full-time and women working part-time, taken from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings.

Females: Criminal Proceedings

Lynne Jones: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent discussions she has had with colleagues in the Ministry of Justice on implementing the recommendations of the Corston report. [150907]

Ms Harman: I have been asked to reply.

In drafting my Command Paper 7183 Priorities for the Ministers for Women I consulted with the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice on women offenders and women at risk. Officials from the Women and Equality Unit are working with the Ministry of Justice and other Government Departments on a joined up Government response to Baroness Corston's report.

Public Sector: Equal Pay

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what progress is being made to ensure equal pay for women working in the public sector. [149200]

Ms Harman: I have been asked to reply.

Since 1997, the gender pay gap in the public sector has fallen by five percentage points and now stands at nine per cent. based on median, full-time hourly pay.

The public sector gender equality duty, which came into force in April, includes a requirement for public authorities to set out their overall gender equality objectives and to consider the need to have objectives to address the causes of any differences between the pay of men and women related to their sex.

The Public Services Forum (PSF), set up to promote dialogue between Government, trade unions and employers on public service workforce reform issues, has agreed to consider the Government's Action Plan Implementing the Women and Work Commission recommendations at its next meeting in October, and to discuss the links between increasing women's access to wider career options, flexible reward systems and equal pay. The Government's commitment on fair and equal pay is embedded within the PSF Pay and Reward Principles.

The Government continue to monitor equal pay across the public sector.

HEALTH

Care Homes

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether recent action has been taken to remove the restrictions on local authorities in England which do not allow them to make and pay for residential placements in Scotland and Northern Ireland. [155333]

Alan Johnson: Under section 21 of the National Assistance Act 1948 English local authorities only have powers to place people in residential care in England and Wales. However, we wish to change this to enable local authorities to make cross-border placements.

Under section 56 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001, the Secretary of State for Health has the power to make regulations to enable local authorities to make placements in other parts of the United Kingdom.

Discussion between the Department and opposite numbers in countries covered by section 56 have revealed that because of the very different care regimes in these countries, this would be much more complex and difficult to make than originally thought. The Department is considering these difficulties and how to deal with them.

Dental Services: Cornwall

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dental patients were treated in Cornwall in each year since 1997. [155343]

Alan Johnson: Information is not held in the format requested.

Information is available on the number of patients registered with a dental practice to receive national health service care and treatment, for the period up to 31 March 2006. Numbers of patients registered as at 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2006 are available in annex A of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006".

Information is available at strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT) level in England. Annex C of the above report also includes numbers of registrations at parliamentary constituency level.

This report is available in the Library and is also available on-line at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

Since April 2006, patients no longer have to register with a dental practice to receive NHS care and treatment. Instead, data are collected on the number of patients receiving NHS dental services (patients seen) in a given area over a 24-month period. This is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years when patients registered for a 15 month period.

The number of patients seen in the 24 month period ending 31 March 2006 and 31 March 2007 are available in table C1 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England 2006-07" report. Information is available at SHA and PCT level in England.

This report is available in the Library and is also available on-line at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

Dental Services: Finance

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was allocated for providing general dental services (GDS) and personal dental services (PDS) dentistry in 2006-07 net of patient charge income; and how much was spent on GDS and PDS dentistry in 2006-07. [155238]

Alan Johnson: The total funding allocation for primary dental care services in England in 2006-07, and provisional data on expenditure on those services by primary care trusts (PCTs), are set out in the following table. Primary dental care services comprise general dental and personal dental services commissioned by PCTs from independent dental providers and national health service trusts, and salaried dental services managed directly by PCTs.

Primary dental care services funding, England, 2006-07

	£ million
Primary dental service allocation, net of patient charge income	1,764.7
Primary care trust expenditure on primary dental care services, net of patient charge income	[1]1,738.7

[1] Provisional data

Source:
Locally audited PCT summarisation schedules, 2006/07, but data are subject to further audit and checking by the Department of Health and by the National Audit Office.

Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust: Waiting Lists

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in the Gloucestershire primary care trust (PCT) had waited longer than 18 weeks between general practitioner referral and hospital treatment in each quarter since the PCT's establishment. [155305]

Alan Johnson: Information on the number of patients for Gloucestershire primary care trust (PCT) who had waited longer than 18 weeks since the PCT's establishment in October 2006 is provided in the following table.

Referral to treatment (RTT) data for admitted patients for Gloucestershire PCT

Month	Number of admitted patients treated over 18 weeks	Percentage admitted patients treated over 18 weeks	Data completeness assessment (percentage)
January 2007	1,071	48	n/a
February 2007	897	47	n/a
March 2007	1,207	51	87
April 2007	909	45	86
May 2007	964	43	87
June 2007	1,068	48	91

n/a = not available.

Notes:
1. RTT data were not collected centrally prior to January 2007.
2. Data relate to admitted patients only, i.e. patients whose 18 week pathway ended with an in-patient/day case admission.
3. A data completeness assessment is published alongside the reported RTT figures each month in order to aid interpretation of this relatively new set of data. The measure compares the number of pathways reported against an existing data collection. Nationally, data completeness was at 70 per cent. for June 2007.
4. Data for non-admitted patients (patients whose 18 week pathway did not end with an in-patient/day case admission) have been collected since April 2007 but are not yet published.

Source:
Monthly RTT data collection (published)

Health Services: Suffolk

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects to publish the terms of reference for the Independent Reconfiguration Panel's review of Suffolk Primary Care Trust's plans for health services in Sudbury; [155177]

(2) whether under the terms of reference of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel's review of Suffolk Primary Care Trust's plans for health services in Sudbury, Sudbury WATCH will be given the opportunity to address the panel. [155178]

Alan Johnson: The Independent Reconfiguration Panel's (IRP) terms of reference in relation to the referral from Suffolk Health Scrutiny Committee have not been agreed, although we expect them to be available shortly.

As part of a formal review, the IRP will consult with interested parties from all sides of the debate. IRP members will undertake site visits, hold meetings and interviews and request written evidence from interested parties.

Influenza: Vaccination

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure sufficient supply of seasonal influenza vaccine for the 2007-08 winter. [155239]

Alan Johnson: The Department meets with representatives from UK Vaccine Industry Group each year to discuss flu vaccine requirements for the United Kingdom. On 24 July 2007, Professor David Salisbury, Director of Immunisation wrote to the profession saying that over 15 million doses of seasonal flu vaccine would be available for distribution in the United Kingdom.

Maternity Services: Manpower

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the ratio is of maternity nurses to births in each health authority area. [155287]

Alan Johnson: The ratio of births to maternity nurses by Government region is as shown in the following table:

Region	*Ratio*
North East	17.61:1
North West	15.89:1
Yorkshire and Humberside	18.61:1
East Midlands	20.00:1
West Midlands	20.06:1
East	19.24:1
London	19.30:1
South East	19.09:1
South West	17.24:1
England	18.49:1

Note:
Figures based on the Information Centre for health and social care's workforce census 2006 and from the national health service maternity statistics for England 2005-06.

Medical Treatments

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his letter of 27 July to the hon. Member for Wellingborough, what the evidential basis was for his statement that Mrs. Waterer has had the treatment Avastin made available to her. [155129]

Alan Johnson: The evidential basis was the hon. Member's comments to the House, on 12 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1627.

Midwives: Gloucestershire

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent midwives there were in *(a)* Cheltenham and *(b)* Gloucestershire in each year since 1997. [155164]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is not held centrally in the format requested. Information about number of full-time equivalent midwives at the Gloucestershire hospitals national health service foundation trust is provided in the following table.

NHS hospital and community health services: registered midwifes at Gloucestershire hospitals NHS foundation trust as at 30 September each specified year

	Full-time equivalent Number
1997	165
1998	170
1999	164
2000	164
2001	166
2002	151
2003	155
2004	174
2005	173
2006	166

Notes:
1. Full-time equivalent figures are rounded to the nearest whole number. In 2002 Gloucestershire Royal NHS trust and East Gloucestershire trusts merged to form Gloucestershire hospitals NHS foundation trust.
2. Figures prior to 2002 are therefore listed as a combination of the two former organisations.
Source:
Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

NHS: Manpower

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors, *(b)* nurses and *(c)* dentists were employed in the NHS in (i) full-time equivalent terms and (ii) headcount terms in *(A)* 1979, *(B)* 1997 and *(C)* the most recent period for which figures are available. [155240]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is shown in the table.

All doctors, dentists and qualified nursing staff—England

Number (headcount)/HC) and full-time equivalents

	1979		*1997*		*2006*		*2007*	
	HC	*FTE*	*HC*	*FTE*	*HC*	*FTE*	*HC*	*FTE*
All NHS Doctors[1, 2]	65,442	[3]—	89,619	84,758	125,612	119,096	[3]—	[3]—
HCHS medical and dental staff[1]	42,380	[3]—	60,230	57,099	90,243	85,975	[3]—	[3]—
General Medical Practitioners (excluding retainers)[2]	23,062	[3]—	29,389	27,660	35,369	33,121	[3]—	[3]—
Dentists[3]	12,425	[3]—	16,470	[4]—	[4]—	[3]—	21,041	[3]—
Total Qualified Nursing staff[5]	192,052	161,359	318,856	256,093	398,335	322,062	[3]—	[3]—

All doctors, dentists and qualified nursing staff—England

Number (headcount (HC) and full-time equivalents

	1979		1997		2006		2007	
	HC	FTE	HC	FTE	HC	FTE	HC	FTE
Qualified Nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff[1]	190,243	160,367	300,467	246,011	374,538	307,447	[5]—	[5]—
GP Practice Nurses	1,809	992	18,389	10,082	23,797	14,616	[5]—	[5]—

[1] Headcount figures exclude medical hospital practitioners and medical clinical assistants, most of whom are also GPs that work part-time in hospitals.
[2] GP retainers were first collected in 1999 and are omitted for comparability purposes
[3] Information as at 31 March 2007 is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, and is not comparable with earlier information.
Due to changes in coverage between the old and new contractual arrangements, there are some dentists working in trust-led dental services who were not previously included in the old figures. The national health service Business Services Authority Dental Services Division has estimated an upper bound of 578 dentists who fall in this category.
The figures take no account of the level of service, if any, that each dentist provided.
Numbers of dentists (headcount) have been provided as no whole-time equivalent information is available.
[4] Figures for 1979 are hospital staff only and are therefore not directly comparable with later years
All data as at 30 September except 1979 and 1997 GP practice nurse data as at 1 October.
[5] Denotes data not available.
[6] N/A

NHS: Maternity Pay

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many trusts have waived their rights to recovery of maternity pay as set out in part 3, section 15.30 of Agenda for Change: NHS terms and conditions of service handbook, January 2005; [155247]

(2) what studies his Department has carried out into the cost implications of NHS trusts waiving their rights to recovery of maternity pay as set out in part 3, section 15.30 of Agenda for Change: NHS terms and conditions of service handbook, January 2005. [155248]

Alan Johnson: We do not hold information centrally on trusts waiving their right to recovery of maternity pay as set out in part 3, section 15.30 of 'Agenda for Change: NHS terms and conditions of service handbook, January 2005' and no studies have been undertaken on this issue.

NHS: Sick Leave

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what studies his Department has undertaken into the cost of sick leave to the NHS. [155246]

Alan Johnson: Data on sickness absence are collected as a part of the Department's routine monitoring and has been a part of the Department's productive time programme. An indicator on sickness absence is included in the Better Care Better Value Indicators. The NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement included managing sickness absence as one of the ways of improving efficiency and productivity in their publication 'Delivering Quality and Value: Focus on Productivity and Efficiency'.

NHS: Working Hours

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the variety in the interpretations and determinations of the European Working Time Directives in relation to hospital staff in England; and if he will make a statement. [155269]

Alan Johnson: The Government are fully committed to the implementation of the European Working Time Directive (EWTD), as part of health and safety law.

The EWTD was implemented for the vast majority of national health service staff groups in 1998 in accordance with regulations. The Government negotiated an extension to the EWTD for doctors in training to enable phased implementation from August 2004.

The Department is sponsoring NHS national workforce projects to support local EWTD implementation for doctors in training through a range of pilots including cooperative solutions, team working, handover and escalation and 24:7 working. The pilots take in a wide variety of organisations to look at solutions which are transferable across the NHS. There is ongoing evaluation of the pilots to share lessons learned as early as possible.

Northwick Park Hospital: Maternal Mortality

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the conclusions of the Healthcare Commission were on the contributory factors to maternal deaths at Northwick Park following the merger with Central Middlesex; and how many births there were at Northwick Park *(a)* before and *(b)* after the merger. [155270]

Alan Johnson: The findings of the Healthcare Commission into the maternity deaths at Northwick Park have been placed in the Library and are available on the Healthcare Commission's website:

www.healthcarecommission.org.uk/_db/_documents/Northwick_tagged.pdf

The information requested on the number of births at Northwick Park before and after the merger with Central Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust is not held centrally. However, the amount of births at North West London Hospital NHS Trust since 1999 is shown in the following table. Data were not provided in 2001-02 due to data issues associated with this Trust.

Count of finished consultant (birth) episodes at North West London Hospital NHS Trust 1999-2006

	Birth Episodes
2005-06	5,041
2004-05	5,568
2003-04	5,272
2002-03	4,863
2001-02	[1]
2000-01	3,722
1999-2000	5,145

[1] Data not available due to data quality issues

Notes:
A finished consultant episode is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have had more than one episode of care within the year.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics

Prescriptions: Standards

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether mechanisms are being put in place to ensure that strategic health authorities are integrating approaches to prescribing across primary and secondary care so that there is consistency between general practitioners' and consultants' choices of drugs with regard to patients discharged into primary care as recommended by the National Audit Office's report, Prescribing Costs in Primary Care; [155160]

(2) what mechanisms are being put in place to ensure that strategic health authorities are integrating approaches to prescribing across primary and secondary care so that patients discharged into primary care are not continued on their course of drug treatment for longer than necessary, as recommended by the National Audit Office's report Prescribing Costs in Primary Care. [155161]

Alan Johnson: Medicines management and prescribing have long been recognised as key elements of both primary care trust and acute trust business and it is important that these organisations liaise effectively on these issues. This can be achieved through Area Prescribing Committees (APCs). The Department recently commissioned the National Prescribing Centre to update their guidance document, which was published in May this year, with the aim of reinforcing the role of APCs.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are being put in place to ensure that strategic health authorities are integrating approaches to prescribing across primary and secondary care so that patients discharged into primary care have their medicines reviewed regularly, as recommended by the National Audit Office's report Prescribing Costs in Primary Care. [155162]

Alan Johnson: There are a wide range of mechanisms in place in primary care to assist healthcare professionals in reviewing patients' medication use, for example medicines use reviews, repeat dispensing and National Prescribing Centre initiatives, such as the medicines management collaborate scheme. The recent National Audit Office report on prescribing costs in primary care places further impetus on undertaking these types of activities.

Primary Care Trusts: Drugs

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of local drug anti-wastage practices in primary care trusts; [155159]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1104-05W, on the NHS: drugs, what progress has been made on commissioning research to establish the extent of medicines waste and the complex and varied reasons for it. [155184]

Alan Johnson: The Department has made no assessment of the effectiveness of local anti-wastage drug practice in primary care trusts. However, we intend to commission new research on the scale, costs and causes of waste medicines to inform policy development for influencing both health professionals and members of the public to reduce the amount of unwanted medicines. A research specification is under development.

Tinnitus: Health Services

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many tinnitus clinics there are in England. [155220]

Alan Johnson: This information is not collected centrally.

Tinnitus: Research

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS spent on research into tinnitus in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [155221]

Alan Johnson: The information requested is not available. Details of individual national health service supported research projects including a number concerned with tinnitus are available on the national research register at:

www.dh.gov.uk/research.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is an independent body that receives its grant-in-aid from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

Although the MRC is not currently funding any research specifically relating to tinnitus it has a large portfolio of hearing and deafness research, some of which may lead to further understanding of the condition.

MRC expenditure on hearing and deafness research since 1997 is shown in the following table.

	£ million
1997-98	3.2
1998-99	3.5
1999-2000	3.3
2000-01	5

	£ million
2001-02	3.9
2002-03	n/a
2003-04	6.1
2004-05	6
2005-06	5.9

n/a = not available

West Sussex Primary Care Trust: Resignations

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reasons he was given for the resignation of the chairman of the West Sussex primary care trust, Mr. David Taylor. [155219]

Alan Johnson: I understand that a press release issued by West Sussex primary care trust on 26 July 2007 states that Mr. David Taylor resigned from the post of chairman for personal reasons.

Wheelchairs

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines have been produced by his Department which would indicate NHS funding for wheelchair users should be awarded on the basis of home-use only. [155198]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has not produced any guidelines to indicate how national health service funding for wheelchair users should be awarded.

Eligibility is based on local criteria, which should include clinical and lifestyle needs and the ability of the client to use the specified chair safely.

Worthing Hospital: Maternity Services

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health where Worthing hospital maternity service is positioned in the national rates of still births and neonatal mortality; and how many qualified consultants' hours were available to Worthing hospital maternity service per week in the latest period for which figures are available. [155272]

Alan Johnson: We have not calculated a national league table of rates of stillbirths by hospital. However, we can say that the rates of stillbirths and neonatal deaths at Worthing hospital are much lower than the rates for England and Wales. The following table shows number and rate for stillbirths and neonatal deaths in England and Wales and at Worthing Hospital.

Stillbirths number and rate, 2005 (latest year available)

	Number	Rate[1]
England and Wales	3,483	5.4
Worthing Hospital	7	2.9

Neonatal deaths number and rate, 2002-05[2]

	Number	Rate[3]
England and Wales	8,826	3.5
Worthing Hospital	7	0.7

[1] Per 1,000 live and still births.
[2] It is not possible to provide number of neonatal deaths in Worthing hospital for 2005 alone because of the risk of disclosing individual's information due to the very small number of deaths.
[3] Per 1,000 live births.

Neonatal survival rates of very preterm babies have improved over the past 10 years. In 2005, the stillbirth rate was 5.4. We are funding research linked to premature births from the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit. Some parts of this research have received additional funding from agencies such as the Medical Research Council. A simple guideline from National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is being used to help interpret monitoring in labour to identify babies at risk—such babies are then delivered as early as possible.

Data on how many qualified consultants' hours were available to Worthing hospital maternity service per week are not held centrally.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Hertfordshire University: Business

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what role Hertfordshire University has in the development of policy on business facing universities. [151888]

Bill Rammell: The Government set out their strategic priorities for the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) in setting out the funding made available to it for 2007-08. These included the need to respond to the challenges set out by the Leitch Review of Skills concerning developing a high-skills workforce.

HEFCE has a two-phase approach to developing a strategy for employer engagement leading from a pilot exploratory phase to a full strategy shared with the Council, the higher education (HE) sector, and its key partners. This approach recognises that there are a broad range of collaborations which exist between HE and public and private sector organisations, as explored in the Lambert Report on Business-University Collaboration (2003).

This first phase supports a range of project activity, including three regional 'Higher Level Skills Pathfinders' and a group of currently 8 'employer engagement pilots' (one of which the University of Hertfordshire is undertaking). The experience of institutions like The University of Hertfordshire will both help to inform HEFCE's strategy for employer engagement, and provide valuable lessons for other HE institutions looking to collaborate with employers.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the employability of Hertfordshire university graduates following the business-facing university pilot. [151889]

Bill Rammell: The Department has made no assessment of the employability of graduates from the university of Hertfordshire. The university is receiving funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England for its 'UHEvolution' project, which is engaging employers in a variety of ways and which may in due course result in improved employment outcomes for its graduates. However, this project is in its early stages and its outcomes have yet to be assessed.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the pilot making Hertfordshire university a business facing university. [151890]

Bill Rammell: The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has not yet made any assessment of the impact of the activities it funds under the 'UHEvolution' project. The university is undertaking this project to help it become 'business-facing'.

Higher Education: Business

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps are being taken to encourage co-operation between universities and business. [151852]

Bill Rammell: The Department has a policy of encouraging higher education institutions (HEIs) to increase their interaction with business and with employers generally.

The Higher Education Innovation Fund, which provides funding to all HEIs in England is a key incentive. Funding for this programme has increased from £187 million for the two academic years 2004/05-2005/06 to £238 million for 2006/07-2007/08. The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has allocated £60 million of its research funding in 2007/08 by reference to research grants and contracts from business.

HEFCE also fund a range of projects that are helping to identify, respond to, and increase employer demand for workforce development at HE-level, in line with its strategy for employer engagement and our plans for implementing the Leitch Review of Skills.

Higher Education: Innovation

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether his Department takes any measures to encourage social entrepreneurship at universities. [152255]

Bill Rammell: The Department is supporting social entrepreneurship by funding three initiatives. We provide financial support to the National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship for its Flying Start programme which includes workshops aimed specifically at social entrepreneurs.

Departmental funding is provided through the Higher Education Funding Council for England for 10 of the Higher Education Academy's subject centres to encourage and teach entrepreneurship as part of existing HE courses.

The Department also funds the Higher Education Funding Council for England to support two Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (the Institute for Enterprise and the White Rose Centre) both of which support enterprise education communities.

Schools: Fire Prevention

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many colleges *(a)* have sprinklers and *(b)* do not have sprinklers fitted within them. [151480]

Bill Rammell: The Department is not responsible for compiling information on how many colleges have or do not have sprinklers fitted within them.

Vocational Training: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether he plans to commission research on skills deficiencies and training needs within the Leeds, West, constituency in the light of the Leitch Report; and if he will make a statement. [148648]

Mr. Lammy: The Department does not plan to commission any such research. However, the Regional Skills Partnership for Yorkshire and the Humber will shortly be undertaking an analysis of skill needs and demand for skills across the region.

JUSTICE

Burglaries: Surrey

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of those convicted for a burglary committed in Surrey in each of the last five years were sentenced to a custodial sentence; and how many were under 21 years when convicted. [155327]

Mr. Wills: Data showing the proportion of those convicted for a burglary committed in Surrey from 2001 to 2005 who received a custodial sentence are shown in the following table. Data are provided for all ages and for defendants aged under 21 years when convicted.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts and given custodial sentences for burglary in Surrey, broken down by age, 2001 to 2005[1, 2]

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Found guilty—all ages	206	197	188	231	225
Found guilty—aged under 21	88	69	78	82	90
Number found guilty given a custodial sentence—all ages	109	88	73	102	84
Number found guilty given a custodial sentence—aged under 21	30	19	20	17	20
Percentage of those found guilty given a custodial sentence—all ages	53	45	39	44	37
Percentage of those found guilty given a custodial sentence—aged under 21	34	28	26	21	22

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Court proceedings database held by RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice.

Constituencies

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he has taken to ensure that future elections in new parliamentary constituencies with recently revised district council ward boundaries are conducted on the basis of the new boundaries. [155134]

Mr. Wills: New parliamentary boundaries are delineated by reference to district council wards as they exist at a particular point in time. However, the use of wards is merely the most convenient method by which to describe the physical geographical area of the constituency. There is no legislative requirement to run a parliamentary election on the basis of local government wards. The administrative units for the running of a parliamentary election are the polling district and the constituency.

As and when wards are amended, the parliamentary constituency will therefore not automatically change, although the Parliamentary Boundary Commission will consider whether an interim review and possible amendment to the parliamentary constituency may be justified.

Criminal Justice Act 2003

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to bring outstanding sections of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 into effect. [155205]

Mr. Hanson: Of the 329 substantive sections in the Criminal Justice Act 2003 the vast majority have been brought wholly into force. Only a small percentage of the remainder remain unimplemented. These figures are shown in the following table.

Officials are actively working on these areas of legislation with a view to implementation; considering resource implications; undertaking pilot exercises; or examining other necessary procedures and practices.

	Number of sections	*Percentage of sections*
Wholly in force	276	84
Partially in force	26	8
Not in force	26	8
Repealed	1	—

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been appointed to his Department outside civil service grades in the last 30 days. [153028]

Mr. Wills: The number of appointments outside of civil service grades in the last 30 days is not held centrally. To obtain this information each individual business area within my Department would have to be contacted at a disproportionate cost.

Electronic Conveyancing

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to prevent the emergence of a monopoly in the provision of e-conveyancing through the chain matrix system. [155329]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry is empowered by primary legislation under the Land Registration Act 2002 to create the Chain Matrix as the system by which e-conveyancing, a statutory service, is accessed. As such, Land Registry is not obliged to offer alternative methods of access or service delivery. Chain Matrix itself, however, is not a unique product within the market as there are other types of electronic property sale tracking systems operating at present. As such, the monopoly question does not apply.

Firearms: Sentencing

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in England and Wales were sentenced for offences, committed when over the age of 18 years, under sections 5(1)(a), (ab), (aba), (ac), (ad), (ae), (af) or (c), or section 5(1A)(a) of the Firearms Act 1968, to *(a)* five or more years imprisonment, *(b)* imprisonment of less than five years and *(c)* a non-custodial sentence in each year since 2004. [155206]

Mr. Hanson: The number of persons aged 18 or over in England and Wales sentenced under the above sections of the Firearms Act (1968) for the years 2004 and 2005 are given as follows:

	2004	*2005*
Five or more years imprisonment	76	142
Less than five years imprisonment	165	91
Non-custodial sentence	446	120

Although the persons were convicted in 2004 and 2005, the offence was not necessarily committed in those years and may have been committed before the introduction of the minimum sentence in January 2004.

Although care is taken in collating and analysing the returns used to compile these figures, the data are of necessity subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system. Consequently, although figures are shown to the last digit in order to provide a comprehensive record of the information collected, they are not necessarily accurate to the last digit shown.

Home Detention Curfews

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were released early under the home detention curfew scheme in each of the last five years; and for which offences those released had been convicted. [155180]

Mr. Hanson: Figures on the numbers of prisoners released on home detention curfew from prison establishments in England and Wales between 2001 and 2005 can be found in the following table:

Home detention curfew release[1] by offence group[2]

Offence Group[1]	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Violence	2,854	3,693	3,564	3,159	3,204
Sexual offences	17	20	8	1	2
Robbery	631	916	1,257	961	901
Burglary	1,072	2,022	2,066	1,677	1,298
Theft and handling	1,771	2,797	2,817	2,629	2,107
Fraud and forgery	1,149	1,262	1,133	1,226	1,287
Drug offences	2,219	2,683	2,782	2,422	2,509
Motoring offences	1,500	3,801	4,158	3,877	3,046
Other[2]	2,464	3,331	3,438	3,343	2,942

[1] Offence recorded on Prison Service IT system. Investigations suggest that around 5 per cent. of offence types recorded on this system do not relate to the offence they were released on HDC for but relate to offences committed after release from prison and before the licence expiry date for their sentence.
[2] Includes the offence of bigamy.

The table has been drawn from published figures in annual volumes of Prison Statistics in England and Wales, and Offender Management Caseload Statistics.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Home Detention Curfews: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many individuals normally domiciled in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire have been released early from the prison estate under the Early Release scheme in the 12 months to 31 August; and if he will make a statement. [155321]

Mr. Hanson: It is assumed that the question relates to the End of Custody Licence Scheme which was implemented on 29 June 2007. Information on the domicile of prisoners released under the scheme is not centrally available, would require reference to paper files and could not be provided without disproportionate cost.

However, the hon. Member's attention is drawn to the website http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm from which it is clear that 19 prisoners were released under the scheme from Peterborough prison between 6 and 31 July.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Illegal Broadcasting: Video Recordings

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there were for the supply of video works to individuals who are under the age of the designated classification in each of the last 10 years. [155295]

Mr. Wills: Data on the number of prosecutions and convictions under the Video Recording Act 1984, as amended by the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, in England and Wales 1996 to 2005 can be found in the table.

Court proceedings data for 2006 will be available in the autumn of 2007.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Video Recording Act 1984, as amended by the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, in England and Wales 1996-2005[1,2,3,4]

	Offence description					
	Supplying video recording of classified work in breach of classification		*Supplying video recording of unclassified work*		*Persons video recording of unclassified work for the purpose of supply*	
	Prosecuted	*Found guilty*	*Prosecuted*	*Found guilty*	*Prosecuted*	*Found guilty*
1996	18	17	67	57	75	61
1997	19	16	65	60	76	69
1998	31	22	31	28	77	75
1999	47	40	80	61	85	61
2000[5]	23	18	79	69	75	73
2001	20	10	67	62	68	68
2002	22	14	62	59	64	62
2003	25	17	44	44	40	31
2004	11	8	42	31	49	43
2005	13	9	28	28	43	37

	Offence description					
	Certain video recordings only to be supplied in licensed sex shops		*Supply of video recording not complying with requirements as to labels etc*		*Supply of video recordings containing false indication as to classification*	
	Prosecuted	*Found guilty*	*Prosecuted*	*Found guilty*	*Prosecuted*	*Found guilty*
1996	1	1	3	2	2	2
1997		0	0	0	1	1
1998	0	0	1	1	1	1
1999	1	0	3	1	9	0
2000[5]	1	0	8	6	1	1
2001	8	6	4	3	0	0
2002	9	4	0	0	0	0
2003	13	10	0	0	2	0
2004	[6]64	[6]48	1	0	2	2
2005	12	12	2	1	3	2

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Some of the statistics relate to illegal sales but it is not possible to tell whether these were necessarily sales to children.
[4] Includes the following statutes and offence description:
Video Recording Act 1984, Sec 11 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 88(4).
Supplying video recording of classified work in breach of classification.
Video Recording Act 1984, Sec 9 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 88.
Supplying video recording of unclassified work.
Video Recording Act 1984, Sec 10 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 88.
Persons video recording of unclassified work for the purpose of supply.
Video Recording Act 1984, Sec 12 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 88(5).
Certain video recordings only to be supplied in licensed sex shops.
Video Recording Act 1984 Sec 13.
Supply of video recording not complying with requirements as to labels etc.
Video Recording Act 1984, Sec 14 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 88(6).
Supply of video recordings containing false indication as to classification.
[5] Staffordshire Police Force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates' courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
[6] Liverpool Trading Standards prosecuted two large suppliers of videos who were supplying R18 material by mail order; they can only be sold in, not from, licensed sex shops. These prosecutions account for just about all the cases that year.
Source:
Court Proceedings Database held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Magistrates: Bail

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to improve the accountability of local magistrates for the decisions which they take in relation to bail applications where the award of bail is followed by further offences whilst on bail. [155210]

Mr. Hanson: The court's decision on whether to grant bail or remand a defendant in custody is governed by the Bail Act 1976. The court must decide on each occasion, with all the information before it, if the defendant presents such a bail risk as to warrant custody. This decision is an exercise of judicial discretion and as such is not subject to interference.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to answer the letter to him dated 12 July from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs. K. Kerry. [155262]

Mr. Wills: I refer the right hon. Member to my answer of 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1994W.

National Offender Management Information System: Procurement

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on commissioning and procuring the C-NOMIS IT system; how much of that total sum has been spent *(a)* on outside agencies and consultants and *(b)* internally within the Department, broken down by internal divisions, agencies and services within the Department, including the National Offender Management Service, that spent the money; and when C-NOMIS will be operational within the police service. [155163]

Mr. Hanson: I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer of 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1995W. It was never envisaged that C-NOMIS would be extended to the police service.

Prison Accommodation: Finance

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what resources his Department has made available to cover the cost of new prison places in each of the next seven years. [155188]

Mr. Hanson: Estimated capital costs for the 8,000 place programme are around £1.5 billion and new money is being made available to provide an additional 1,500 places. The costs will be subject to further discussions in light of Lord Carter's review and with HM Treasury.

Prison Accommodation: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which sites in Wales have been identified for consideration for future prison expansion. [155212]

Mr. Hanson: A number of potential sites in Wales are currently being investigated as possible sites for new prison development. Once the process has been completed the sites with the most potential will be considered and a decision reached. Any final sites selected will be subject to consultation.

Prison Governors: Travel

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidelines apply to the use by prison governors of first class accommodation on the railways; if he will place a copy of those guidelines in the Library; what estimate he has made of the cost to HM Prison Service incurred by prison governors travelling in first class accommodation rather than standard class accommodation; and if he will make a statement. [153679]

Mr. Hanson: Prison Service travel policy is set out in Prison Service Order 8650. Paragraph 5.2 of this document lists those grades of employees who are entitled to travel first class on official duty. Since its publication the service's grade structure has changed twice, but the qualifying grade level has not altered. Based on the current grade structure managers F and above can travel first class. This incorporates governors and other managerial staff.

Prison Service official travel is currently paid from one generic budget code relating to all modes and class of transport and all grades of staff. While each individual prison establishment could advise on its total spend, they would not be able to determine the class or grade.

Prison Service: Industrial Disputes

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the net cost to his Department was of industrial action by prison officers on 29 August. [155189]

Mr. Hanson: It is at the moment too early to be able to give the net cost of the industrial action by Prison Officers on 29 August as this information is still being collated from across the prison estate.

I will write to the hon. Gentleman as soon as the net cost of the action has been established.

Prison Service: Manpower

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers he expects to be employed in prisons in England and Wales in each of the next seven years. [155190]

Mr. Hanson: The total number of prison officers employed in the public sector Prison Service on 31 August 2007 was 25,200. This figure will rise in line with increased capacity within the estate (subject to planning permission for new sites) and will increase prison officer numbers by a total of 1,491 over the next four years. Assuming that the current staffing figure remains broadly constant the projected staffing figures will be as follows by 31 March of each year:

	Anticipated total prison officers	*Including anticipated new vacancies*
2008	25,688	488
2009	26,081	393
2010	26,149	68
2011	26,460	311
2012	26,691	231

Figures shown in the third column of the table show the additional number of prison officers required to open new accommodation in each of the financial years shown. These figures are provisional and may be subject to change. (Prison officer figures include all grades of uniformed officer). The Prison Service has no projected figures for 2012 and beyond.

Prisoners: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners in prisons in England gave their last registered address in Wales. [155213]

Mr. Hanson: For January 2007, the latest date information is available, 1,560 prisoners with a registered address in Wales were held in prisons in England.

Where no home address is listed for a prisoner the committal court is used as a proxy address.

Probation Officers: Manpower

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many probation officers he expects to be employed by the National Offender Management Service in each of the next seven years. [155191]

Mr. Hanson: No assessment has yet been made as workforce planning models are currently being reviewed in order to align it to future arrangements.

Reoffenders: Sentencing

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people in England and Wales were sentenced for second serious offences covered by s.2 of the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997 to a sentence of *(a)* life imprisonment, *(b)* a determinate period of imprisonment and *(c)* a non-custodial sentence in each year since 1998; [155207]

(2) how many people in England and Wales were sentenced for a second class A drug trafficking offence covered by s.3 of the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997 to a sentence of *(a)* seven or more years imprisonment, *(b)* imprisonment of less than seven years and *(c)* a non-custodial sentence in each year since 1998; [155208]

(3) how many people in England and Wales were sentenced for a third domestic burglary offence covered by s.3 of the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997 to a sentence of *(a)* seven or more years imprisonment, *(b)* imprisonment of less than seven years and *(c)* a non-custodial sentence in each year since 1998. [155209]

Mr. Hanson: The data held centrally are not in a format to allow us to answer these questions completely. We are able to answer part *(a)* for questions 155207 and 155209, we are unable to answer parts *(b)* and *(c)* for all three questions. We are able to give the following information, for total number of persons sentenced for:

(i) life for a second serious offence

(ii) minimum seven years for a third class A drug trafficking

(iii) Minimum three years for a third domestic burglary since 2000. Please see as follows (table 2.6 of 'Sentencing Statistics, England and Wales').

Table 2.6: Persons sentenced under the Powers of the Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000, 2000-05—England and Wales

Number of persons

	Section 109	*Section 110*	*Section 111*
	Life for second serious offence	*Minimum seven years for third class A drug trafficking offence*	*Minimum three years for third domestic burglary*
2000	57	2	—
2001	51	1	6
2002	44	—	2
2003	48	3	13
2004	47	4	46
2005	[1]43	3	89

[1] Section 109 was replaced in April 2005 by sentences of imprisonment for public protection. Figures therefore relate to offences committed prior to that date.

Also available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb0307.pdf

Although care is taken in collating and analysing the returns used to compile these figures, the data are of necessity subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system. Consequently, although figures are shown to the last digit in order to provide a comprehensive record of the information collected, they are not necessarily accurate to the last digit shown.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to which periodicals his Department subscribes. [153186]

Mrs. McGuire: A list of periodicals and newspapers to which DWP subscribes through its Library and Information Service has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* staff and *(b)* communication training in the last 12 months. [153188]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions spent £16 million on staff training from July 2006-June 2007.

Included within this figure is the cost of training in communication provided to the Department's staff. To separately identify this expenditure would be of a disproportionate cost.

Disabled: Low Incomes

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of households with at least one disabled person that have an income of less than 60 per cent. of the median. [153585]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is available in the Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2005-06 (revised), table 3.6 on page 31. This is available in the Library.

Employment: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people gained employment from jobcentre referrals in each London constituency in each of the last five years; [153643]

(2) how many people gained employment from jobcentre referrals in each London borough in each of the last five years. [153644]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available.

Employment: Standards

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions by what means the Government's target of an 80 per cent. employment rate was arrived at; and what research his Department has carried out into the reduction in the number of claimants on *(a)* incapacity benefit, *(b)* jobseeker's allowance and *(c)* lone parent benefit needed to meet the target. [152806]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 26 July 2007]:* The long-term aim of an employment rate equivalent to 80 per cent. of the working age population reflects analysis of historic and international labour market performance and an assessment of the potential for

further narrowing the employment rate gap between different groups in the labour market and the overall average. It was set in the context of the Government's commitment to extend the opportunity to work to all, the modern definition of full employment, as outlined in our Welfare Reform Green Paper "In work, better off" Cm7130, published on 18 July 2007.

The Department's analysis has suggested that realising the 80 per cent. aim will require: a reduction of one million in the number of incapacity benefit claimants; 300,000 more lone parents in employment; and one million more older people in work.

Incapacity Benefit: Beverley and Holderness

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Beverley and Holderness were registered for incapacity benefit in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [155226]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Number of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants in Beverley and Holderness parliamentary constituency

Quarter ending	*Number*
February 1997	4,000
February 1998	4,000
February 1999	3,500
February 2000	3,200
February 2001	3,280
February 2002	3,240
February 2003	3,290
February 2004	3,330
February 2005	3,400
February 2006	3,430
February 2007	3,320

Notes:
1. February 1997 to February 1999 (inclusive) numbers are uprated to WPLS totals and rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. February 2000 to February 2007 (inclusive) numbers are rounded to the nearest ten.
3. February 1997 to February 1999 (inclusive) numbers are based on a five per cent. sample, and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
4. These figures should be used as a guide to the current situation only.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate five per cent sample and 100 per cent Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Incapacity Benefit: Finance

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average cost was of dealing with a single incapacity benefit claimant in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [155228]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department accounts for its administrative expenditure by strategic objective as set out in its public service agreements (PSA) and by individual requests for resources (RfRs) as set out in the Departmental Estimates and Accounts, and not by benefit. Information on administrative expenditure by strategic objective is available in the annually published Departmental Report, copies of which are available in the Library.

Jobcentre Plus: Doctors

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many doctors are contracted to Jobcentre Plus to assess incapacity benefit applicants, broken down by each local benefits agency; and if he will make a statement. [154864]

Mrs. McGuire: Medical services are provided to DWP under contract by Atos Healthcare. Doctors carrying out incapacity benefit assessments are engaged by Atos Healthcare not Jobcentre Plus.

Atos Healthcare does not keep data on the number of doctors performing incapacity benefit assessments by local benefit office.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the terms of contract are for doctors contracted to Jobcentre Plus with respect to incapacity benefit assessments; and if he will make a statement. [154865]

Mrs. McGuire: Medical services are provided to DWP under contract by Atos Healthcare. Doctors carrying out incapacity benefit assessments are engaged by Atos Healthcare not Jobcentre Plus.

Doctors engaged by Atos Healthcare have a range of contracts, including employed full-time, employed part-time and sessional contracts.

Official Visits: Jobcentres

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job centres he has visited since his appointment; and which job centres he plans to visit before 8 October 2007. [152646]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 26 July 2007]*: Since his appointment on 29 June the Secretary of State has visited one Jobcentre Plus office, that visit was on 20 July to Neath Jobcentre Plus office.

The Secretary of State is keen to visit other offices and services within the DWP network and arrangements are being made.

Pensioners: British Overseas Territories

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners entitled to the UK state pension whose pensions are frozen because they have retired outside the UK live in each of the British Overseas Territories. [155279]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The latest available information is in the following table.

	Number
Anguilla	153
Ascension Island	[1]
British Antarctic Territory	[1]
British Indian Ocean Territory	[1]
British Virgin Islands	45
Cayman Islands	124
Falkland Islands and dependencies (south Georgia and south Sandwich Islands)	46
Montserrat	129
Pitcairn Island	[1]

	Number
St. Helena	78
Tristan da Cunha	[1]
Turk and Caicos Islands	22

[1] Less than 10

Source:
Pensions Strategy Computer System, August 2007

Pensions: Divorce

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what provision is afforded to divorcees who, at the age of 60, are unable to claim an enhanced pension based on their ex-husband's national insurance contributions because those husbands are not drawing pensions. [154963]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A person who is divorced when they reach state pension age can use their former spouse's national insurance contributions to help boost their basic state pension regardless of the age of the former spouse and whether or not they are drawing a state pension. However, where a person has been divorced more than once before state pension age, only the national insurance record of the last spouse may be used.

Pensions: Females

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate how many women aged *(a)* 60, *(b)* 61, *(c)* 62, *(d)* 63, *(e)* 64, *(f)* 65, *(g)* 66, *(h)* 67, *(i)* 68 and *(j)* 69 are currently receiving state pensions, based on their own contributions, that are based on a contribution record of between 60 per cent. and 98 per cent. [155045]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not available. The following table shows those women who are in receipt of a basic state pension of between 60 per cent. and 98 per cent. as at the September 2006 rate, which was £84.25 per week, either based on their own national insurance record or a combination of their own and their husband's national insurance record. The data are taken from a 5 per cent. extract of the Pension Service Computer System, therefore figures are subject to a clear warning that there is a degree of sampling variation.

Age	*Number of females*
60	122,100
61	117,200
62	119,000
63	105,300
64	90,600
65	76,000
66	69,700
67	64,300
68	58,100
69	49,900

Notes:
1. Data are taken from a 5 per cent. extract of the Pension Service Computer System, therefore figures are subject to a degree of sampling variation. They are also adjusted to be consistent with the overall case load from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
3. Figures include cases residing abroad where the rate of state pension would not be uprated each year.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate.

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons the national insurance contributions of women who have remarried are not fully taken into account in determining their state pensions. [155050]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The individual's national insurance record is taken fully into account when determining his or her state pension entitlement.

Pensions: Postal Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pension cheques destined for pensioners living in *(a)* Orkney and Shetland, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* the UK were posted to the wrong address in each of the last five years. [154858]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not available.

The Pension Service makes every effort to issue cheque payments to pensioners at their last verified address. Where cheques do go to an incorrect address, this may be for a variety of reasons, such as the customer moving and inadvertently omitting to let the Pension Service know of their change of address.

Social Security Benefits: Highland Council

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 255W, on social security benefits: Highland council, what information has been gathered by the two postholders; and what evaluation has been carried out of the two posts. [155187]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information gathered by the two postholders is in the following table.

The Highland Council Partnership Fund Project: April 2005 to March 2007

Project activities/outputs	
Project activities	
Mail shots issued	5,117
Number of claim forms sent out	501
Visits/meetings undertaken	509
Surgeries/presentations held	104
Attendees at surgeries/presentations	1,656
Telephone calls made to clients	772
Telephone calls received from clients	1,086
Benefit checks undertaken	603
Referrals received	404
Project outputs	
Pension credit applications made	91
Attendance allowance applications made	66
Disability living allowance applications made	100
Council tax benefit applications made	155
Housing benefit applications made	86
Carer's allowance applications made	43

The Highland Council Partnership Fund Project: April 2005 to March 2007

Project activities/outputs	
Total benefit applications	541
Benefit referrals made to the Pension Service	7
Benefit referrals made to other agencies	8
Service referrals made to other agencies	7
Total referrals made	22

Note:
The table details work undertaken by Highland council on behalf of the Pension Service.
Source:
Highland Council Management Information.Return to the Pension Service.

No specific evaluation was conducted of the two posts within Highland council. However, a full evaluation of the Partnership Fund initiatives has been undertaken, and this report was published on 21 June 2007.

The evaluation report entitled: "Helping Older People Engage With Benefits and Service: An Evaluation of the Partnership Fund" does not present information on an individual project basis; this is due to the way it was thematically analysed to ensure anonymity of respondents.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Bone: To ask the Prime Minister which Ministers would take lead responsibility for the operation of Government in the event of the Prime Minister's unforeseen incapacity. [155130]

The Prime Minister: Appropriate arrangements would be put in place, as has been the practice under successive administrations.

Members: Surveillance

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Prime Minister whether the Wilson Doctrine extends to a ban on UK Government departments and agencies instructing/requesting or handling intercept material from a foreign power that relates to *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the House of Lords. [155250]

The Prime Minister: The Wilson Doctrine applies to all forms of interception that are subject to authorisation by Secretary of State warrant.

Nuclear Weapons

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Prime Minister what discussions he has had with President Bush concerning the location of US missile sites in Czech Republic and Poland; and if he will make a statement. [155328]

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Prime Minister whether he put proposals to the US president on *(a)* implementing the 13 practical steps towards disarmament agreed at the 2000 NPT Review Conference, *(b)* ratifying the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and *(c)* supporting the model Nuclear Weapons Convention during his recent visit; and if he will make a statement. [155362]

Adam Price: To ask the Prime Minister whether he and President Bush discussed Israel joining the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear weapons state; and if he will make a statement. [155334]

Hywel Williams: To ask the Prime Minister (1) whether he put proposals to President Bush on creating a Middle East Nuclear Weapons Free Zone during his recent visit; and if he will make a statement; [155363]

(2) whether he put proposals to President Bush on NATO's *(a)* nuclear doctrine, *(b)* nuclear sharing agreement and *(c)* nuclear first strike policy during his recent visit; and if he will make a statement. [155364]

The Prime Minister: It is not the practice of the Government to make public details of all discussions with foreign Governments.

Public Participation

Mr. Harper: To ask the Prime Minister by what method jurors would be selected for service on a citizens' jury; and how that method would ensure that jurors were representative of their local community. [155148]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the press briefing given by my spokesman on 3 September 2007. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website (http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page13023.asp), and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

USA: Foreign Relations

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Prime Minister whether he plans to invite President George W. Bush to the United Kingdom before the President leaves office. [155185]

The Prime Minister: I will continue to have regular discussions with President Bush over the coming months on a wide range of issues.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

AIDS: Medical Treatments

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress his Department has made in ensuring universal access to AIDS treatment for all by 2010. [154828]

Mr. Malik: The UK Government are working to ensure universal access to AIDS treatment by 2010 in partnership with the international community, through DFID's bilateral programmes and through our contributions to multilateral organisations.

DFID's bilateral programmes are helping strengthen health systems in developing countries to roll out anti-retroviral treatment (ART). For example, in

Zimbabwe DFID is providing £20 million over four years to increase by at least 50 per cent. the number of people able to access ART. In Malawi, DFID has committed £45 million over five years for testing and counselling, access to ART and other related services.

The international effort to achieve universal access has helped boost the numbers of people on AIDS treatment in low and middle-income countries from 400,000 in 2003 to more than two million people today.

DFID has provided £359 million to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria over the 2002-08 period. To date, Global Fund-financed programmes have provided treatment to over 770,000 people living with HIV.

DFID is also committed to improving access to medicines, including providing €20 million for UNITAID, the new drugs purchase facility, as part of a 20-year commitment, increasing to €60 million per year by 2010 subject to performance. UNITAID has provided several significant grants, including more than $130 million for paediatric and second line ART.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Mr. Joyce: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support the UK has offered to Congolese nationals recently expelled from Angola. [154885]

Mr. Thomas: The UK has provided support to the Congolese nationals expelled from Angola through the pooled humanitarian fund for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), to which DFID provided £40 million (approximately 60 per cent. of the funding) in the last financial year. A mission by the United Nations to visit the Congolese nationals in south-eastern DRC found that there was no immediate shortage of food and water but that non-food items, such as mattresses and blankets, were required. As a result, through the pooled fund rapid response mechanism, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) together with the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has provided basic non-food assistance. The non-governmental organisation Caritas has also been funded through the pooled fund to provide transport for the Congolese nationals.

Global Fund to Fight AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make it his policy for the UK Government to make a three year contribution of at least £700 million to the Global Fund for AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. [154819]

Mr. Malik: We have yet to decide on the precise level of the UK's future engagement with the Global Fund to fight Aids, TB and Malaria. We have to date contributed £359 million to the fund and in terms of pledges made we are its sixth largest donor.

At the Berlin Replenishment Conference in September and afterwards, we will be looking for evidence of the Global Fund's performance and trajectory, which will inform the UK's decision on future engagement.

Iraq: Asylum

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what reports he has received of Syrian plans to change visa requirements for Iraqi refugees; what assessment he has made of the impact this will have on Iraqi refugees in the region; what discussions he has had with Syrian counterparts about these plans; and if he will make a statement; [155297]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of refugees from Iraq in *(a)* Syria, *(b)* Jordan, *(c)* Egypt, *(d)* Saudi Arabia, *(e)* Turkey, *(f)* Lebanon and *(g)* Iran; what financial assistance the Government gave to these countries for the purpose of addressing the humanitarian needs of those refugees in each year since March 2003; and if he will make a statement; [155298]

(3) what financial assistance the Government provided to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees for the purpose of addressing the problem of Iraqi refugees in each year since March 2003; and if he will make a statement. [155299]

Mr. Malik: We are very concerned about the humanitarian situation in Iraq and the increasing numbers of people who have been displaced due to the ongoing violence. The UN estimates that there are currently around 2 million internally displaced people in Iraq and another 2 million Iraqis externally displaced in the region.

According to UN estimates, the number of Iraqi refugees per country is as follows:

Country	*Number of Iraqi refugees*
Syria	1.2-1.4 million
Jordan	500,000-600,000
Egypt	20,000-40,000
GCC countries (including Saudi Arabia)	Over 200,000
Turkey	5,000-10,000
Lebanon	20,000-30,000
Iran	Over 54,000

We are continuing to play our part in ensuring that immediate needs are met. The UK has not provided any bilateral support to these Governments for assisting Iraqi refugees. Instead, we have supported internationally mandated humanitarian organisations as the best means to support and protect vulnerable Iraqi groups. So far this year, DFID has contributed £10 million to support humanitarian agencies working in Iraq and the region, and we are considering further support. Since 2003, we have contributed over £125 million for humanitarian assistance for Iraq, of which £3.25 million has been to the UNHCR (£1.75 million in 2003 and £1.5 million in 2007).

We are grateful for the considerable hospitality Syria and other countries in the region have shown by accommodating large numbers of people fleeing the violence in Iraq. However, we are concerned about the Syrian Government's recent announcement regarding the introduction of new visa requirements for Iraqis wanting to come to the country. The UNHCR is seeking clarification on what this will entail for Iraqis

already residing in Syria and those wishing to cross into Syria in the future, and we await the outcome of UNHCR's discussions with the Government of Syria.

Overseas Aid: Hurricanes and Tornadoes

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which islands have received relief from the UK following Hurricane Felix. [155006]

Mr. Malik: DFID has assessed that the Caribbean islands affected by Hurricane Felix do not need humanitarian assistance from the UK.

Hurricane Felix caused minimal damage in the Caribbean islands and no loss of life. Some homes were flooded on the Dutch islands of Aruba, Curacao and Bonaire in the southern Caribbean. The hurricane also caused some tree damage and scattered power outages. In Aruba there was also little visible damage although there was a temporary power outage in a northern town.

DFID has also been monitoring the effect of Hurricane Felix on the central American mainland.

In Nicaragua approximately 60,000 people have been affected by the hurricane along the north-eastern coast. The government of Nicaragua and a UN disaster management team have mobilised five teams of humanitarian experts to carry out rapid needs assessments of the damage. The Nicaraguan Ministries of Health and Education, the Red Cross, the Nicaraguan Civil Defence, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) have begun relief efforts.

DFID is assessing the situation in Honduras. There has been heavy rainfall which may cause flash flooding and landslides.

Overseas Aid: Standards

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which of the indicators for the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness his Department is not on target for; when he expects his Department to meet those targets; and by what means. [155284]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The 2006 OECD-DAC survey results showed that DFID has either already met or is on target to meet all the Paris Declaration targets at a corporate level by the 2010 deadline. When analysed at country level however, performance is more variable. Key areas where DFID will need to make improvements are:

(i) Reporting aid on budget;

(ii) Predictability; and

(iii) Use of programme-based approaches.

The DAC survey results and our own internal analysis have been used to update our UK DFID medium-term action plan on aid effectiveness. This includes actions across the organisation to improve aid effectiveness at country level, corporately and through our role as shareholders in the multi lateral organisations.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress his Department has made towards the target of spending 90 per cent. of aid on the poorest countries; and what percentage of UK aid goes to the poorest countries. [155285]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: DFID has met the target: 90 per cent. of DFID expenditure in 2006-07 was in low-income countries.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress his Department has made towards the target of allocating 50 per cent. of UK bilateral aid to developing countries for public services; and what percentage of bilateral aid is allocated for *(a)* health, *(b)* education, *(c)* sanitation and *(d)* water. [155286]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Provisional estimates for 2006-07 are that 49 per cent. of DFID bilateral expenditure (excluding humanitarian assistance) was spent on public services—a rise of five percentage points on the previous year. The breakdown for the sectors mentioned is as follows:

	Percentage
Health	25.0
Education	18.9
Sanitation	0.8
Water	1.5

HOME DEPARTMENT

Cycling: Fines

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were fined for carrying more than one person on a bicycle not constructed or adapted for that purpose in each of the last 10 years. [154857]

Mr. Wills: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested, for the years 1996 to 2005, is contained in the following table.

Persons[1] fined for offences of carrying more than one person on a bicycle, England and Wales, 1996 to 2005

Offence	*Statute*	*Year*	*Number of persons fined*
Carrying more than one person on a bicycle not constructed or adapted to carry more than one person	Road Traffic Act 1 988, s.24	1996	7
		1997	10
		1998	7
		1999	1
		2000	6
		2001	2
		2002	4
		2003	3
		2004	4
		2005	5

[1] Principal offence basis.

Source:
RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many press officers are employed by her Department. [153149]

Mr. Byrne: Press officers within the central Home Office are employed at the Information Officer (IO) and Senior Information Officer (SIO) grades. As at April 2007 the Department employed 38 full time press officers and one part time press officer.

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to which periodicals her Department subscribes. [153141]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office as a Department including its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies subscribe to a wide range of publications to inform its work. Individual business areas use their own budgets to make purchases under framework contracts managed by the Home Office Library. The publications are:

Title

Net—Including Free CD ROM
Architects Journal
ASLIB Corporate Membership—include Library Hi Tech News and Managing Inform and Electr Library
ASLIB Proceedings New Information Perspectives
AUSAF
Accountancy
Addiction—Print and Premium—Internet
Africa Research Bulletin—Series A Political Series—Print and Standard—Internet
Alcohol Alert
Alcohol and Alcoholism—Print and Internet
American Criminal Law Review
Archbold Criminal Appeal Cases Index
Archbold Full Print Service—Including Archbold News and Supplements and Criminal Pleadings
Big Issue
Birmingham Post
British Journal of Community Justice
British Journal of Criminology—An International Review of Crime and Society—Print and Internet
British Journal of Sociology—Print and Premium—Internet
British National Bibliography—Option 5—Weekly Lists
Building
CJM—Criminal Justice Matters—Print and PDF—E-Mail
Campaign
Chat
Childright
Community Care
Competition Law Insight
Computer Active
Computer Weekly
Contemporary Drug Problems
Contemporary Justice Review
Corrections Compendium
Corrections Digest
Counsel—Journal of the Bar of England and Wales
Crime Law and Social Change
Crime Prevention and Community Safety—Print and Internet
Crime and Delinquency—Print and Internet
Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health
Criminal Justice and Behaviour—Print and Internet
Criminal Law Journal
Criminal Law Review
Criminal Law Week—Internet
Criminology and Criminology and Public Policy—Both Print and Premium—Internet
Criminology and Criminal Justice—Internet
Daily Express
Daily Jang
Daily Mail
Daily Mirror
Daily Star
Daily Telegraph
Deviant Behaviour
Druglink
Drugs—Education Prevention and Policy
Eastern Eye
Economist—UK Edition and Index
Equal Opportunities Review
Estates Gazette
Ethnic and Racial Studies
European Human Rights Law Review
European Human Rights Reports
European Journal On Criminal Policy and Research
European Journal of Crime Criminal Law and Criminal Justice—Print and Internet
European Journal of Criminology—Print and Internet
European Journal of Migration and Law—Print and Internet
Evening Standard
Evidence Technology Magazine
Financial Times
Gatelodge
Harvard Business Review
House Magazine and Blue Pages and Disability Dialogue
Howard Journal of Criminal Justice—Print and Standard—Internet
Howard League for Penal Reform—Membership
Human Resource Management Journal—Print and Premium—Internet
Independent
Independent on Sunday
Index to the House of Commons Parliamentary Papers on CD ROM—CD ROM
Information Age
Information World Review
Inside Knowledge—Print and Internet
International Herald Tribune
International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice
International Journal of Drug Policy
International Journal of Law and Psychiatry
International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology—Print and Internet
International Journal of Police Science and Management
International Migration—Print and Premium—Internet
International Migration Review—Print and Premium—Internet
Jewish Chronicle
Journal of Criminal Justice
Journal of Criminal Law

Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology
Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies
Journal of Experimental Criminology
Journal of Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology
Journal of Forensic Sciences—Print and Premium—Internet
Journal of Interpersonal Violence—Print and Internet
Journal of Investigative Psychology and Offender Profiling
Journal of Law and Society and Socio Legal Newsletter—Print and Premium—Internet
Journal of Offender Rehabilitation—Print and Internet
Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency—Print and Internet
Journal of Social Welfare and Family Law—Print and Annual Bound Cumulation
Justice Journal
Justice of the Peace and Reports
Law and Society Review—Print and Premium—Internet
Legal Action—Legal Action Group
Legal and Criminological Psychology
Liberty
Local Government Chronicle
Mail on Sunday
Management Today
Marie Claire
Marketing
Marketing Week
Migration News Sheet
Modern Law Review—Print and Premium—Internet
Municipal Journal
National Acquisitions Group Newsletter
New Action
New Law Journal and Supplements
New Nation
New Scientist—UK Edition
New Statesman
New York Times
News of the World
OAG Flight Guide—Worldwide—Monthly Subscription
OAG Rail Guide
Observer
P R Week
Parliamentary Affairs—Print and Internet
People Management
Pink Paper
Police—Voice of the Service
Police Journal
Police Practice and Research
Police Quarterly—Complete Backfile Lease—Internet
Police Research and Management
Police Review
Police and Constabulary Almanac
Policing—an International Journal of Police Strategies and Management
Policing Today
Policing and Society
Policy Studies—Policy Studies Institute
Press Gazette
Prison Journal—Print and Internet
Prison Report
Prison Service Journal
Private Eye
Probation Journal—Print and Internet
Project Manager Today
Property Week
Prospect
Psychological Services
Psychology Crime and Law
Public Servant
Punishment and Society —Print and Internet
Race and Class—Print and Internet
Radio Times
Refugee Survey Quarterly—Print and Internet
Road Traffic Reports
Runnymede's Quarterly Bulletin
Safer Society Mailing
Science in Parliament
Searchlight
Security Journal—Print and Internet
Shaw's Directory of Courts in the United Kingdom
Sikh Times
Social Justice
Social Policy and Society and Journal of Social Policy
Social and Legal Studies—Print and Internet
Sociology—Print and Internet
Spectator
Statewatch
Studies in Conflict and Terrorism
Sun
Sunday Mirror
Sunday People
Sunday Star
Sunday Telegraph
Sunday Times
Take a Break
Terrorism and Political Violence
Theoretical Criminology—Print and Internet
Therapeutic Communities
Time
Times
Times Educational Supplement
Tips and Advice Internet
Tottel's Journal of Immigration Asylum and Nationality Law
Tribune
Vine—Very Informal Newsletter
Violence Against Women—Complete Backfile Lease—Internet
Vista—Perspectives on Probation
Voice
When Saturday Comes
Which
Whitehall and Westminster World
Wire—Amnesty International and Annual Report
Woman
Woman's Own
Women and Criminal Justice—Print and Internet
Youth Justice—Journal of the National Association for Youth Justice—Print and Internet

Departments: Taxis

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by her Department on taxis in the last 12 months. [153146]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office spend on taxis for financial year 2006-07 was £962,533.

The aforementioned figure includes expenditure by the core Home Office, the Border and Immigration Agency, the National Offender Management Service and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform (the latter two are now part of the Ministry of Justice).

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management and Ministerial Codes. The majority of expenditure, £666,440, was incurred by the Border and Immigration Agency on operational activities.

Departments: Tribunals

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by her Department on industrial tribunals in the last 12 months. [153140]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office does not maintain a central record of costs incurred in contesting employment tribunals (formerly industrial tribunals). The information required could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Firearms

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal guns have been seized or otherwise received by police forces since 1997, broken down by police authority area. [154987]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The information requested is not held centrally.

Firearms: Legislation

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward amendments to firearms legislation to allow potential Olympic competitors in shooting events to train in advance of the 2008 and 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; and if she will make a statement. [154845]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* I have no plans to amend the legislation in this way. I am currently considering proposals to use the existing powers in section 5 of the Firearms Act 1968 to allow a small number of potential Olympic pistol shooters to practise in Great Britain ahead of the Games.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to ensure that the trafficking of human beings is recognised as a separate and distinct category for the compilation of crime statistics. [154951]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* Crime statistics for trafficking for sexual exploitation under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 are already complied and published in the "Crime in England and Wales" yearly publication.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to ensure that the tackling of human trafficking is included in the immigration services business plan. [154952]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The tackling of organised immigration crime, including trafficking, is included in the Enforcement and Compliance Strategy and Border and Immigration Agency's International Strategy published in March 2007 and June 2007 respectively.

Immigration Controls: Health Professions

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the conclusions of the race equality impact assessment into the changes in the immigration rules for postgraduate doctors and dentists will be taken into account when reviewing any future rule changes in this area. [149570]

Jacqui Smith: Home Office internal guidance states that anticipating and identifying the potential equality consequences of any policies (including significant rules changes), and ensuring that as far as possible any potential negative consequences are minimised or eliminated should be part of the normal policy making process. We have adopted a best practice approach so, as well as fulfilling the legal requirement to equality assess for race, disability and gender, we consider the impact of policies on all equality strands e.g. gender identity, religion, sexual orientation, and age. Equality assessments draw on previous assessments and other evidence as appropriate.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether consultation with overseas doctors will take place before any future changes in immigration rules relating to opportunities for overseas doctors within the NHS. [149614]

Jacqui Smith: In deciding whether to consult on specific immigration rules changes in the future, the Home Office will act entirely in accordance with the Cabinet Office's Code of Practice on Consultation, which makes it clear that Ministers have discretion on whether or not to conduct a formal written consultation exercise on particular proposals.

Notwithstanding this point we are mindful of the concern expressed by a number of organisations regarding the changes to Immigration rules announced in April 2006, by the then Leader of the House, 19 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 447-48, who undertook to hold a Government debate on this subject as and when parliamentary time allows.

James Dawute

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the police investigation into the actions of James Dawute while at the Immigration and Nationality Directorate has concluded. [152100]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 24 July 2007]:* Mr. Dawute's conduct while an employee of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate was totally unacceptable. As a result of his actions, Mr. Dawute has had his employment terminated.

The question of criminal proceedings is a matter for the Crown Prosecution Service.

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal knives were seized or otherwise received by police forces in each year since 1997, broken down by police authority area. [154982]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* This information is not collected centrally.

Offensive Weapons: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many knife-related crimes were recorded in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire in each year since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [155322]

Mr. Coaker: From the information collected on recorded crime, it is not possible to identify those offences which are knife related. Such offences are not specifically defined by statute and details of the individual circumstances of offences do not feature in the recorded crime statistics.

Figures are collected for homicides involving the use of sharp instruments but they do not separate identify knife-related offences. As from April 2007, police forces are providing data on serious violence involving knives. Home Office statisticians will assess the quality of the data and it is planned that figures for 2007-08 will be published in the main crime bulletin in July 2008.

Police: Finance

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what total amount of funding was provided for each police authority in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2002 and *(c)* 2007. [155290]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is set out in the following table.

The amounts include Government general formula grant, specific grants, capital grant and local funding raised through the police precept on council tax.

Total funding for police authorities in England and Wales

£ million

Police authority	*1997-98*	*2002-03*	*2007-08*
Avon and Somerset	163.9	210.1	286.7
Bedfordshire	61.8	80.5	103.8
Cambridgeshire	70.2	96.6	128.3
Cheshire	104.1	133.1	179.0
Cleveland	77.2	103.6	134.5
Cumbria	61.0	78.2	108.1
Derbyshire	100.0	131.3	169.3
Devon and Cornwall	162.0	214.8	290.6
Dorset	72.1	93.6	126.6
Durham	74.9	95.7	132.3
Essex	162.7	215.4	275.3
Gloucestershire	61.7	80.0	112.2
Hampshire	184.8	241.0	317.3
Hertfordshire	95.3	141.2	187.2
Humberside	110.3	138.9	187.7
Kent	177.8	229.7	310.6
Lancashire	172.0	217.0	292.1
Leicestershire	99.8	130.4	172.0
Lincolnshire	67.5	85.9	110.1
Norfolk	83.5	113.0	154.6
Northamptonshire	66.2	86.6	120.6
North Yorkshire	75.5	102.6	143.4
Nottinghamshire	124.4	157.9	200.0
Staffordshire	118.2	144.8	193.1
Suffolk	65.0	87.2	117.3
Surrey	93.9	139.1	197.6
Sussex	161.4	205.6	274.6
Thames Valley	216.7	282.5	388.6
Warwickshire	52.5	70.5	92.2
West Mercia	111.3	155.3	206.1
Wiltshire	65.4	83.9	109.9
Shires	3,311.6	4,344.5	5,820.3
Greater Manchester	363.0	445.3	596.8
Merseyside	241.3	294.3	367.4
Northumbria	202.7	237.1	309.3
South Yorkshire	164.9	205.6	267.6
West Midlands	363.9	444.7	591.1
West Yorkshire	275.5	350.7	451.1
Prov Mets	1,611.1	1,977.5	2,583.1
Metropolitan	1,769.4	2,291.7	3,123.2
Total England	6,692.0	8,613.6	11,526.6
Dyfed-Powys	50.9	71.4	97.1
Gwent	66.0	89.9	120.4
North Wales	73.7	102.5	145.5
South Wales	161.8	206.0	266.7
Total Wales	352.2	469.7	629.5
Total England and Wales	7,044.2	9,083.2	12,156.0

Notes:
1. Excludes City of London Police.
2. Total funding is made up of government general formula grant, specific grants, capital grant and local funding raised through the police precept on council tax.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to announce the 2008-09 funding settlement for police authorities. [155291]

Mr. McNulty: I expect the announcement to take place with the Local Government Finance Provisional Settlement in late November/early December.

Work Permits: Health Professions

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permit applications for foreign *(a)* nurses and *(b)* doctors from each country in North Africa and the Middle East for which figures are available were approved in each year in the period between 1 January 2000 and 31st May 2007. [148076]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* The following tables show the number of work permit applications by nurses and doctors which were approved for overseas nationals by country, in the period 1 January 2000 to 31 May 2007 from *(a)* North Africa and *(b)* the Middle East.

	2000			2001			2002			2003		
	Doctor	*Nurse*	*Total*	*Doctor*	*Nurse*	*Total*	*Doctor*	*Nurse*	*Total*	*Doctor*	*Nurse*	*Total*
North Africa												
Algeria	0	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	5	0	5	5	0	[1]	[1]
Egypt	20	[1]	20	100	5	105	115	5	120	115	0	115
Ethiopia	0	[1]	[1]	0	[1]	[1]	0	5	5	0	5	5
Libya	20	[1]	20	35	5	40	55	[1]	55	60	0	60
Mauritania	0	[1]	[1]	0	[1]	[1]	0	0	0	0	[1]	[1]
Morocco	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[1]	[1]
Niger	0	[1]	[1]	0	[1]	[1]	0	0	0	0	[1]	[1]
Somalia	0	0	0	0	[1]	[1]	[1]	5	5	0	5	5
Sudan	15	5	20	20	5	25	35	5	35	45	5	50
Tunisia	0	0	0	0	[1]	[1]	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	50	10	65	160	20	180	205	25	230	225	20	240
Middle East												
Afghanistan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[1]	[1]	0	0	0
Bahrain	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	0	[1]	5	[1]	5	[1]	0	[1]
Brunei	[1]	0	[1]	0	[1]	[1]	0	0	0	[1]	[1]	[1]
Iran	0	5	5	5	10	15	10	5	15	20	15	35
Iraq	5	0	5	5	0	5	10	0	10	25	0	25
Israel	0	[1]	[1]	[1]	5	5	[1]	5	10	5	5	10
Jordan	0	80	80	5	55	55	10	65	75	20	50	70
Kuwait	0	0	0	[1]	0	[1]	[1]	0	[1]	0	0	0
Lebanon	5	0	5	5	[1]	5	[1]	0	[1]	5	5	5
Oman	0	0	0	[1]	0	[1]	[1]	0	[1]	0	[1]	[1]
Palestine	0	5	5	5	5	5	5	[1]	5	5	10	15
Palestinian Aut	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[1]	[1]
Qatar	0	0	0	0	0	0	[1]	0	[1]	0	0	0
Saudi Arabia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[1]	[1]
Syrian Arab Rep	5	5	5	25	5	30	30	5	35	55	0	55
Turkey	0	10	10	[1]	10	10	[1]	10	15	5	10	10
United Arab Emi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[1]	[1]	[1]	0	[1]
Yemen Republic	0	0	0	5	[1]	5	0	0	0	0	[1]	[1]
Total	10	100	110	55	90	145	75	105	160	135	95	235
Total	65	110	175	215	110	325	280	125	405	360	115	475

	2004			2005			2006			January-May 2007			
	Doctor	*Nurse*	*Total*	*Doctor*	*Nurse*	*Total*	*Doctor*	*Nurse*	*Total*	*Doctor*	*Nurse*	*Total*	*Total*
North Africa													
Algeria	0	[1]	[1]	0	[1]	[1]	[1]	0	[1]	0	0	0	10
Egypt	120	5	125	85	[1]	85	85	0	85	15	0	15	675
Ethiopia	[1]	5	5	0	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	0	[1]	25
Libya	45	[1]	50	50	[1]	55	30	0	30	5	0	5	310
Mauritania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5

	2004			2005			2006			January-May 2007			
	Doctor	Nurse	Total	Doctor	Nurse	Total	Doctor	Nurse	Total	Doctor	Nurse	Total	Total
Morocco	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	[1]—
Niger	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	5
Somalia	0	5	5	[1]—	5	5	[1]—	5	5	0	0	0	30
Sudan	45	5	50	35	[1]—	35	30	0	30	10	0	10	250
Tunisia	0	0	0	0	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Total	215	20	235	170	15	190	150	10	160	30	0	30	1,315
Middle East													
Afghanistan	5	0	5	[1]—	0	[1]—	5	[1]—	5	[1]—	0	[1]—	15
Bahrain	[1]—	0	[1]—	0	0	0	[1]—	0	[1]—	0	0	0	10
Brunei	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	5	0	5	5	[1]—	10	[1]—	0	[1]—	20
Iran	40	20	60	40	15	55	55	5	60	5	5	10	255
Iraq	15	0	15	25	[1]—	25	30	0	30	0	0	5	120
Israel	5	[1]—	5	5	10	10	[1]—	5	5	[1]—	[1]—	5	55
Jordan	30	30	55	30	25	50	30	5	35	5	[1]—	5	430
Kuwait	[1]—	0	[1]—	[1]—	5	5	[1]—	0	[1]—	0	0	0	10
Lebanon	5	5	10	10	[1]—	10	10	5	15	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	55
Oman	0	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0	[1]—	[1]—		[1]—	[1]—		[1]—	10
Palestine	15	10	25	10	5	10	10	[1]—	15	[1]—	0	[1]—	80
Palestinian Aut	0	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Qatar	0	0	0	0	0	0	[1]—	0	[1]—	0	0	0	1
Saudi Arabia	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0	[1]—	[1]—	0	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0
Syrian Arab Rep	55	0	55	55	0	55	40	0	40	10	0	10	286
Turkey	5	10	15	5	5	10	5	5	10	[1]—	0	[1]—	75
United Arab Emi	0	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0	[1]—	[1]—	0	[1]—	[1]—	0	[1]—	10
Yemen Republic	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0	[1]—	[1]—	0	[1]—	0	0	0	10
Total	185	75	260	185	60	250	2,001	25	225	35	5	40	1,445
Total	400	95	495	355	75	430	350	35	385	80	5	70	2,760

[1] Indicates 1 or 2

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to nearest 5
2. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Bellwin Scheme

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have notified her Department of their intention to apply for Bellwin scheme funding following the recent floods. [153497]

John Healey *[pursuant to the reply, 3 September 2007, Official Report, c. 1637-38W]:* The following authorities had notified an intention to claim for the flooding events in June by the closing date of 31 July:

Amber Valley Borough Council
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Bassetlaw District Council
Bolsover District Council
Bridgnorth District Council
Chesterfield Borough Council
Derbyshire County Council
Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service
Derbyshire Dales District Council
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
East Lindsey District Council
Erewash Borough Council
Gedling Borough Council
Gloucestershire County Council
Harrogate Borough Council
Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue
High Peak Borough Council
Humberside Fire and Rescue Service
Humberside Police Authority
Kingston upon Hull City Council
Leeds City Council

Lichfield District Council
Lincoln City Council
Lincolnshire County Council
Newark and Sherwood District Council
North East Derbyshire District Council
North East Lincolnshire Council
North Lincolnshire
North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority
Nottinghamshire County Council
Pendle Borough Council
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Scarborough Borough Council
Sheffield City Council
Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council
Shropshire County Council
Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service
South Shropshire District Council
South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority
South Yorkshire Police Authority
Stafford Borough Council
Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service
Warwick District Council
Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
West Mercia Police Authority
West Lindsey District Council
West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority
Worcestershire County Council
Wyre Forest District Council

Authorities have until the end of August to notify incidents occurring in July. To date the following authorities have done so:

Aylesbury Vale District Council
Boston Borough Council
Bridgnorth District Council
Buckinghamshire County Council
Cheltenham Borough Council
Cherwell District Council
Cotswold District Council
Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service
East Lindsey District Council
East Riding of Yorkshire
Forest of Dean District Council
Gedling Borough Council
Gloucester City Council
Gloucestershire County Council
Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue
Herefordshire District Council
High Peak Borough Council
Lichfield District Council
Lincolnshire County Council
London Borough of Sutton
Malvern Hills District Council
Nottinghamshire County Council
Oxfordshire County Council
Oxford City Council
Reading Borough Council
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
Scarborough Borough Council
Shropshire County Council
Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council
South Shropshire District Council
Stroud District Council
Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service
Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Telford and Wrekin Borough Council
Tewkesbury Borough Council
Vale of White Horse District Council
Warwick District Council
Warwickshire County Council
West Berkshire Council
West Mercia Police Authority
West Oxfordshire District Council
Woking Borough Council
Wokingham Borough Council
Worcester City Council
Worcestershire County Council
Wychavon District Council
Wycombe District Council
Wyre Forest District Council

Council Tax

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much council tax was raised in the last year for which figures are available. [155216]

Mr. Dhanda: The council tax received by local authorities in England in 2006-07 was £19,315 million. This figure excludes amounts funded by council tax benefit and includes both arrears received for previous years and prepayment of council tax for subsequent years.

The data are as reported on QRC4 forms submitted by billing authorities to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Council Tax: Administration

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost was of administering the council tax system in the latest year for which figures are available. [155217]

Mr. Dhanda: Net current expenditure by local authorities in England on administering the council tax system for 2005-06 is tabled as follows.

Cost of administering	*£ million*
Council tax collection	330.1
Council tax benefits	273.4
Total	603.6

The data are as reported by local authorities on Revenue Outturn (RO) returns for 2005-06.

Net current expenditure is defined as gross expenditure on employees and running expenses, less income from sales, fees and charges, and 'other income'.

The cost of council tax collection includes any costs relating to collection of arrears of council tax and community charge.

Council Tax: Pensioners

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the impact of council tax on pensioners. [155218]

Mr. Dhanda: Keeping council tax under control, in the interests of all taxpayers, is a priority for the Government. Government grant to councils in England since 1997 has increased on a like for like basis by 39 per cent. in real terms up to 2007-08, and it has taken capping action against excessive council tax increases. This has helped bring the average band D (two adult) council tax increase down from almost 13 per cent. in 2003-04 to 4.2 per cent in 2007-08.

As Sir Michael Lyons' recent report on local government recognises, council tax benefit is the key to tackling the perceived unfairness of council tax towards all those on low incomes. The Government are working hard to improve take up and has done a great deal to improve pensioner incomes, spending around £11.5 billion more on pensioners in 2007-08 than if 1997 policies had continued.

Departments: Departmental Coordination

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* ministerial committees and *(b)* permanent groups involving senior civil servants have been set up by her Department to liaise with the Ministers for Women. [155241]

Mr. Dhanda: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government sits on numerous ministerial committees, including a number of committees with the Minister for Women and Equality. A list of committees and the ministerial membership is available on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/secretariats/committees/index.asp.

In addition, the Government Equalities Office, who support the Minister for Women and Equality, are represented on the following CLG senior civil servant-led groups:

the Community Empowerment Programme Board; and

Race and Cohesion Strategy Board.

Departments: Public Bodies

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's legal, constitutional and management responsibilities are for *(a)* each of its non-departmental public bodies, *(b)* each of its executive agencies and *(c)* the Government Offices for the English Regions. [155337]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department sponsors 13 executive NDPBs/public corporations. Each has a legal status distinct from the Department. Such bodies are led by a chair and board members normally appointed by Ministers in accordance with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments' guidance, and are managed by a chief executive. Ultimately, Ministers and the Department are accountable for these bodies. Hence the Department has put in place proportionate sponsorship arrangements for each in accordance with guidance provided by the Cabinet Office, HM Treasury and others.

The Department sponsors three executive agencies: the Fire Service College, the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) and the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre. Each was established by way of administrative action, hence they are not legally separate entities from the Department. The college and the centre were both granted trading fund status by way of Trading Fund Orders; PINS is vote-funded. Each agency has a chief executive and management board, including non-executive directors, reporting directly to Ministers.

The Government offices were also established by administrative action by bringing together in 1994 the existing regional offices of the then Departments of the Environment, Transport, Trade and Industry and Employment. Subsequently, the Home Office, DEFRA and DCMS also joined the network as sponsor Departments.

The Government offices are hence not legally separate entities from those sponsor Departments, who each contribute staff and provide funding to them. Following the Cabinet Office's Performance and Innovation Unit's Report, 'Reaching Out', it was decided that the Deputy Prime Minister should take overall responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Government office network on behalf of the Secretaries of State of all the sponsor Departments. This responsibility has now passed to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers her Department has with regard to each of its non-departmental public bodies, executive agencies and the Government offices for the English regions to *(a)* grant and withdraw delegated personnel responsibilities, *(b)* oversee and control the exercise of delegated personnel responsibilities (including those for pay) and *(c)* ensure compliance with all equality legislation. [155338]

Mr. Dhanda: For the Department's executive NDPBs and executive agencies, delegated personnel responsibilities were granted either in founding legislation or in framework documents approved by Ministers setting out roles and responsibilities. While Ministers ultimately have the right to withdraw delegated personnel responsibilities, as these entities were established to operate at arm's-length of Ministers and the core Department there would be little justification for doing so. Ministers oversee and control the exercise of delegated personnel responsibilities for such bodies by having right of approval over staff terms and conditions, pay and grading proposals and annual pay remits, delegated by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. Equalities legislation applies to such bodies in the same way that it does to any other public body, and they are obliged to comply as appropriate.

The Secretary of State has been formally delegated responsibility to determine the terms and conditions of staff in the Government offices for the regions outside

the senior civil service, including their remuneration, by the Minister for the Civil Service in accordance with the Civil Service (Management Functions) Act 1992. She exercises this responsibility in the same manner as she does for other staff in her Department.

East of England Development Agency: Publications

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* quarterly and *(b)* annual cost was of producing and distributing the East of England Development Agency magazine Source in the latest period for which figures are available. [155296]

Mr. Dhanda: EEDA produce four editions a year at approximate costs rounded up of £12,000 per edition.

For July 2006 to March 2007 (four editions) the cost for design, print and distribution was £47,857.63.

Flood Control: Expenditure

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much of the £14 million relief package promised by the Prime Minister for those areas affected by the recent flooding has so far been dispensed, broken down by recipient; and for what purpose each recipient received money. [155181]

Mr. Dhanda: On 7 July the Prime Minister announced a £14 million package of immediate support to help local authorities and communities in flood hit areas.

The package comprises of three elements:

£10 million Flood Recovery Grant scheme from Communities and Local Government for the hardest hit local authorities in flood affected areas;

£3 million from Department for Transport to meet claims from local authorities for help with the cost of repairing roads and bridges; and

£1 million which can be drawn on as contingency reserve by the Department for Work and Pensions for use by Jobcentre Plus to support additional demand for Social Fund Community Care Grants.

£10 million in Flood Recovery Grant has already been released to local authorities affected by the June Floods to support their work in helping those in greatest and most immediate need get back on their feet. Thirty nine authorities in total received a payment under the June scheme (full details on the grant paid is available on the CLG website www.communities.gov.uk/floodrecovery). Local authorities have been awarded this grant on the basis of the relative number of households affected (based on available information at the time). It is up to the local authorities to spend the money how they wish in line with local priorities.

The Department for Transport (DFT) has appointed consultants who will work with authorities and advise on the preparation of claims for emergency capital funding support for repairs to bridges and roads. Some work will require detailed assessments to be carried out, which are likely to take authorities a short while. Consequently, no money has yet been distributed. Initial estimates for the local authorities affected by the June and July floods have been requested by 17 September 2007. However authorities are encouraged not to delay urgent remedial work. The cost of repairs will not be excluded from consideration because they proceeded a claim.

As of 7 September, the Department for Work and Pensions had paid Community Care Grants totalling £653,000 to people on qualifying benefits to meet the cost of replacing essential household items. Community Care Grants are non repayable grants to help to support vulnerable people living in the community. For example they can help people remain in the community rather than enter care or to ease exceptional pressures on families. An applicant must be in receipt of income support, income based job seekers allowance or pension credit.

Community Care Grant—as of 7 September 2007

Region	*Number of applications*	*Number of payments made*	*Total cost (£)*
Yorkshire and Humber	1,562	1,112	631,377.87
South East	18	13	7,705.69
South West	42	32	13,842.97
Total	1,622	1,157	652,926.53

Home Information Packs

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's latest estimate is of the number of fully trained and accredited *(a)* home inspectors and *(b)* domestic energy assessors in the South West Government Office Region; and if she will make a statement. [151586]

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her latest estimate is of the number of qualified and accredited *(a)* domestic energy assessors and *(b)* home inspectors. [152848]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Members to the dedicated home information packs website for the most recently published national numbers of accredited assessors, together with a regional breakdown:

http://www.homeinformationpacks.gov.uk/industry/163_Assessorinspectornums.html.

We will be providing regular updates on this site.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a *(a)* spare room, *(b)* study and *(c)* box room will be classified as a bedroom for the purposes of the commencement of home information pack provisions. [152518]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 164W.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the expected date is for the publication of the reprinted Home Information Pack Toolkit. [152546]

Yvette Cooper: The revised Home Information Pack Toolkit was published, mailed and available to order from 30 July, and available on the HIP website from 27 July.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of home condition reports commissioned to date. [152551]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 160W.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a room formerly used as a bedroom will be classified as a bedroom for the purposes of the commencement of home information pack provisions if the bed is removed from it. [152668]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 164W.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to issue revised statutory instruments relating to home information packs; and what the timescale is for the coming into force of such statutory instruments. [152698]

Yvette Cooper: The Government will continue to monitor HIPs closely to ensure benefits are being passed onto the consumer. The Home Information Pack Regulations (No.2) 2007 were laid on 11 June and came into force on 1 August 2007. The Government intend to make further statutory instruments which will commence HIPs for remaining properties. Any revised statutory instrument would be made in light of the experience following roll-out and would be subject to the standard parliamentary process for such statutory instruments.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether additional funding has been provided to local authority trading standards departments to enforce the home information packs regulations. [152821]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 26 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 633W.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations her Department has received from the local authorities co-ordinators of regulatory services on *(a)* home information packs and *(b)* energy performance certificates in the last 12 months. [153516]

Yvette Cooper: We have had regular discussions with all key stakeholders about home information packs and energy performance certificates, including LACORS.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a home information pack will be required at the point of sale. [153606]

Yvette Cooper: During the transitional period until the end of the year homeowners need to commission a pack and pay for it, or make a commitment to paying for it, before putting their home on the market.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department will retain the revenue from fines for breaching the home information pack regulations. [153722]

Yvette Cooper: No. Local Authority Trading Standards officers will have the power to issue fixed penalty notices where a breach of the home information pack duties is suspected.

Home Information Packs: Finance

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 26 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 633W, on Home Information Packs: Finance, what the financial value is of the additional resources provided to local authority trading standard departments in England in year 2007-08. [152683]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 26 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 633W.

Housing

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government *(a)* what the lower quartile price was for new dwellings sold, *(b)* how many new houses were built and *(c)* how many new affordable houses were built in (i) each Government region and (ii) nationally in 2006. [155101]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* Data on *(a)* the lower quartile house price for new dwellings sold, *(b)* the number of new homes built and *(c)* the number of new affordable homes built in each government office region and for England are presented in the following table. Affordable housing supply figures are available by financial year only.

	(a) LQ house price for new dwellings sold in 2006[1] (£)	*(b) Total number of new homes built in 2006[2]*	*(c) Number of new homes built in 2005-06 which are classified as affordable[3,4]*
North East	122,075	7,658	945
North West	123,995	18,563	2,036

	(a) LQ house price for new dwellings sold in 2006[1] (£)	(b) Total number of new homes built in 2006[2]	(c) Number of new homes built in 2005-06 which are classified as affordable[3,4]
Yorkshire and The Humber	119,995	15,490	1,758
East Midlands	122,950	16,906	2,532
West Midlands	126,000	14,873	3,758
East	152,950	21,617	4,155
London	208,218	20,472	7,016
South East	169,000	26,985	6,894
South West	141,500	18,197	3,995
England	137,000	160,761	33,089

[1] *Source:* HM Land Registry
[2] *Source:* National House Building Council, local authorities P2 returns
[3] *Source:* Housing Corporation, local authorities P2 returns, private developers
[4] Affordable housing includes both social rent and intermediate housing (e.g. low cost home ownership).

In addition to the numbers of new build affordable homes shown in the table above a further 11,834 affordable homes were supplied through the acquisition of dwellings from the private sector stock.

Housing: Cornwall

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the average age of first time house buyers in *(a)* the West Cornwall and Isles of Scilly constituency of St Ives, *(b)* Cornwall and *(c)* each Government region in each region since 1997, broken down by sex. [155344]

Mr. Dhanda: Data on First Time Buyers (FTBs) are available from the regulated mortgage survey which is supplied to Communities and Local Government by the Council of Mortgage Lenders. However due to a small sample size data on the average age of FTBs at UK level are unreliable. The gender split is unavailable.

The average age of FTBs at the UK level is available on the Council of Mortgage Lenders website at http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/filegrab/2ML2.xls?ref=4624. These figures are in the following table.

	Median age of first time buyers, UK
1997	29
1998	29
1999	30
2000	30
2001	30
2002	31
2003	31
2004	31
2005	30
2006	29

Source:
CML

Housing: Low Incomes

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what minimum equity stake must be purchased under the *(a)* Social Homebuy, *(b)* New Build Homebuy and *(c)* Open Market Homebuy schemes; and what plans her Department has to amend the level of these stakes. [153496]

Yvette Cooper: The minimum equity stake which can be purchased under *(a)* Social Homebuy and *(b)* New Build Homebuy is 25 per cent.

Under *(c)* purchasers buy a property outright supported by an equity loan for up to 25 per cent. of the property's value.

In June of this year the Housing Corporation launched a competition for private investors to join the 2008-11 round of Open Market Homebuy, and they have received initial expressions of interest. Proposals include products which allow buyers to purchase as little as 50 per cent. of a home chosen on the open market.

We also want to offer more social tenants the opportunity to buy a share in their home and will be considering whether we should offer smaller shares to improve affordability. We will announce proposals later this year as part of our response to John Hills' review of social housing.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many foreign nationals were granted a social housing tenancy in each of the last 10 years. [155002]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* Information on social dwellings owned by *(a)* local councils and *(b)* registered social landlords which are allocated to non-British citizens is collected in the Continuous Recording of Lettings form (CORE). These data are collected on behalf of Communities and Local Government and the Housing Corporation by the Centre for Housing Research at the University of St. Andrews. A question was added for the 2006-07 collection period to obtain information on the nationality of the tenant.

Using CORE data, the Department has estimated around 5 per cent. of general needs lettings made to new social housing tenants between April and December 2006 were to foreign nationals. We estimate this was equivalent to around 10,000 general needs lettings to new social housing tenants in 2005-06 being made to foreign nationals.

Housing: Middlesbrough

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland have received assistance under the Homebuy scheme. [143430]

Yvette Cooper: The Homebuy scheme was launched in April 2006. Provisional figures for 2006-07 show that 27 homes were completed under the New Build Homebuy scheme in the Middlesbrough council area and none in Redcar and Cleveland borough council. No purchases were made under Open Market Homebuy in either Middlesbrough or Redcar and Cleveland in 2006-07.

In addition Middlesbrough benefited from two sales under Right to Acquire and one through a Social Homebuy pilot scheme. Redcar and Cleveland also benefited through 16 Right to Acquire sales.

This information is not available on a constituency basis.

For the remainder of 2007-08, we are making changes to the Open Market Homebuy product to offer purchasers greater choice and improve affordability.

From 23 July we are offering a new 17.5 per cent. Government equity loan product, which purchasers will be able to use more flexibly as a deposit and take to any lender on the open market. This will complement the existing scheme of a 12.5 per cent. equity loan matched by a 12.5 per cent. equity loan from one of four mortgage lenders.

Housing: Midlands

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of new homes to be built as part of the Milton Keynes and South Midlands spatial strategy which will be occupied by migrant workers from the European Union in *(a)* total, *(b)* Northamptonshire and *(c)* Wellingborough. [155128]

Mr. Dhanda: The Milton Keynes South Midlands Sub Regional Strategy (MKSM SRS) sets out clear targets for the delivery of housing across the growth area. The strategy does not set levels of housing for any specific groups. Housing market assessments have also been carried out for North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire to identify areas of housing need. The assessments, initial conclusions acknowledge that migration will indeed influence the pace of housing growth but given patterns of movement within the labour market it is inherently difficult to predict accurate figures for the number and requirement of housing for migrant workers in the county.

Given the growth plans in Northamptonshire, additional employment opportunities for migrant workers are likely to be created in future and the growth presents an opportunity for migrants in terms of work and housing opportunities.

Provision of housing for migrant workers is dealt with at a local level and local authority housing providers will work to build on the initial information provided in the reports previously referred to in order to determine future housing need for migrant workers.

Housing: Valuation

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many domestic dwellings in *(a)* England and *(b)* each local authority area in England are coded by the Valuation Office Agency with the VE value significant code. [152544]

John Healey: The Valuation Office Agency has not undertaken a comprehensive exercise to gather value significant coding information on all domestic dwellings in England.

Infrastructure: Wellingborough

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans there are to improve infrastructure in Wellingborough under the South Midlands and Milton Keynes spatial strategy; and if she will list the projects to be undertaken and their *(a)* start and *(b)* completion dates. [155126]

Mr. Dhanda: Since 2004, the Government working with partners in the Northamptonshire area have invested £100 million additional funding through the Growth Area Fund in Northamptonshire.

Spending on infrastructure has already commenced in certain areas that will relate to Wellingborough. A £1.3 million scheme for the improvement of the A45/A509 Wilby Way roundabout, near Wellingborough, was approved for CIF grant in 2006. The scheme is due to be completed by April 2008. In addition, £1.5 million has been allocated for town centre improvements in Wellingborough for the period 2006-07 to 2007-08

In addition, from the commencement of the new East Midlands Rail Franchise timetable in December 2008, rail passengers will benefit from a new hourly service between Kettering and London (including Wellingborough), increasing the number of off peak services on the midland main line to five trains per hour.

Land: Databases

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 171W, on Land: Databases, if she will place in the Library a copy of the documentation relating to the validation service the Valuation Office Agency provides for local authority IT suppliers. [152701]

John Healey: The VOA validation service for IT suppliers to local authorities on Valuebill developments is delivered by an external contractor. The terms are commercially sensitive and confidential.

Local Government

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local planning authorities in each *(a)* region and *(b)* county have local planning reviews or unitary development plan reviews being processed to adoption under the transitional arrangements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004; and what the expected month of adoption is in each case. [152744]

Yvette Cooper: The following local planning authorities are still processing their local plans or UDPs under the transitional arrangements:

Swale LP (inspector's report expected in October and adoption after that);

Tendring LP (inspector's report expected in October and adoption after that);

Carlisle LP (local plan inquiry still in progress);

Warwick LP (adoption expected August);

Bath and NE Somerset LP (adoption expected September);

Caradon LP (adoption expected September);

North Kesteven LP (adoption expected in September);

Sunderland UDP (adoption expected in November).

Adoption of local plans/UDPs is in the gift of councils and therefore these expected timings—and their implementation—are entirely subject to confirmation by the councils concerned.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local planning authorities in each *(a)* region and *(b)* county ceased work on the reviews of their local plans or unitary development plans on the announcement of the intended introduction of local development frameworks; and what the year of adoption was of their preceding adopted local plan. [152745]

Yvette Cooper: The following table provides a list of those authorities who our regional Government offices consider to have ceased work on local plans or UDPs on the announcement of the intended introduction of LDFs and the adoption date of the local plan/UDP which was in force at the time.

Table of authorities:

Region	*Local planning authority*	*Adoption of previous plan*
London	Tower Hamlets	
East Midlands	None	
Yorkshire and Humber	York	Never did local plan
	Barnsley	2000
	Rotherham	1999
	Sheffield	1998
	Doncaster	1998
	Hambleton, North Yorks	1999
North West	None	
West Midlands	Stoke on Trent	1993
	Stafford	1998
	Lichfield	1998
	Staffs Moorlands	1998
	Cannock	1997
	South Staffs	1996
East of England	Fenland	1993
	Huntingdonshire	2002
	Castle Point, Essex	1998
	Southend	1994
	St. Albans	1994
	Breckland, Norfolk	1999
	Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	1998
	Norfolk Waste Local Plan	2000
	South Norfolk	2003
	Forest Heath, Suffolk	1995
	Ipswich	1997
	Mid Suffolk	1998
	Waveney, Suffolk	1996
North East	None	
South West	Purbeck, Dorset	No 1991 Act plan
	Kerrier, Cornwall	No 1991 Act plan
South East	Horsham	1997
	Crawley	2000
	Wealden, Sussex	1998
	Cherwell, Oxon	1996
	West Sussex CC (Waste)	2003

Local Government Finance

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how long the pilot schemes on participatory budgeting will last. [153502]

Mr. Dhanda: The current pilot schemes in Bradford, Newcastle, Sunderland, Salford, Manton and Lewisham will last until March 2008. Sunderland has committed to continue prioritising a proportion of the new deal for Communities budget under a participatory budgeting process until 2011, when the NDC programme is due to finish.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria were used to select local authorities taking part in the participatory budgeting pilots. [153505]

Mr. Dhanda: The 10 participatory budgeting pilots are assisted by the Participatory Budgeting Unit, which this Department helps to support. Before helping to develop a pilot, the Participatory Budgeting Unit applies the following criteria: there must be political support for participatory budgeting as the process can only be undertaken with the approval of senior council officials or elected representatives; an appropriate source of funding must be identified; and there must be the capacity and resources to ensure good quality engagement with the community.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government over what frontline services residents will be given a direct say in her plans for participatory budgeting. [153506]

Mr. Dhanda: In the participatory budgeting pilots, residents are having a say in the spending priorities for the following types of services:

Bradford: services for community and neighbourhood development in deprived areas, tackling safer communities, children and young people, environmental improvements, and health, housing issues, learning, sport and leisure and older people.

Newcastle: services for young people to help social cohesion and sporting activities; and safer, cleaner greener issues, for example, to counteract minor crime, improvements to parks, community cohesion and engagement.

Salford: minor road works to help safety.

Sunderland: funds to strengthen the community and undertake capacity building which includes projects to support young and older people working together, to support and develop young people and help ethnic minorities. Re-profiling of services under a number of themes including community safety, housing, environment, capacity building, job creation and education.

Manton: services funded include play areas, facilities for teenagers, sports and leisure, local police services, abating litter and rubbish.

Lewisham: The spending priorities have not yet been decided. Priorities will be selected under the following headings: encouraging volunteering, supporting young people, addressing community concerns, improving the health of local people, and bringing together diverse communities.

The services over which residents might have a say for the other four pilots have yet to be confirmed.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what form consultation with councils taking part in the participatory budget pilots took. [153686]

Mr. Dhanda: In the cases of Bradford, Newcastle, Sunderland, Salford, Manton and Lewisham (where the participatory budgeting funds have been confirmed), the participatory budgeting unit held discussions with senior officials and/or elected representatives of the local council before assisting the lead organisation in the development of a pilot. A similar approach is being taken in the other pilot areas of St. Helens, Merseyside, Erdington in Birmingham and Thornhill in Southampton.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities listed increased revenue from *(a)* parking fines and *(b)* fly-tipping fines as an efficiency gain in their annual efficiency returns to her Department. [153689]

John Healey: Our guidance (available at www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1508167) makes clear that the monetary sum of fines collected should not be counted as efficiency gains in annual efficiency statements.

Planning Permission: Cornwall

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 24 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 968-9W, on planning permission: Cornwall, what quarterly aggregated statistics her Department collects; what the results are on a *(a)* Cornwall-wide and *(b)* national level in each of the last five years; and where data for individual planning applications are collected. [155076]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The department currently collects 150 items of data on development control from local and county planning authorities. Key information on decisions taken on planning permissions during the last five years are given in the table as follows:

Number of planning applications decided and percentage granted: 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Cornwall[1]					
Major decisions	210	200	290	300	320
Percentage granted	65	71	72	74	78
Minor decisions	3,500	3,990	4,180	4,050	3,910
Percentage granted	78	77	74	77	81
Other decisions	7,050	7,570	7,670	6,480	6,620
Percentage granted	84	83	81	81	83
England					
Major decisions	14,730	16,750	18,830	19,610	19,260
Percentage granted	81	78	75	75	75
Minor decisions	144,010	152,070	160,860	157,350	151,120
Percentage granted	81	78	76	76	76
Other decisions	426,810	455,930	465,630	421,740	417,030
Percentage granted	83	82	81	80	80

[1] Consists of Restormel, Carrick, Caradon, Penwith, Kerrier and North Cornwall planning authorities.

Source:

Communities and Local Government General Development Control Returns, PS1/PS2.

More detailed information is published by the department and can be accessed at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningbuilding/planningstatistics/statisticsplanning/-quarterly statistics;

and

http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningbuilding/planningstatistics/developmentcontrolstatistics/-annual statistics

Planning: South West Region

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the *(a)* viability of Multi-Area Agreements (MAAs) between Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and *(b)* effectiveness of MAAs in the South West region. [155335]

Mr. Dhanda: We have not received a proposition for a multi area agreement (MAA) between Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, but would be happy to discuss this further with the areas concerned. MAAs are a new concept and we are at the stage of initial proposals for their possible development. None exist yet to evaluate.

Playing Fields: Planning

Michael Jabez Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 226W, on playing fields: planning, when the consultation on the review of statutory consultees is expected to take place. [155300]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Bath (Mr. Foster) on 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 226W, which remains the current position.

Regional Planning and Development: South West Region

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what representations the Minister for the South West has made to *(a)* the Department (i) for Transport, (ii) of Health, (iii) of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, (iv) for Communities and Local Government, (v) for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and (vi) for Work and Pensions and *(b)* the Wales Office regarding (A) the interests of the South West in the formulation of central government policy and (B) the development of the single regional strategy; [155168]

(2) what discussions the Minister for the South West has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and HM Treasury on the comprehensive spending review. [155149]

Mr. Dhanda: The Minister for the South West has had discussions with a range of ministerial colleagues and others on issues impacting on the region.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Minister for the South West's most recent assessment is of the priorities for the South West. [155169]

Mr. Dhanda: The priorities for the South West are the provision of more affordable housing and infrastructure improvements which will ensure the region's economy continues to grow at the rate it has over the last 10 years.

Road Traffic Control: Kettering

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the grant awarded by her Department in 2007 towards improving the operation and co-ordination of traffic lights in Kettering has been spent on; and what the impact of that spending has been on levels of co-ordination and operation. [155133]

Mr. Dhanda: The grant to which the hon. Member refers is being paid through the Department's Growth Area Fund, and the scheme is called the Kettering Intelligent Transport Scheme (KITS). The scheme was approved in January 2007 and will be delivered by the end of March 2008. To date, delivery has been focussed on the planning required although I understand orders have now been placed and the main works are about to commence. It is therefore not possible to assess the impact at this stage although the scheme was appraised to Treasury Green Book standards prior to the grant being approved.

Rural Areas

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she intends formally to establish any rural or non-metropolitan equivalents of city regions. [155336]

Mr. Dhanda: City-regions are currently voluntary local authority partnerships and are not established by the Government.

The review of sub-national economic development and regeneration, undertaken by HM Treasury, The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and my Department, was published in July 2007 and sets out the economic benefits of sub-regional working. The review states that the Government will work with interested sub-regions to explore the potential for allowing groups of local authorities to establish sub-regional authorities which enable pooling of economic development responsibilities. This offer is open to rural and non-metropolitan areas, as well as city-regions.

Supporting People Programme

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has for the level of financial support provided through the Supporting People programme; and if she will make a statement. [155288]

Mr. Dhanda: Levels of future funding for the Supporting People programme and its distribution are subject to the current Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). Details about the outcome of CSR07 for the programme will be announced alongside the local government settlement later in the year.

Temporary Accommodation

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households are living in temporary accommodation. [155230]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information reported each quarter by local authorities about their activities under homelessness legislation includes the number of households accepted by local authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty. The duty owed to an accepted household is to secure suitable accommodation. If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority may secure temporary accommodation until a settled home is found.

The number of households in temporary accommodation is available in our quarterly statistical release on statutory homelessness, which provides data at the national (Table 6) and regional level (Table 7), and is published on our website and placed in the Library each quarter. The latest release was published on 10 September 2007 and contains data for the period April to June 2007:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstaticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Thames Gateway: Finance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budget was for the Thames Gateway project in each year since its inception, broken down by main budget heading. [149731]

Yvette Cooper: The information is as follows:

TG Budgets Resource

	Consumption	*£ million Capital*
2003-04	3	[1]21.6
2004-05	8.2	[2]139.5
2005-06	12.5	[3]149
2006-07	17	130
2007-08	23	155

[1] Including £12.4 million resource investment
[2] Including £18.5 million resource investment
[3] Including £23.8 million resource investment

Since 2003 central Government has invested over £7 billion into the Gateway for major infrastructure, roads, schools, and other facilities, as well as project funding provided by the Department. The Gateway also benefits from the £1.8 billion public sector contribution to the channel tunnel rail link enabling international services via Ebbsfleet from 14 November this year, and domestic services from 2009.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Casinos: Applications

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many new applications for casinos made under the Gambling Act 1968 were made in 2006; and how many have been made in 2007. [155319]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Between 1 January 2006 and 28 April 2006, the Gambling Commission received 55 applications for certificates of consent for new casinos under the Gaming Act 1968.

From 28 April 2006, the Gambling Commission could no longer accept applications under the Gaming Act 1968 for certificates of consent in respect of new casinos.

Where a certificate of consent is issued, operators can then apply to the local licensing authority for a casino licence. For applications made under the Gaming Act, 1968 the local licensing authority in England and Wales is the Local Licensing Justices and in Scotland it is the Local Licensing Board. There is no guarantee that the grant of a certificate of consent will result in a casino licence being granted. If a local licensing authority turns down an application for a licence an operator can appeal.

Cricket: Floods

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Sport England has given to cricket clubs affected by flood damage during the summer 2007; and if he will make a statement. [155308]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England funding supports projects which provide new capacity/provision rather than like for like repair or maintenance projects. However, funding from the National Sports Foundation, managed on behalf of the Government by Sport England, may support repairs of this nature, but will take into account all proceeds from insurance cover. To date no applications of this nature have been received.

Departments: Legislation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which Bills introduced by his Department in the last five years did not contain sunset clauses; and if he will make a statement. [152494]

Margaret Hodge: As I explained in my answer to the hon. Member for Twickenham's question 151837, the Gambling Act 2005 and the London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Act 2006 contain sunset clauses: the following Acts introduced by my Department do not contain sunset clauses—the Office of Communications Act 2002, the National Heritage Act 2002, the Licensing Act 2003, the Communications Act 2003, the National Lottery (Funding of Endowments) Act 2003, the Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act 2003, the Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003, the Horserace Betting and Olympic Lottery Act 2004, the National Lottery Act 2006 and the Digital Switchover (Disclosure of Information) Act 2007.

The appropriateness of a sunset clause for the whole or any part of proposed legislation is considered on a case by case basis. It is also addressed when a regulatory impact assessment relating to legislation is being prepared.

Gambling

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding was provided for problem gambling services in the UK by *(a)* the Government and *(b)* the gambling industry in each of the last five years; what recent assessment he

has made of the adequacy of those services; what plans he has to use his powers under the Gambling Act 2005 to ensure that the Responsibility in Gambling Trust receives additional funding to treat adequately any increase in problem gambling in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [154900]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* Problem gambling services in Great Britain are mainly funded by the gambling industry, principally through the Responsibility in Gambling Trust (RiGT). The Government do not fund dedicated problem gambling services, but anybody with a gambling problem who seeks help from the NHS will be offered support and, if necessary, treatment. In the past five years, the industry has contributed the following amounts to RiGT:

	Amount (£)
2006-07	3,032,689
2005-06	2,274,567
2004-05	2,281,527
2003-04	1,269,852
2002-03	765,659

British-licensed gambling operators are now required by the Gambling Commission to contribute to problem gambling education, prevention and treatment. I have the power under the Gambling Act 2005 to impose a statutory social responsibility levy on the gambling industry and I will not hesitate to use this if the evidence demands it.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the proposal to include a helpline number on all gambling adverts shown in the UK; whether he plans such a service to be promoted in the future; and if he will make a statement. [154901]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* I welcome any steps the gambling industry takes to advertise in a socially responsible way. I am pleased that the British gambling industry has adopted a voluntary code for socially responsible advertising which requires the inclusion of a 'signpost' to the Responsibility in Gambling Trust's (RiGT) public awareness website, www.gambleaware.co.uk. It is up to advertisers if they wish also to include an appropriate helpline number for problem gamblers. I understand that RiGT is currently assessing the effectiveness of phone helplines in raising public awareness of gambling issues and I look forward to seeing the results of their work.

Gambling Act 2005

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans there are to review the implementation of the Gambling Act 2005 after it becomes law. [155315]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Gambling Act 2005 came into force on 1 September 2007. The Gambling Commission's study into the prevalence of gambling, due to be published shortly, is intended to provide a baseline against which the Act as a whole can be reviewed. The next prevalence study is due in 2010.

In the meantime, the Act contains wide-ranging powers to keep crime out of gambling, to keep it fair and to protect children and the vulnerable.

Gambling: Children

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he made of the aspects of the Responsibility in Gambling Trust and the Royal College of Psychiatrists' submissions to the Gambling Commission consultation on gambling advertisements which highlight their concern at the possible impact on children of allowing the promotion of gambling-related products through sporting events and merchandise; whether his Department has commissioned any research into the likely impact on children of this policy; and if he will make a statement. [155064]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The Responsibility in Gambling Trust and Royal College of Psychiatrists' submissions to the Gambling Commission consultation on gambling advertisements were published on the Gambling Commission website in June 2007 along with the Commission's own response. The Government agree with the Commission's assessment that

"the CAP (Committee on Advertising Practice) and BCAP (Broadcast Committee on Advertising Practice) advertising codes will ensure that the content and placement of advertising is socially responsible".

The Government also agree with their view that licensees should

"use sponsorship in a socially responsible manner"

and that

"the (gambling) industry itself (should) consider whether it should follow the example of the drinks industry by introducing a voluntary self-denying ban on replica children's shirts".

I am pleased that the gambling industry has responded to this by adopting a voluntary code on socially responsible advertising which requires that gambling logos are not used on children's replica sports shirts in sponsorship deals made after 1 September 2007. We have commissioned no specific research on this issue but I have strong powers to limit advertising under the Gambling Act, and if there is evidence that gambling is being advertised in a socially irresponsible way, I will not hesitate to use them.

Gambling: Internet

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many internet gambling companies are registered in the UK. [155314]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department does not collect information on the total number of companies with a connection to internet gambling that may be registered in the UK for various purposes.

However, to date the Gambling Commission has received 146 applications for operating licences that include provision for internet gambling. Of these applications, 77 have been granted, 68 are pending and one has been refused.

Horserace Totalisator Board

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to announce the privatisation of the Tote. [154971]

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the Government expects to sell the Tote within the next three months. [155151]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government are currently at an advanced stage of the discussions on a possible sale of the Tote to a consortium of racing interests and the staff and management of the Tote. The Government will announce the outcome in due course.

Mass Media: Violence

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* assessed into links between the portrayal of violence in the media and instances of violence in society. [155294]

Margaret Hodge: The Government recognise concerns about these issues and keep under continuous review the available evidence on the links between portrayals of violence in the media and violence in society. Most recently we have announced a review which will look at ways that parents can protect their children from exposure to inappropriate or potentially harmful content on the internet and in computer games.

Previously we have commissioned research from the University of Stirling on whether there is a link between video games featuring violence and violent behaviour in real life (available on our website). And our sponsored bodies have also commissioned research including, most recently, Harm and Offence in Media Content which was funded by broadcasters and the relevant regulators.

National Lottery: Play

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of the money available under the Big Lottery Fund Children's Play initiative has been *(a)* committed and *(b)* spent. [155292]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following figures reflect the proportion of money which has been committed and spent under Big Lottery Fund's Children's Play initiative as of end August 2007.

Programme name	*Current award value (committed)*	£ *Total paid to date (spent)*
Play Infrastructure	14,663,933	4,359,562
Playful Ideas	4,884,167	494,586
Children's Play	46,209,437	1,644,672
Total	65,757,537	6,498,820

The total money available for the Children's Play initiative is £155 million. 42 per cent. of it has been committed and 4.2 per cent. has been spent.

Panathlon Challenge: Sponsorship

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress he has made in finding a sponsor for the Panathlon Challenge. [155310]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has been unable to assist the Panathlon Challenge in finding an alternative source of sponsorship. Local funding is available through school sport partnerships and county sport partnerships where the Panathlon Challenge meets their requirements for competitive sport.

Play: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made towards his Department's target of providing £200 million towards Children's Play; and if he will make a statement. [155293]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has not set a target of providing £200 million towards children's play. However, as part of our response to 'Getting Serious About Play', the review of children's play undertaken by Frank Dobson in 2004, Tessa Jowell, the then Secretary of State, stated that she expected £200 million to be provided for children's play through lottery funding by 2012.

That expectation is being met in England through the Big Lottery Fund £155 million play initiative.

Sport and Recreation Division: Manpower

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many members of staff his Department allocates to the Sport and Recreation Division; how much time they spend on *(a)* direct ministerial support, *(b)* non-departmental public body support and *(c)* policy development; how many have experience in project management; how many have experience in contract writing; and what the total administration costs of the Sport and Recreation Division were in the last financial year. [155079]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* There are currently 37 posts allocated to Sports Division. Of the current staff in post, 29 have experience of project management while four have experience of contract writing. This small number of

staff is due to the fact that all formal contract writing is undertaken by the Procurement and Property Services Team in the Department's Human and Business Resources Division. On time spent on Policy Development, Ministerial Support and NDPB Support it is estimated that 35 per cent. of total staff time is spent on Policy development, 35 per cent. of time is spent on direct ministerial support while 30 per cent. is spent on NDPB support. The total administration cost for Sport Division in 2006-07 was £1.6 million.

Sport Direct

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress is being made towards the establishment of Sport Direct; and how Sport Direct will differ from the Active Places website. [154899]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government remain committed to delivering a 'one stop shop' of information to help people find opportunities to play sport in their local area.

We are currently assessing the most effective way of integrating the different sources of sports participation information.

Sports: Drugs

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many publicly-funded athletes in the Olympic disciplines have missed two out-of-competition drug tests. [155311]

Mr. Sutcliffe: UK Sport, the national anti-doping agency, does not disclose information on specific numbers of athletes who have missed drug tests under the Whereabouts system, nor the number of 'strikes' they have received. Under the World Anti-Doping Code, UK Sport is obliged to report specifically on doping violations for individual athletes, and missed tests are not defined as a violation until three have been recorded.

UK Sport does annually report the total number of missed tests across all sports on the national anti-doping programme. In 2006-07, the figure was 126.

Sports: Transport

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the proportion of people who live within 20 minutes of a good multi-sport facility; which mode of transport was used in calculating this figure; what the average distance covered in this time was for the purposes of the calculation; how this target has been assessed; what plans he has to monitor the targets; and what definition his Department uses of a good multi-sport facility. [154898]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* For the purposes of this commitment the Government have defined 'multi-sport' as access to at least two different sports facilities that are most in demand. In relation to 'good quality' there is no single nationally recognised measure that can be applied to all sports facilities. However, the Active Places sports facilities database (the main tool for measuring the commitment) holds information about the age of facilities and length of time since last refurbishment. We are using these figures as the measure of quality.

Using the Active Places database Sport England are undertaking strategic mapping of the nation's sports facilities and we know that over 90 per cent. of people in England are within 20 minutes' travel time of at least two different sports facilities that are most in demand by the public (swimming pools, playing fields, synthetic turf pitches, health and fitness centres, sports halls and golf courses). We know that, of the built sports facilities listed on Active Places (pools, halls, health and fitness centres and synthetic turf pitches), 65 per cent. have been built or refurbished in the last 10 years. We expect to see these positive figures maintained in future years.

The Government take the view that those in urban areas should be within 20 minutes' walking distance of a multi-sport environment, while those in rural areas should be within 20 minutes' driving distance by car. Urban and rural areas are defined using the "Rural and Urban Area Classification 2004: Introductory Guide", which was jointly published by The Countryside Agency, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Office for National Statistics, and the Welsh Assembly Government. The rural road travel times are based on the average road speeds derived from the Integrated Transport Network produced by Ordnance Survey. The urban walking catchments are based on a straight line 1.34 km distance.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Abortion

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 79W, on abortion, whether Parliament will be able to pass legislation changing the law relating to abortion in Northern Ireland once the Northern Ireland Assembly has assumed responsibility for the criminal law. [153304]

Mr. Woodward: When responsibility for the criminal law is devolved, consideration of legislation relating to the law on abortion will be a matter for the devolved authorities in Northern Ireland. As paragraph 13 of the Devolution Memorandum of Understanding (Cm 5240, published in December 2001) makes clear:

"The United Kingdom Parliament retains authority to legislate on any issue, whether devolved or not. It is ultimately for Parliament to decide what use to make of that power. However, the UK Government will proceed in accordance with the convention that the UK Parliament would not normally legislate with regard to devolved matters except with the agreement of the devolved legislature."

The Government's position on the law on abortion in Northern Ireland is as set out in the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 79W.

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Police Service of Northern Ireland on recent violent attacks; and if he will make a statement. [155070]

Paul Goggins: We are in regular discussion with the PSNI in relation to a variety of policing matters, including instances of violence.

The PSNI policing plan for 2007-08 includes a target for reducing violent crime by two percentage points. Violent crime this year to date is showing a reduction of 18.2 per cent. in comparison to the same period last year.

Departments: Correspondence

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many letters he and his predecessors sent in each of the last five years. [153446]

Mr. Woodward: This information is not recorded.

Departments: Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many press officers are employed by his Department. [153069]

Mr. Woodward: There are 12 press officers working for the Northern Ireland Office, comprising of a director of communications, deputy director of communications, two principal information officers, four senior information officers and four information officers.

Departments: Legislation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which Bills introduced by his Department in the last five years contained sunset clauses; and what plans he has for the future use of such clauses. [151830]

Mr. Woodward: The following Acts introduced as Bills by my Department in the last five years have contained sunset clauses (that is to say, provisions that will expire at the end of a set period):

Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections and Periods of Suspension) Act 2003

Section 7 provided that the provisions of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 which have been inserted or substituted by the 2003 Act and section 1(4) of the 2003 Act would expire on 16 November 2003 unless 7(4) applied or an order had been made under section 7(2) of the 2003 Act. These provisions have not expired (save s.31(2) of the NIA 1998, as inserted by the 2003 Act, which has since been substituted by the Northern Ireland (St. Andrews Agreement) Act 2006) because an order was made under s.31(2) of the NIA 1998 so s.7(4) applied.

Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2003

Section 23 of the Police (NI) Act 2003, as amended by Article 10 of the Policing (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 2007, provides for the appointment of constables who have a specified policing skill. This provision will expire on 21 April 2009 (i.e. two years after the Policing (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 2007 came into operation).

Electoral Registration (Northern Ireland) Act 2005

Section 3 provides that the Act shall cease to be in force 12 months after the day on which it is passed, unless an order has been made under 3(2). No such Order was made and the Act has expired.

The appropriateness of a sunset clause for the whole or part of any proposed legislation is considered on a case by case basis. It is also addressed when a regulatory impact assessment relating to legislation is being prepared.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which Bills introduced by his Department in the last five years did not contain sunset clauses; and if he will make a statement. [152495]

Mr. Woodward: The following Acts introduced as Bills by my Department in the last five years have not contained sunset clauses:

Northern Ireland Arms Decommissioning (Amendment) Act 2002
Justice (Northern Ireland Act) 2002
Electoral Fraud (Northern Ireland) Act 2002
Northern Ireland Assembly Elections Act 2003
Northern Ireland (Monitoring Commission etc) Act 2003
Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2004
Northern Ireland Act 2006
Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006
Terrorism (Northern Ireland) Act 2006
Northern Ireland (St. Andrews Agreement) Act 2006
Northern Ireland (St. Andrews Agreement) Act 2007
Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people are employed in his Department to work on ministerial correspondence. [152827]

Mr. Woodward: Three civil servants are employed in my Department to co-ordinate responses to ministerial correspondence. However, in the course of their duties most staff at all grades are involved in the process of drafting responses to ministerial correspondence.

Departments: Ministerial Red Boxes

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many ministerial red boxes the Department bought in each of the last five years; what the cost of each was; who the suppliers were; and what tendering process was used in selecting them. [150293]

Mr. Woodward: Ministerial boxes are used by successive Ministers over many years. In the last five years my Department has not purchased any new ministerial boxes.

Departments: Official Hospitality

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many receptions were held at 11 Millbank in each of the last five years. [152826]

Mr. Woodward: Our records show that over the last three years the following number of receptions were held in Millbank. Records are not available for 2003 and 2004.

	Number of receptions held
2005	5
2006	2
2007	[1]

[1] To date

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to which periodicals his Department subscribes. [153061]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office, excluding its Agencies and Executive NDPBs, subscribes to the following periodicals:

American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology
Archbold News
Belfast Gazette
British Journal of Community Justice
British Journal of Criminology
British Journal of Social Work
Bulletin of Northern Ireland Law
Bulletpoint
Child Care in Practice
Childright
Community Safety Journal
Community Safety Matters
Computer Active
Computer Weekly
Country Life
Crime Reduction News
Criminal Justice
Criminal Justice Matters
Criminal Law Review
Criminal Lawyer
Current Sentencing Practice News
Diversity at Work
Dod's Parliamentary Companion
Druglink
Economist
European Human Rights Law Review
Exchange Administrator
Forensic Science International
Fortnight
Homes & Gardens
House of Commons Hansard
House of Lords Hansard
Howard Journal of Criminal Justice
Howard League Magazine
Human Rights Alerter
Human Rights Updater
Industrial Relations Law Reports
International Journal of Legal Medicine
International Review of Victimology
Journal of Adolescence
Journal of Forensic Sciences
Justice of the Peace Journal
Justice of the Peace Reports
Legal Information Management
London Diplomatic List
Magistrate
Modern Law Review
Net Advantage
New Law Journal
New Statesman
Northern Ireland Legal Quarterly
PC Pro Magazine
Phoenix
Police Review
Police Journal
Private Eye
Punishment and Society
Radio Times
Rapport
Relational Justice Bulletin
Safer Society
Security Administrator
SQL Server Magazine
The Spectator
Time
Ulster Tatler
Vacher's Quarterly
Whitakers' Almanac
Who's Who
Windows Scripting Solutions
Writ
Youth Justice Board News
Youth Justice Journal

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by his Department on newspapers and magazines in the last 12 months. [153062]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office, excluding its Agencies and Executive NDPBs, spent £68,510 on newspapers in 2006-07 (this is the last 12 months for which audited expenditure figures are available).

Information on magazine expenditure is not easily available as it is grouped with other general publication expenditure. It would not be possible to extract the magazine spend from these figures except at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Redundancy Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by his Department on redundancy payments in the last 12 months. [153057]

Paul Goggins: There have been no redundancy payments made within the last 12 months.

Departments: Stationery

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on stationery in each of the last five years. [152834]

Mr. Woodward: The following table shows the amount the Northern Ireland Office (NIO), excluding its agencies and NDPBs, has spent on stationery in each of the last five years.

Stationery expenditure

	£
2002-03	315,435
2003-04	299,858
2004-05	297,183
2005-06	320,590
2006-07	314,784

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by his Department on staff away days in the last 12 months. [153058]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office spent a total of £81,520.24 on staff development days in the financial year 2006-07.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* staff training and *(b)* communication training in the last 12 months. [153059]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office spent a total of £1.54 million on staff training and development during the 2006-07 financial year.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Criminal Investigation

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the proportion of police time expended on *(a)* historical criminal activity and *(b)* current criminal activity committed since the Belfast Agreement. [155071]

Paul Goggins: It is not possible to provide an estimate of police time expended on historic criminal activity and current criminal activity since the Belfast Agreement. Calculating this would involve considerable time and resources and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Historic Enquiry Team (HET), which includes not only the PSNI but also the Police Ombudsman, PPS and the Forensic Science Agency was established to re-examine all 3,268 murders related to the security situation during the period from 1968 until the signing of the Belfast Agreement and has been allocated £34 million over six years.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Manpower

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the establishment is of the Police Service of Northern Ireland Full Time Police Officers; how many officers are serving; how many are to be retained; and how many will be recruited over the next three years. [155075]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is contained in the following table.

PSNI regular

	Number
Actual strength September 2007	7,411
Establishment current	7,500
Establishment over next three years	7,500
Recruitment over next three years	[1]440

[1] Per year.

The figure for recruitment has been calculated to maintain the establishment at 7,500, taking into account reductions due to natural wastage and through officers leaving under the voluntary severance scheme.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Reserve Forces

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the current establishment is of the Police Service of Northern Ireland Part Time Police Reserve; how many officers are currently serving; how many are to be retained; and how many will be recruited over the next three years. [155073]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is contained in the following table.

PSNI part-time reserve

	Number
Actual strength September 2007	858
Establishment current	1,000
Establishment over next three years	1,000
Recruitment over next three years	[1]—

[1] Sufficient to maintain established strength

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the establishment is of the Police Service of Northern Ireland Full Time Police Reserve; how many officers are serving; how many are to be retained; and how many will be recruited over the next three years. [155074]

Paul Goggins: The future establishment of the Full Time Reserve is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. He has advised that he will make an announcement on this shortly.

The information requested is contained in the following table.

PSNI full time reserve

	Number
Actual strength September 2007	674
Establishment current	680
Establishment over next three years	[1]—
Recruitment over next three years	0

[1] To be determined by the chief constable.

Police: Finance

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the budget was for the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the RUC in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [150932]

Paul Goggins: The Police Service of Northern Ireland and RUC budgets for the period 1997-98 to 2006-07, excluding budgets for police pension schemes which are treated separately to other GB forces, are set out in the following table.

Police Service for Northern Ireland budget allocations 1997-98 to 2006-07

	Allocation (£ million)
Cash	
1997-98	656.9
1998-99	656.4
1999-2000	654.9
2000-01	685.5
2001-02	707.5
2002-03	722.5
2003-04	706.8
Resource	
2004-05	865.6
2005-06	808.7
2006-07	850.4

Note:
Prior to the financial year 2004-05 the PSNI budgeted on a cash basis. From 2004-05 PSNI budgets were allocated on a resource basis.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Floods: Worcestershire

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assistance has been given to rural communities in Worcestershire to assist them following the July floods, with particular reference to support for *(a)* Worcestershire County Cricket Club and *(b)* Evesham Rowing; and what arrangements have been made to help Worcestershire's farming community. [155054]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 10 September 2007]*: I have been asked to reply.

In total £1,349,500 in Flood Recovery Grant, paid by the Department for Communities and Local Government to support flood affected communities, has been awarded to the district councils in Worcestershire county council. The details of these payments are set out as follows:

£

District council	*Original FRG Round 1 13 July 2007*	*Original FRG Round 2 20 July 2007*	*Extended FRG Round 1 16 August 2007*	*Extended FRG Round 2 24 August 2007*	*Total*
Bromsgrove	0	0	20,000	3,000	23,000
Malvern Hills	50,000	10,000	200,000	50,000	310,000
Redditch	0	0	11,500	11,500	23,000
Worcester	0	0	50,000	10,000	60,000
Wychavon	0	0	600,000	23,500	623,500
Wyre Forest	100,000	0	160,000	50,000	310,000
Total	150,000	10,000	1,041,500	148,000	1,349,500

The regional development agency with responsibility for Worcestershire—Advantage West Midlands (AWM)—has a general £2 million flooding recovery package and has also established a £1 million flooded areas recovery programme to assist the recovery of particularly badly flooded areas. Worcestershire has been allocated £600,000 of capital funds for infrastructure repairs under this scheme.

AWM are supporting businesses, including farmers, affected by flooding through Business Link West Midlands, with a team of more than 40 advisers offering up to five days of free business advice to help restart the estimated 1,000-plus flood-hit businesses in the region. Business Link may be able to offer up to £2,500 worth of subsidised consultancy to help companies devise a flood recovery plan.

Additionally, a flood recovery loan for companies that have carried out recovery plans has been set up, offering loans of up to £20,000 over two years where companies are unable to get all of the finance they need from their own and mainstream commercial sources.

In term of the specific projects mentioned:

AWM have been in contact with Worcestershire Cricket Club over sponsorship and marketing support for events planned to raise income for the club.

A project is being developed with Evesham Riverside to restore the overall attractiveness of the area and to remove debris to open up the navigation of the river so that boats can start to reuse it.

Fuel Poverty

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to revise the UK Fuel Poverty Strategy in light of the upward price movements in the energy market since its publication in November 2001; and if he will make a statement. [155224]

Mr. Woolas: The Energy White Paper, published in May 2007, outlined current developments in our policies and programmes aimed at tackling fuel poverty, building on the UK Fuel Poverty Strategy.

We continue to keep this policy framework under scrutiny and will report on the way forward in our next Annual Report.

Packaging: Compensation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will assess the likely effects on *(a)* plastic bag use and *(b)* the waste stream of a plastic bag tax being introduced at a rate of 10p per bag; [151737]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the case for a trial of a plastic bag tax. [151738]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The Treasury carried out an assessment of the Irish plastic bag tax following its introduction in 2002. A copy of this assessment is available in the Library of the House.

The Chancellor continues to keep all taxes under review. The Government currently have no plans for a plastic bag tax.

Rural Development Programme

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on implementation of the new rural development programmes in England for the period 2007-13. [155358]

Jonathan Shaw: The European Commission (EC) must approve the Rural Development Programme for England 2007-13 before it can be fully implemented. The draft Programme was submitted to the EC in May and formally declared admissible in June 2007. The approval process normally takes about six months, or more if the EC seeks further information.

We are working to get formal Programme approval before the end of 2007. The Programme will then be fully implemented at the earliest opportunity.

Rural Development Programme: Finance

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when spending bodies will be allocated their budgets under the Rural Development Programme in England for the period 2007-13; and if he will make a statement. [155359]

Jonathan Shaw: The Rural Development Programme for England will be delivered by Natural England, the Forestry Commission, the Rural Payments Agency and eight separate Regional Development Agencies. These delivery bodies have been made aware of indicative budgets to enable them to meet existing commitments taken forward from the last Rural Development Programme, and help each delivery body plan for new activities. Formal budget allocations cannot be confirmed until the new programme receives European Commission approval.

Water Charges: Low Incomes

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many successful applications there were for the vulnerable groups tariff in each of the water, and water and sewerage, companies in England in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06. [154956]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* Ofwat, the economic regulator of the water and sewerage industry in England and Wales, collects data on the number of households receiving assistance under the Vulnerable Groups Regulations, which are set out in the water companies' annual June returns.

The vulnerable groups tariff, under the Water Industry (Charges) (Vulnerable Groups) Regulations 1999, applies to metered customers who meet certain criteria to protect them from paying large water bills.

The numbers of households in England granted assistance with their water bills in 2004-05 and 2005-06 by individual water, and water and sewerage companies are set out in the following table.

	2004-05	*2005-06*
Water and sewerage companies		
Anglian	682	719
Dŵr Cymru	319	426
Northumbrian (North East and Essex and Suffolk)	483	672
Severn Trent	916	1,223
South West	1,645	2,962
Southern	258	324
Thames	1,323	1,780
United Utilities	1,114	1,447
Wessex	481	622
Yorkshire	1,059	1,308
Water only companies		
Bournemouth and W Hampshire	118	96
Bristol	211	391
Cambridge	81	97
Dee Valley	10	16
Folkestone and Dover	33	42
Mid Kent	138	103
Portsmouth	24	30
South East	91	114
South Staffordshire	39	139
Sutton and East Surrey	38	64
Tendring Hundred	313	328
Three Valleys	251	284
Industry	9,627	13,187

TREASURY

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in which locations information relating to formal reprimands of staff for failing to follow departmental procedures in relation to calculating the *(a)* income tax and *(b)* national insurance liabilities of individuals in each of the last five years are held; and if he will make a statement. [153443]

Angela Eagle: In the last five years any information relating to formal reprimands for staff for the former Inland Revenue and HM Revenue and Customs failing to follow departmental procedures in relation to calculating *(a)* income tax and *(b)* national insurance liabilities of individuals may be held locally with any manager in any of the locations dealing with these

particular issues, if at all. Currently HMRC has about 600 buildings in about 300 locations. National Insurance work is handled primarily in Newcastle. Income tax is handled in many locations too numerous to mention throughout the UK.

Departments: Flowers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by his Department on flowers in the last 12 months. [153173]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1743W by the former Financial Secretary to the Treasury, my hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (John Healey).

Departments: ICT

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many IT contracts in his Department were put out to competitive tender in each year since 1997; how many bidders there were for each tender; and which company won each tender; [155281]

(2) what the *(a)* estimated and *(b)* actual (i) cost and (ii) duration was of each IT contract tendered out by his Department since 1997. [155282]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer the former Financial Secretary to the Treasury, my hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (John Healey) gave the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1880W.

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by his Department on newspapers and magazines in the last 12 months. [153170]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1743W to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois).

Departments: Taxis

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by his Department on taxis in the last 12 months. [153174]

Angela Eagle: I refer to the answer the then Financial Secretary to the Treasury, my hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (Mr. Healey) gave on 28 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 873W to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois).

Departments: Tribunals

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by his Department on industrial tribunals in the last 12 months. [153168]

Angela Eagle: Nil.

Employment

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) which constituencies have seen the greatest *(a)* growth and *(b)* fall in the total number of (i) jobs and (ii) public sector jobs between 1997 and the latest date for which figures are available; [155325]

(2) how many *(a)* jobs and *(b)* public sector jobs there were in each Greater Merseyside constituency in (i) 1997 and (ii) the most recent date for which figures are available. [155324]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 12 September 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your parliamentary questions about numbers of jobs in Greater Merseyside constituencies and about constituencies showing the greatest changes in numbers of jobs since 1997. (155324,155325)

The attached tables show the available information requested. Separate estimates for public sector jobs are not available.

The information is based on data from the Annual Business Inquiry for 2005 and the former Annual Employment Survey for 1997. As with any sample surveys, estimates are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Employee jobs by parliamentary constituency

Constituencies in Great Britain with the largest percentage growth from 1997 to 2005

Thousand and percentage

	1997	*2005*	*Change*	*Percentage change*
Poplar and Canning Town	51	118	67	132
Wentworth	18	38	20	115
Glasgow Rutherglen	13	27	14	109
Warrington North	44	84	40	92
South Derbyshire	23	41	18	77

Constituencies in Great Britain with the largest percentage falls from 1997 to 2005

Thousand and percentage

	1997	*2005*	*Change*	*Percentage change*
Birmingham, Northfield	31	22	-9	-29
Ealing Southall	49	34	-16	-32
Spelthorne	60	41	-20	-32
West Renfrewshire	25	15	-11	-42
Warrington South	56	26	-30	-53

Note:
The surveys cover Great Britain only. Corresponding estimates are not available for Northern Ireland constituencies. Estimates exclude jobs in agricultural sectors

Sources:
Annual Business Inquiry 2005 and Annual Employment Survey 1997

Employee jobs in parliamentary constituencies in Greater Merseyside

Thousand

	1997	*2005*
Birkenhead	34	32
Bootle	30	36
Crosby	17	19
Halton	33	31
Knowsley North and Sefton East	27	36
Knowsley South	23	30
Knowsley, Garston	21	27
Liverpool, Riverside	101	128
Liverpool, Walton	24	27
Liverpool Wavertree	28	33
Liverpool, West Derby	10	11
St Helens North	20	21
St Helens South	31	38
Southport	31	35
Wallasey	25	22
Weaver Vale	39	44
Wirral South	23	25
Wirral West	17	18

Note
Estimates exclude jobs in agricultural sectors.
Source
Annual Business Inquiry 2005 and Annual Employment Survey 1997

Foreign Workers

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of inward migrants to the UK intending to stay for 12 months or more who cited work-related purposes as the main reason for migration in each year for which figures are available; and how many work permit holders were given leave to enter the UK in each year that such data have been collected. [154945]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 September 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to respond on behalf of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to your question concerning the number of inward migrants to the UK intending to stay for 12 months or more who cited work-related purposes as the main reason for migration in each year for which figures are available; and how many work permit holders were given leave to enter the UK in each year that such data has been collected.

The estimates of inward migration to the UK of those intending to stay 12 months or more are taken from the International Passenger Survey (IPS) and are shown in the attached table 1. The usual ONS definition of 'work related' includes those migrating for business reasons and au pairs, and those with 'a definite job to go to' are shown as a separate sub-category. The ONS definitions include a further category for those 'looking for work' which are not included in the 'work related' category but are shown here for completeness. The data are also broken down by British, European Union and non-EU citizens as work permits are only applicable to non-EU citizens.

Work permit data from the Home Office is shown in the attached Table 2.

Table 1—International Migration: estimates from the International Passenger Survey time series 1991 to 2005 Citizenship by reason for migration inflow—United Kingdom

Thousand

		of which:	
	Work-related[1]	*Definite job to go*	*Looking for work*[2]
All citizenships			
1991	40	25	15
1992	39	28	19
1993	40	24	26
1994 a	50	38	44
1995	50	44	..
1996	64	55	40
1997	60	50	39
1998	80	73	55
1999	90	72	61
2000	105	86	53
2001	120	106	47
2002	102	96	59
2003	110	95	57
2004	139	116	72
2005	148	140	76
British			
1991	14	12	8
1992	16	15	10
1993	15	11	18
1994	21	21	29
1995	21	21	..
1996	19	19	22
1997	21	21	25
1998	25	23	39
1999	25	25	30
2000	28	28	30
2001	27	27	24
2002	25	25	29
2003	20	19	25
2004	15	15	22
2005	21	21	25
European Union			
1991	11	5	2
1992	7	3	2
1993	7	5	..
1994	10	8	7
1995	14	12	..
1996	26	21	6
1997	15	14	3
1998	27	26	6
1999	25	20	8
2000	25	21	2
2001	29	23	3
2002	18	16	6
2003	24	23	11
2004	52	42	13
2005	63	62	26
Non-European Union			
1991	15	9	5
1992	16	9	7
1993	17	9	8
1994	19	9	7
1995	15	11	..
1996	20	16	12
1997	23	15	11

Table 1 International Migration: estimates from the International Passenger Survey time series 1991 to 2005: Citizenship by reason for migration inflow: United Kingdom

Thousand

		of which:	
	Work-related[1]	*Definite job to go*	*Looking for work*[2]
1998	28	24	20
1999	41	27	23
2000	53	37	21
2001	64	56	20
2002	59	55	24
2003	66	52	22
2004	73	59	37
2005	64	57	24

Notes

1. The ONS definition of 'work related' includes those with a 'definite job' to go to, au pairs and 'business' reasons but excludes those looking for work, diplomats, military personnel, merchant seaman and flight crews. 'Looking for work' is included separately.
2. 'Looking for work' is not included in the ONS definition of 'work related' but is shown for information. Data are not available for 1995. These are recorded under 'Other reasons for visit' which is not shown in the table.
3. Italicised estimates are not statistically robust (defined as standard error > 30%) but have been included for completeness.
4. Full details of country groupings are available in the Notes to tables section of International Migration Series MN no.32 (http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=507)

Table 2 Work permit holders and dependants given leave to enter, excluding EEA and Swiss nationals, 1991-2006

All nationalities[1,2,3,4]

Year of admission	*Total*	*Employment for 12 months or more*	*Employment for less than 12 months*[5]	*Dependants of work permit holders*
1991	46,920	11,060	21,740	14,120
1992	51,140	9,940	26,320	14,890
1993	48,000	9,350	24,520	14,130
1994	47,500	10,200	23,000	14,300
1995	52,100	11,700	26,100	14,300
1996	58,200	11,400	29,400	17,400
1997	62,975	16,270	27,385	19,320
1998	68,385	20,160	28,020	20,205
1999	76,180	25,090	28,445	22,645
2000[6]	92,050	36,290	30,785	24,970
2001[6]	108,825	50,280	30,785	27,760
2002	120,115	51,525	34,095	34,495
2003	119,180	44,480	36,870	37,830
2004	124,200	42,235	40,420	41,545
2005	137,035	51,165	40,350	45,520
2006	145,120	57,540	39,060	48,515

[1] Includes nationals of Austria, Finland and Sweden before 1 January 1994, but excludes them from this date.
[2] Includes nationals of Liechtenstein before 1 May 1995, but excludes them from this date.
[3] Includes nationals of Switzerland before 1 June 2002, but excludes them from this date.
[4] Includes nationals of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia before 1 May 2004, but excludes them from this date.
[5] Includes the majority of work permit trainees.
[6] A change in procedures may have resulted in some under-recording for the fourth quarter of 2000 and the first quarter of 2001.
Data rounded to the nearest 5, as such the figures may not sum to the totals shown.
Source:
Home Office

General Practitioners: Conditions of Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1183W, on general practitioners: conditions of employment, what his Department's (*a*) highest and (*b*) lowest estimate was of the impact a new contract for general practitioners would have on (i) average salaries for general practitioners and (ii) annual additional costs to the public purse as part of the discussions prior to the 2002 Budget. [153457]

Andy Burnham: Government Departments make their assessment of the cost of pay contracts and these are scrutinised by HM Treasury. Estimates of the cost of the contract are available from the Department of Health.

Income Tax: Pensioners

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of (*a*) all pensioners and (*b*) pensioner households pay income tax. [155283]

Jane Kennedy: The information is as follows.

Individual pensioners 2007-08[1]

The following figures are the latest available estimates and are based on the Survey of Personal Incomes 2004-05 and projected forward to 2007-08 in line with Budget 2007 assumptions.

[1] State pension age: males aged 65 and over, females aged 60 and over.

	Pensioners paying income tax
Taxpaying pensioners[1] (£ million)	5.6
All pensioners[2] (£ million)	11.7
Taxpaying proportion (percentage)	48

[1] Projection for the United Kingdom based on the 2004-05 Survey of Personal Incomes and thus subject to sampling and non-sampling error.
[2] Average of Government Actuary's Departments mid-year pensioner populations projections for 2007 and 2008.
Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 0.1 million.

Pensioner households, 2005-06[1]

Projections of pensioner households are not available. The following figures provided are estimates based on the latest available Family Resources Survey (2005-06).

[1] Households in the United Kingdom with at least one person of state pension age; males aged 65 and over, females aged 60 and over.

	Pensioner households paying income tax
Taxpaying pensioner households[1] (£ million)	4.8
All pensioner households[2] (£ million)	8.0
Taxpaying proportion (percentage)	60

[1] Modelled liability to income tax based on the Family Resources Survey for the 2005-06 financial year, and subject to sampling and non-sampling error.
[2] All pensioner households from the Family Resources Survey.
Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 0.1 million.

Lone Parents

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many lone parents there were in each local authority in each year for which figures are available, broken down by five year age band. [155349]

Andy Burnham: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 12 September 2007:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many lone parents there were in each local authority in each year for which figures are available, broken down by five year age band. (155349)

Figures are provided for the 1991 and 2001 decennial censuses. As no published tables exist that provide the requested figures, the tables have been specially run and deposited in the House of Commons library.

Manufacturing Industries: Manpower

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were employed in the manufacturing industries in each local authority in each year for which figures are available, broken down by five year age band. [155348]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 12 September 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the numbers of people employed in manufacturing in local authority areas. (155348)

Tables giving the information requested have been placed in the House of Commons Library. The figures in the tables are estimates from the Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey, for the twelve months ending in March of each year from 1996 to 2006.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Office of Government Commerce: Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at the Office of Government Commerce in each year between 1997 and 2006; and what the total cost was of those bonuses. [155339]

Andy Burnham: 14 such bonuses were awarded in 2005-06 at a cost of £147,618. The figures for 2006-07 were 22 and £235,208, respectively.

Information relating to earlier years is not available except at disproportionate cost.

Stamp Duties: South East Region

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on the level of stamp duty for first-time home-buyers in the south east; and what steps he is taking in response to such representations. [155152]

Andy Burnham: The Government regularly receive representations on various aspects of the stamp duty land tax system. All taxes are kept under review as part of the Budget process, and all such representations are noted as part of this process.

Taxation: Self-assessment

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* women aged 60 to 64, *(b)* women aged 65 and over and *(c)* men aged 65 and over complete a self assessment tax return; and what proportion of each group has a gross income of (i) under £8,000, (ii) £8,000 to £15,000 and (iii) above £15,000. [155280]

Jane Kennedy: The latest figures available are based on a survey of personal incomes undertaken by HM Revenue and Customs on the 2004-05 tax year.

	Women aged 60-64	*Women aged 65 and over*	*Men aged 65 and over*
Number	234,000	445,000	815,000
Gross income (percentage)			
Under £8,000	38	29	13
£8,000 to £15,000	23	26	22
Above £15,000	39	45	65

Tobacco: Counterfeit Manufacturing

Mr. Breed: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to the answer of 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 259W, on tobacco: counterfeit manufacturing, which tobacco companies already use the technology that is being introduced across the tobacco industry on their tobacco products, as of July 2007; and which tobacco companies will be introducing this as a new level of security on their tobacco products by October 2007 as part of the voluntary agreement; [153449]

(2) if he will publish the terms of the voluntary agreement made between HM Revenue and Customs and the tobacco industry in respect of introducing an anti-counterfeit solution to UK duty paid tobacco from October 2007. [153450]

Angela Eagle: Information about the companies currently using the anti-counterfeiting technology cannot be released as this could prejudice law enforcement efforts, and the commercial interests of manufacturers and would breach HM Revenue and Customs' duty of confidentiality towards those companies.

The agreement reached with the tobacco industry is that all cigarette packs intended for the UK duty paid market manufactured from October 2007 will incorporate a covert security mark, and packs of hand-rolling tobacco manufactured from October 2008 at the latest, will also incorporate a covert security mark. The agreement includes providing HMRC with the specialist equipment needed to test the authenticity of cigarette and hand-rolling tobacco packs.

For security reasons, the nature of the technology the industry have agreed to introduce will not be published.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many finalised tax credit awards for *(a)* 2003-04 and *(b)* 2004-05 were re-opened under the notification procedure set out in section 19 of the Tax Credit Act 2002. [155263]

Jane Kennedy: As enquiries under section 19 can only be opened once an award has been finalised, no inquiries were opened in 2003-04 which was the first year of tax credits.

In 2004-05 around 54,000 inquiries were opened, relating to 2003-04 awards. In 2005-06 around 38,000 inquiries were opened, relating to both 2003-04 and 2004-05 awards.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written statement of the Financial Secretary of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 62WS, on tax credit administration, (1) how many tax credit cases were re-opened incorrectly in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05 and *(c)* 2005-06; [155264]

(2) what estimate he has made of *(a)* the amount to be repaid to claimants and *(b)* the administrative cost to HM Revenue and Customs of remedying the errors described; [155265]

(3) when he was first aware of *(a)* the administrative errors described in the written statement and *(b)* the necessity of repaying amounts to claimants; [155266]

(4) when he expects the process of remedying the administrative error identified in the written statement to be completed. [155267]

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement by the Financial Secretary to the Treasury on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 62-63WS, on tax credit administration, when the administrative problem with tax credit awards was first identified; which ministers were informed about the problem; and when those ministers were informed. [155306]

Jane Kennedy: I was advised by HMRC officials in July that there was a potential issue on the finalisation of awards and that they were seeking legal advice.

My July written statement identified that an estimated 160,000 2003-04 and 2004-05 cases were impacted by this issue. Separately HMRC estimated that they would need to write to 90,000 households about their 2005-06 awards.

Since then HMRC have done further work to refine these estimates. Although the total number affected has not changed, HMRC now estimate that as a result of this issue around 100,000 cases in 2003-04, 75,000 cases in 2004-05 and 75,000 cases in 2005-06 will need to be reviewed.

HMRC has started a planned programme of work to review the tax credit awards that may be affected. In all but a small minority of the cases HMRC will be able to correct the procedural error without any change to the payments already made. In an estimated 20,000 cases, HMRC will need to make a repayment. The cost of this is estimated to be £20 million. No family will see their award revised downwards as a result of these reviews.

While any administrative error is deeply regrettable, and must be addressed, the fact remains that tax credits are helping six million families including 10 million children, and have helped to lift 600,000 children out of poverty.

Written Answers to Questions

The following answers were received between Thursday 13 September and Monday 17 September 2007

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Official Residences

Mrs. May: To ask the Leader of the House what the address is of *(a)* the offices and *(b)* any official residences she is entitled to use in her capacity as a Minister. [155431]

Helen Goodman: The Private Office for the Leader of the House of Commons is currently based at 26 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2WH.

No official residence has been allocated to the Minister.

PRIME MINISTER

Committee on Standards in Public Life

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister what the date was of the last day in office of the former Chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life; for what reason his successor has not been announced; and if he will make a statement. [155372]

The Prime Minister: Rita Donaghy CBE took over as interim Chair of the Committee on Standards in Public Life with effect from 26 April 2007. The recruitment process for a permanent Chair is under way.

Poverty

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Prime Minister what steps he plans to take to fight poverty in the next 12 months. [147802]

Mr. Plaskitt: I have been asked to reply.

For individuals and families, work is the best route out of poverty.

Pathways to Work will be rolled out across Britain by April 2008 and this will support the introduction of the new Employment and Support Allowance later in 2008. Both of these measures will encourage and support incapacity benefit claimants into work.

Furthermore, our Welfare Reform Green Paper "In work, better off" Cm7130, published on 18 July 2007, sets out how the Government aims to continue to move towards full employment, giving everyone the chance to work and contribute to society.

Earlier this year DWP published Working for Children, our strategy for parental employment, and this year's Budget announced that the child element of child tax credit will rise by £150 from April 2008. This, along with a package of reforms to the personal tax and benefit system in Budget 2007, will help lift 200,000 children out of poverty by 2008-09. As part of the 2007 comprehensive spending review, DWP is working closely with HM Treasury, the Department for Families, Children and Schools, and other government departments on producing a child poverty Delivery Agreement.

For pensioners, our strategy is to target help on the poorest pensioners, while providing a solid foundation of support for all. This approach has been successful but we are not complacent, and realise there is more to do to ensure that pensioners get the money they are entitled to by raising awareness and encouraging people to claim.

We also intend to strengthen State Pensions as a credible foundation for private saving. The Pensions Bill, which is currently before Parliament, will make State Pensions more universal and more generous, and will include a commitment to uprate the Pension Credit Minimum Guarantee in line with earnings growth, locking in the gains made in combating poverty.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Democratic Republic of Congo

Mr. Joyce: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support the UK plans to provide to local civil society organisations working in the field of governance and democracy in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [154886]

Mr. Thomas: The UK has an existing three-year £24 million community recovery programme in three provinces in DRC, which started in April 2007 and is being implemented by three international NGOs (the International Rescue Committee, the International Foundation for Care and Self-Help (IFESH) and CARE). The programme includes work on local governance and will support the creation of community level development committees that collectively plan and manage development projects such as re-building clinics, schools and bridges destroyed by fighting.

DFID has established a central Governance and Transparency Fund which will commit up to £100 million to civil society organisations working in the area of governance and transparency. Overall, civil society organisations are developing nearly 300 projects and final selection will take place later this year. The DFID office in DRC has been active in encouraging civil society organisations based in DRC to apply to this fund.

We are also working with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to develop a democracy and accountability programme of around £40 million. Through this programme UNDP will establish a mechanism to provide sustainable funding to a range of civil society organisations (local, international and faith-based) working on governance and democracy themes. We expect this to become operational in 2008.

Eritrea: Overseas Aid

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make UK aid and development funds for Eritrea conditional on the improvement of the observance of *(a)* human rights and *(b)* religious freedoms in that country in 2008. [155407]

Mr. Thomas: DFID does not have a development programme in Eritrea because it has not been possible to establish the basis for a development partnership with the Eritrean Government in light of human rights abuses and other problems. We do have a humanitarian programme targeted directly at those in need, which is channelled through international relief agencies.

MINISTER FOR WOMEN

Breastfeeding

Mr. Bone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on initiatives to support women who are breastfeeding; and if she will make a statement. [147868]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 5 July 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

I expect to discuss these issues within Government in the coming months.

Departments: Ministerial Red Boxes

John Hemming: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many ministerial red boxes were provided to her office in each of the last five years; what the cost of each was; who the suppliers were; and what tendering process was used in selecting them. [150405]

Ms Harman: Minister for Women red boxes are purchased by the Department in which she is based and are therefore counted in the figures provided by those individual Departments.

In the last five years the Minister for Women has been based in:

May 2006 to June 2007: CLG

2001 to 2005: DTI

Cabinet Minister for Women based in DCMS from May 2004 to May 2005.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the status is of Taliban leader Naim Atallah, allegedly responsible for the killing of Captain David Hicks of the 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment, who was captured by British Forces in Helmand Province in August. [155143]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* Captain Hicks was killed when his patrol operating base located to the North East of Sangin, in Helmand Province, came under attack on 11 August 2007. The investigation into his death is continuing.

Persons detained by British Forces are transferred to the Afghan Authorities. For reasons of operational security I am not prepared to comment in detail on individual cases.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Wimik land rovers issued to British forces in Afghanistan were written off in each of the last three years; how many were written off as a result of *(a)* accidental damage or mechanical failure and *(b)* enemy action; and how many written off as a result of enemy action were the subject of mine or improvised explosive device strikes. [155174]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* Since the deployment of weapons-mounted installation kit Land Rover vehicles in summer 2006 to Afghanistan, a total of 19 have been lost as a result of operational use. Those losses have occurred either as a result of direct enemy action or denial operations by UK forces where vehicles have been extensively damaged (either through enemy action or accidents) and cannot be recovered.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Wimik land rovers were issued to British forces in Afghanistan in each of the last three years. [155175]

Des Browne *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* Weapon-Mount Installation Kit (WMIK) equipped Land Rovers were first deployed to Afghanistan in summer 2006. I am withholding the number of vehicles deployed as disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British Forces personnel in Afghanistan were *(a)* seriously injured and *(b)* killed while crewing Wimik land rovers as a result of (i) accidental damage or mechanical failure and (ii) enemy action in each of the last three years; and of those injured or killed by enemy action, in how many cases this was as a result of mine/IED strikes. [155182]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* As of 10 September 2007, five personnel have been killed in WMIK Land Rovers since these were deployed to Afghanistan in summer 2006. Those deaths all occurred in incidents where the vehicle was involved in an explosion due to enemy action. Investigations are continuing into some incidents and it is not possible to say definitively in each case whether these were caused by mine or IED strikes. The number of service personnel injured in incidents involving WMIK Land Rovers is not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Compensation

Mr. Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to increase the compensation paid to armed forces personnel injured in the line of duty; and if he will make a statement. [155527]

Des Browne: The Armed Forces Compensation Scheme was introduced on 6 April 2005 and replaced arrangements under the War Pensions Scheme and Armed Forces Pension Scheme 1975 (AFPS 75) for those injuries, illnesses or deaths caused by Service after this date. It is a modern scheme and provides fair and simple arrangements, which focus help on the more severely disabled. For the first time, a tax-free lump sum is payable in-service to personnel to compensate for pain and suffering based on a range of tariffs graduated according to the seriousness of the condition. A tax-free inflation proof guaranteed income payment, payable for life, is also payable on discharge for those who suffer the more serious injuries. This has the potential to be worth many hundreds of thousands of pounds over the lifetime of the claimant.

We continually monitor the scheme in order to ensure that we provide the best of care for our serving personnel and veterans. As a part of this monitoring process, and in light of recent operational experience I have commissioned a review that is looking at one aspect of the scheme, which is the rules relating to the compensation paid to those personnel who receive multiple injuries as a result of a single incident. I hope to be able to announce the outcome of the review shortly.

Armed Forces: Correspondence

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether regulations are in place governing communications from officers commanding military establishments to *(a)* the hon. Member in whose constituency the establishment is located, *(b)* other hon. Members and *(c)* others. [155391]

Des Browne: The regulations in place that govern communications between Service personnel and any Member of Parliament are set out in the Queen's Regulations for each of the Services, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

The instruction governing communication between all MOD personnel and the media, and for writing or speaking in public, was updated and reissued in August 2007 as a Defence Instructions and Notice (2007DIN03-006). This document is on the MOD website and a copy will be placed in the Library of the House. Queen's Regulations are currently being revised to reflect the updated instruction.

Arms Trade: Channel Islands

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what types of military exports have been purchased by the Channel Islands in the last three years from the UK; and what the costs were of such purchases. [155053]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* Information on the types of exports under licence and the total value of single individual export licences issued, including those for the Channel Islands, in each calendar year up to 2004, is included in the printed version of the Strategic Export Controls Annual Report. Thereafter the information is also provided in a CD-ROM that accompanies the Report, and at www.fco.gov.uk. Copies of the reports and the CD-ROMs are available in the Library of the House. Information is also available in the Government's Strategic Export Controls Quarterly Reports, also available from the FCO website.

The Channel Islands are part of the UK's Customs and Statistical territories. As such, there is no requirement to record the value of items delivered under export licence to the Channel Islands.

Army Board

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many internal flights were taken by the *(a)* Adjutant General, *(b)* Chief of the General Staff, *(c)* non-ministerial members of the Army Board and *(d)* Assistant Chief of the General Staff in 2006; how many of those flights were with (i) military and (ii) commercial carriers; and what the cost was. [127568]

Derek Twigg *[pursuant to the reply, 11 June 2007, Official Report, c. 752W]:* I stated that the number of military flights taken by the Chief of the General Staff consisted of 26 RAF rotary and fixed wing and 35 Army rotary wing flights. These figures were incorrect and should have read as 23 RAF and 14 Army flights. The error occurred due to double counting.

Army: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many training exercises for *(a)* active duty regular forces and *(b)* the Territorial Army were suspended due to the recent foot and mouth outbreak; and what steps are being taken to reschedule those exercises. [155400]

Des Browne: There was one military training exercise only cancelled due to the recent foot and mouth outbreak and this was an Annual Personal Weapons Test for members of the Honourable Artillery Company (HAC). It was not essential for this exercise to occur over this period and it has now been rescheduled for later this year.

Defence Export Services Organisation: UK Trade and Investment

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which *(a)* defence companies and *(b)* trade organisations he consulted before the decision was made to transfer the responsibilities of the Defence Export Services Organisation to UK Trade and Investment; and when they were notified of the intention to effect that transfer. [154919]

Des Browne *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The Prime Minister's decision to move responsibility for supporting defence exports from the Defence

Export Services Organisation to UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) was announced in a written statement to Parliament on the afternoon of 25 July. This was a Machinery of Government change and in such circumstances, it is not unusual for announcements to be made quickly and without prior discussion with those outside Government. However, the current and future Chairs of the National Defence Industries Council, Sir John Rose and Mr. Mike Turner, were informed by telephone that morning.

MOD, UKTI and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform are engaging with the defence industry and trade associations as part of the process of developing an implementation plan.

Departments: Energy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role his Department has in the Joint Energy Security of Supply Working Group. [155398]

Derek Twigg: The MOD did not play a role in the Joint Energy Security of Supply Working Group (which no longer exists); however the MOD regularly consults across Government on energy security matters.

Falkland Islands: Armed Conflict

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will amend the criteria to enable the South Atlantic Medal 1982 to be awarded to those who served on RMS St Helena in support of the UK Government; how many peopled served on the RMS St Helena during the Falklands War; and if he will make a statement. [155202]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* RMS St. Helena, operating in company with the Royal Navy mine-sweepers HMS Brecon and HMS Ledbury, served in the waters surrounding the Falkland Islands after hostilities had ceased on 14 June 1982.

None of the three vessels accrued the necessary length of qualifying service to meet the eligibility criteria for the South Atlantic Medal 1982. I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright MP) ,on 11 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 711W, when I said that the eligibility criteria for the South Atlantic Medal 1982 were carefully and extensively considered at the time this medal was instituted. There are no plans to review these criteria.

Available MOD records do not indicate how many Royal Navy personnel served on RMS St. Helena at the time of the Falklands war, but there were approximately 32 civilians.

Iraq: Armed Forces

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Iraqi citizens have been trained at Sandhurst since 2003; how much the Government has spent on supporting the training of Iraqi officers at RMA Sandhurst; and if he will make a statement. [155255]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* Eight Iraqi officer cadets have attended, or are attending, training at Sandhurst since 2003. The Government have spent £360,795 on supporting their training, inclusive of flights to and from the UK and English language tuition. This initiative complements our wider training and mentoring efforts aimed at building the capability of Iraqi Security Forces, so that they are increasingly able to take responsibility for security in Iraq.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the extent and scale of ordnance, explosives and other weaponry used against UK forces in Iraq and Afghanistan over the past 12 months which his Department believes to have originated in, or passed through, Iran. [155537]

Des Browne: There is evidence that armaments, in particular improvised explosive devices, that originate in Iran are being deployed against our troops in southern Iraq and in Afghanistan. We have made it clear that any Iranian links to illegal armed groups in Afghanistan and Iraq, either through supply of munitions, training or funding, is completely unacceptable.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what definition he uses of overwatch, as used to describe the role of British armed forces in Southern Iraq. [155150]

Des Browne *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* Overwatch is a term used by UK military planners in Multi-National Division South-East to describe the force posture by coalition forces within a given province in Iraq, in relation to the progressive transfer of security responsibility to Iraqi security forces.

There are three phases of overwatch: tactical, operational and finally strategic. As each province passes through these phases, the division of responsibility between coalition and Iraqi security forces is adjusted to take account of the changing security situation and increasing capabilities of the Iraqi armed forces.

In the UK's area of responsibility in Iraq, three of the four provinces (Al Muthanna, Dhi Qar, and Maysan) are currently in the operational overwatch phase. Security in the fourth province, Basra, will remain the responsibility of coalition forces until the conditions are appropriate to transfer responsibility to the Iraqi Security Forces.

Kenley Airfield

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the expected cost is of the proposed fence at Kenley Airfield, Croydon. [155507]

Des Browne: The expected cost of the proposed fence at Kenley Airfield, Croydon, the erection of which is subject to planning permission, is approximately £154,000 including VAT.

NATO: Pipelines

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the status is of the NATO Pipeline System; and if he will make a statement. [155399]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The NATO Pipeline System was developed to ensure that NATO's requirements for petroleum products and their distribution could be met at all times. The system comprises 10 separate fuel storage and distribution systems with a total of 12,000 km of pipeline linking storage depots, air bases, civil airports, refineries and ingress points. Of these systems, two are multi-national systems and eight are national systems.

One of the eight national systems, the Government Pipeline and Storage System (GPSS), is owned by MOD and operated by the Oil and Pipelines Agency, a non-departmental public body. Although owned by MOD, the GPSS is a key element of the UK's critical national infrastructure. GPSS irreducible spare capacity is exploited for commercial use with military/commercial throughput split approximately 20:80. On the basis of commercial receipts, the MOD moves and stores its aviation fuel at no cost.

Territorial Army: Anniversaries

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what funding he intends to make available to *(a)* regional and *(b)* local organisations to mark the centenary of the Territorial Army; and if he will make a statement. [155233]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* The events marking the centenary of the Territorial Army will be funded from a combination of public resources and suitable non-public donations and sponsorship. The planning of events is continuing and I will announce further details later this year.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will list the projects being planned to mark the centenary of the Territorial Army; and if he will make a statement; [155436]

(2) what budget has been allocated to celebrations to mark the centenary of the Territorial Army; and if he will make a statement. [155437]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As outlined in my predecessor's written statement of 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 41WS, the programme of events will start with a media launch to raise awareness of this key anniversary. The main national level event will take place on Horse Guards Parade and at St. James' Palace on Saturday 21 June 2008. Further major events will be occurring between May to September next year around the country and are anticipated to include a commemorative service in St. Paul's Cathedral and primary events in regional capitals.

National events are further being supported by a range of regional and local activities, with a broad emphasis on TA veterans and members of the TA currently deployed on operations. The final programme is currently in the latter stages of development and the broad outline of this will be available in the early autumn.

The majority of TA100 activities around the country will be in conjunction with existing, planned representational or Army-in-Society events, which will be re-profiled or enhanced, if necessary, for the purposes of this milestone occasion thus minimising costs.

A substantial proportion of the cost of the celebrations will be met from corporate and private donations. The publicly funded element which has yet to be finally determined will be drawn in part from the Department's central commemorations team and in part from allocations. TA manpower to support the events will be resourced from allocated man training days. There will be no impact on operations, preparing for operations or core training.

Type 45 Destroyers

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what economies of scale he estimates could be made, per warship, if a flotilla of *(a)* six, *(b)* seven and *(c)* eight Type 45 Destroyers were to be built. [151187]

Des Browne *[holding answer 25 July 2007]:* The data to make accurate comparative calculations over Type 45 Destroyer fleet sizes are not available. However, value-for-money will be one of many considerations in the decision on future Type 45 orders.

Woolwich Barracks

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future of Woolwich barracks. [155144]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* My predecessor announced in September 2005 that Woolwich Barracks would be retained and would become the future home for Public Duties Incremental Companies, their supporting elements from Chelsea and an infantry battalion from Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow.

The work on the redevelopment of Woolwich Barracks to accommodate these units is expected to start within the next few months following recent planning approval.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which responsibilities of the former *(a)* Department for Education and Skills and *(b)* Department of Trade and Industry his Department holds; whether responsibilities have been transferred to his Department from any other Department; and for which (i) agencies and (ii) other bodies his Department is responsible for. [147747]

Mr. Lammy: All of these details are contained in the Machinery of Government statement of the 29 June which has been placed in the House Library.

Departments: Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many press officers are employed by his Department. [153242]

Mr. Lammy: At present, DIUS has a staff of four permanent press officers. Currently we are using nine additional press officers supplied through the Central Office of Information.

Departments: Marketing

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on what date a sign for his Department's headquarters was commissioned. [147881]

Mr. Lammy: Interim signage for the Department using an interim logo was commissioned on 27 June so that it was available for use in departmental buildings on 28 June. The Department's logo was then commissioned on 27 June.

Departments: Postal Services

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what volume of correspondence his Department sent *(a)* by Royal Mail and *(b)* by other commercial delivery services in each of the last five years; and what the reasons were for the use of other commercial delivery services. [150441]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested has been included as part of the response given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children, Young People and Families on 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1712-13W.

Departments: Publicity

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the cost-effectiveness of advertising commissioned over the last 12 months for policy areas now within his Department's responsibility; [148511]

(2) what assessment he has made of the cost-effectiveness of advertising commissioned in areas by his Department and other Government Departments now within his Department's responsibility in the last 12 months. [148677]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created on 28 June. I refer the hon. Member to the replies given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children, Young People and Families on 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1713W and my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 279W.

Further Education: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will list the further education provision available for post 16-year-olds within the Leeds, West constituency. [148649]

Mr. Lammy: The Department does not hold details of all the publicly funded post-16 provision at local or regional levels. I am therefore copying this to Mark Haysom, the Learning and Skills Council's chief executive so that he can respond with the information you have requested. A copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 14 September 2007:

I am writing in response to your recent Parliamentary Question which asked the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills to list the further education provision available for post 16 year olds specifically within the Leeds West Constituency.

The 05/06 data shows well over 6,000 Leeds West residents are currently in LSC funded FE learning provision, with about a fifth of these being aged 16-18. The vast majority of these are with Leeds based providers.

However, although there are a number of FE learning centres on the periphery of Leeds West, there is no locally based provision in the constituency.

Leeds West borders the Leeds city area to the east, where most provision is found, and Horsforth to the North West, where some Park Lane College provision is available.

Higher Education: Admissions

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students his Department has estimated will enrol in courses at higher education institutions in each academic year up to 2009-10. [155091]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* Current projections show the numbers of students rising from 1,508,000 in 2006/07 to 1,554,000 in 2007/08.

The following table shows recent years' outturn figures.

Academic year	*Total full-time equivalent students*
2001/02	1,320,000
2002/03	1,380,000
2003/04	1,425,000
2004/05	1,449,000
2005/06	1,480,000

These figures are on a full-time equivalent basis, and cover all (UK, EU and overseas domiciled) students, studying at higher education institutions (HEIs) and further education colleges (FECs) in England.

Estimates of likely numbers of students beyond 2007/08 have not yet been made, and will depend on the final settlement of the current Comprehensive Spending Review.

Higher Education: Overseas Trade

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether the United Kingdom is a net importer or exporter of higher education. [155172]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* The British Council published a report[1] earlier this month indicating that the value of UK education and training exports was estimated to be in the region of £28 billion a year. We do not know what the value of education imports might be and have no way of calculating it. However, given that the numbers of international students who come to the UK to study greatly exceeds the numbers of UK students studying abroad, the UK is considered to be a net exporter of higher education.

[1] "The value of UK education and training exports: an update" Dr. Pamela Lenton, University of Sheffield, September 2007.

Higher Education: Radioactive Materials

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what advice the Government have given to universities and education research facilities on the storage of radiological materials. [155404]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

If an organisation in England and Wales wishes to use radioactive substances on its premises, it will be regulated by the Environment Agency under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993 and the Health and Safety Executive under the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999.

Responsibility for storage facilities rests primarily with the user organisation itself. Regulatory guidance on radioactive substances, including storage, is provided by the Environment Agency and the Health and Safety Executive.

The Environment Agency also chairs a small users liaison group, which includes a number of professional bodies such as the Association of University Radiation Protection Officers. This provides a direct link to the Environment Agency in allowing for the dissemination of information and advice, and providing an opportunity for non-nuclear users of radioactive substances to seek regulatory guidance.

Learning and Skills

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 6 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 856W, on Learning and Skills, when he expects the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to publish data on the destinations of learners after completion of their LSC-funded programmes for the period 2002 to 2006. [154872]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to my letter dated June 2007, copies of which have been placed in the Library.

Students: Fees and Charges

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether his recent announcement on graduate loan repayments applies to both maintenance and tuition fee loans; and what the projected cost is of the initiative. [149093]

Bill Rammell: The recent announcement on giving graduates the choice of a repayment break of up to five years applies to both maintenance and tuition fee loans.

From the 2008/09 academic year, a student who is a new entrant to higher education and eligible for a maintenance loan or fee loan will be entitled to take a repayment break of up to five years. It is projected that giving graduates a choice of a repayment break in resource terms will cost of around £165 million in 2010-11 in steady state.

Students: Science

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what estimate he has made of how many and what percentage of *(a)* female and *(b)* male (i) physics, (ii) chemistry, (iii) biochemistry, (iv) psychology and (v) sports science students went into (A) UK graduate level employment, (B) UK non-graduate level employment, (C) employment overseas, (D) a combination of employment and study and (E) further study in each of the last 10 years; [150157]

(2) what estimate he has made of how many and what percentage of *(a)* female and *(b)* male students went into (i) UK graduate level employment, (ii) UK non-graduate level employment, (iii) employment overseas, (iv) a combination of employment and study and (v) further study in each of the last 10 years. [150158]

Bill Rammell: The available information on full-time graduates is given in tables which have been placed in the Library. The figures have been taken from the higher education leavers survey which is carried out annually by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). Up to and including 2001-02 this was the First Destination Supplement (FDS). From 2002/03, this was replaced by a new survey called the Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DHLE). In addition to this, a new classification for recording subject of study was introduced in 2002-03. Hence, figures from 2003/03 onwards are not comparable to earlier years.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were prosecuted for the non-payment of council tax, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* ethnicity of the defendant in each of the last five years for which records are available; and how much in council tax arrears was written off by local authorities over the same period. [155561]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government does not collect information on the number of taxpayers against whom billing authorities take enforcement action for non-payment of council tax.

Communities and Local Government does not have an estimate available on the amount of council tax arrears written off by local authorities.

Council Tax: Greater London

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the ratio between central Government funding and council tax revenue was for *(a)* all London boroughs and *(b)* each London borough in each of the last 10 years. [155553]

Mr. Dhanda: The ratio between central Government funding and council tax revenue for London boroughs over the last 10 years is shown in the following table.

Central Government funding is defined here as the sum of formula grant (revenue support grant, police grant and redistributed non-domestic rates) and specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance (AEF), i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services. In past years, where applicable, the SSA Reduction Grant and Central Support Protection Grant have also been included.

Council tax revenue is defined here as the local authority council tax requirement (i.e. the council tax used to finance revenue expenditure), not council tax collected.

Comparisons across years may not be valid due to changing local authority responsibilities and changes in funding and function.

Figures exclude grants outside AEF (i.e. where funding is not for authorities' core services, but is passed to a third party, for example, rent allowances and rebates), capital grants, funding for the local authorities' housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

Ratio between central Government funding and council tax revenue for London boroughs, 1997-98 to 2006-07

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07[1]
London boroughs	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.8
London boroughs plus City of London	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.8
Barking and Dagenham	4.3	4.5	4.8	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.0	5.0	6.1
Barnet	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.3
Bexley	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.8
Brent	5.1	5.1	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.4
Bromley	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.3
Camden	3.4	3.1	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.5
City of London	63.4	50.5	46.7	43.8	40.0	41.0	38.8	35.3	31.8	28.8
Croydon	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.9	3.2	3.4	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1
Ealing	3.8	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.1	2.9	3.1	3.0
Enfield	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.7
Greenwich	4.0	3.8	4.2	4.6	4.8	4.8	5.0	5.0	5.4	5.3
Hackney	6.0	5.9	6.2	6.1	8.5	7.5	6.8	6.4	6.5	6.6
Hammersmith and Fulham	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.6	3.4
Haringey	3.4	3.7	3.8	4.3	4.6	4.7	4.4	4.2	4.0	4.0
Harrow	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3
Havering	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.3
Hillingdon	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.7	3.0	2.9
Hounslow	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.9
Islington	3.6	3.7	4.1	4.7	5.1	5.5	5.1	4.7	4.5	4.9
Kensington and Chelsea	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.7
Kingston upon Thames	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Lambeth	5.3	5.6	6.0	6.3	5.7	5.6	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.2
Lewisham	4.9	5.1	5.0	5.0	4.7	4.4	4.9	5.1	4.8	4.8
Merton	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.6
Newham	7.5	7.9	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.0	8.3	8.2
Redbridge	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2
Richmond upon Thames	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Southwark	4.5	4.5	4.8	5.3	5.2	5.4	6.2	6.3	6.6	6.2
Sutton	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.5
Tower Hamlets	8.5	8.8	8.9	8.7	8.2	8.4	8.1	8.1	8.2	8.2
Waltham Forest	3.4	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0
Wandsworth	6.2	9.4	8.0	8.1	7.2	9.8	7.0	7.1	7.3	7.6
Westminster	10.0	9.2	8.8	8.8	8.1	8.1	7.2	6.5	6.8	6.9

[1] Based on provisional outturn figures.

Source:
Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) returns—RS data.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have been appointed to her Department outside civil service grades in the last 30 days. [153227]

Mr. Iain Wright: In the 30 days to the tabling of this question on 25 July, no staff were appointed outside civil service grades to the central part of the Department for Communities and Local Government, that is excluding the Departments sponsor bodies and executive agencies.

Devolution: Rural Areas

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of *(a)* the merits of devolution outside the city regions and *(b)* Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly's suitability for devolved powers. [155556]

Mr. Dhanda: The Government's approach was set out in the Local Government White Paper published on 26 October 2006 and in the review of sub-national economic development and regeneration published on 17 July 2007. The review builds on the White Paper by proposing increased powers and stronger incentives for all local authorities, including those in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, to improve the prosperity of their communities.

Empty Property

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes in *(a)* private and *(b)* public ownership were empty for more than six months in each year since 1997. [155229]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* The information requested is as follows:

As at 1 April each year	*Private (including RSLs)*[1,2]	*Public (local authority only)*[1,3]
1997	245,227	33,529
1998	233,237	26,645
1999	227,921	28,730
2000	296,053	33,126
2001	329,874	31,411
2002	327,677	30,892
2003	332,145	23,925
2004	320,650	20,670
2005	306,960	17,840
2006	306,788	16,028

[1] Private vacancies (over six months) reported through the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA).

[2] Registered social landlord long-term vacancies are based on a proxy measure—"RSL vacants not available for rent" as reported through the Regulatory Statistical Return.

[3] Local authority vacancies (over six months) reported through the HSSA up to 2004-05 and from the Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA) for 2005-06.

Figures for the private and local authority tenures are presented for those dwellings empty for more than six months as reported by local authorities. Figures for registered social landlord vacancies are based on numbers of vacancies not available for rent.

Energy: Conservation

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it a requirement for local authorities to publish an annual report listing the *(a)* new and *(b)* existing buildings in their area which in the previous 12 months have installed energy (i) reducing and (ii) producing measures; and if she will make a statement. [155478]

Mr. Dhanda: The Government have no plans to introduce a requirement for local authorities to produce such an annual report. However Communities and Local Government has published a report (as it is required to do every two years under the Sustainable and Secure Building Act 2004) which covers, among other things, the overall changes in the efficiency with which energy is used in buildings, and the extent to which such buildings have their own facilities for generating energy:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/monitoringsustainability.

Additionally, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has been seeking views on its proposals for an indicator for the post-2008 local government performance framework to measure percentage reductions in per capita CO_2 emissions in the local area. The calculation of the proposed indicator includes emissions from the majority of buildings in the area:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localgovindicators/index.htm.

The indicators to be included in the post-2008 local government performance framework will be published alongside the comprehensive spending review later this autumn.

Fire Services

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions have taken place with fire brigades on the implications for fire and rescue services of the changes in the requirements for vehicle signage in the UK following conclusion of the European Agreement concerning the international carriage of dangerous goods by road and rail. [155488]

Mr. Dhanda: No such discussions have taken place with specific fire brigades, but discussions have taken place with the Chief Fire Officers Association, which is the professional voice of the UK fire and rescue service. No changes in vehicle signage are currently planned for the carriage of dangerous goods within the UK.

Fire Services: Manpower

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many part-time and full-time firefighters there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* Northamptonshire and *(c)* Wellingborough in each year since 1997. [155519]

Mr. Dhanda: The number of part-time and full-time firelighters[1] in England in each year since 1997 was as follows. Information on the number of firelighters at the constituency level is not available:

[1] Number of uniformed personnel

As at 31 March	Retained (part-time)	Whole-time (full-time)
1997	13,016	32,033
1998	12,847	31,855
1999	13,022	31,918
2000	13,021	31,616
2001	13,097	31,597
2002	13,013	31,592
2003	13,044	31,614
2004	13,015	31,856
2005	13,543	31,051
2006	13,927	30,744

The number of part-time and full-time firelighters[1] in Northamptonshire in each year since 1997 was as follows:

[1] Number of uniformed personnel

As at 31 March	Retained (part-time)	Whole-time (full-time)
1997	221	286
1998	226	294
1999	221	293
2000	221	296
2001	221	296
2002	242	292
2003	228	307
2004	220	311
2005	237	302
2006	229	288

Source:
ODPM annual returns

Flood Control

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the Government's Foresight report on future flood risk. [153713]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

Copies of Foresight reports are routinely placed in both Libraries in the Houses of Parliament. I have however arranged for an additional copy of the Government's Foresight report on future flood risk to be placed in the Library.

Floods: EU Grants and Loans

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress the Government have made in securing funds from the EU Solidarity Fund in relation to the summer 2007 floods. [155566]

Mr. Dhanda: An application for support from the European Union Solidarity Fund was lodged with the European Commission on 20 August 2007 and we continue to liaise closely with the Commission on this issue.

Floods: Gloucestershire

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what financial assistance has been given to (*a*) Cheltenham and (*b*) Gloucestershire in relation to this summer's serious floods; which organisations received money; and what the money was intended to pay for. [155541]

Mr. Dhanda: In total £2,623,000 in Flood Recovery Grant, paid by the Department for Communities and Local Government to support flood affected communities, has been awarded to the councils within Gloucestershire. The details of these payments are set out as follows:

£

Council	Original FRG round 1—12 July 2007	Original FRG round 2—20 July 2007	Extended FRG round 1—16 August 2007	Extended FRG round 2—23 August 2007	Total
Forest of Dean District Council	0	0	20,000	3,000	23,000
Stroud District Council	0	0	50,000	10,000	60,000
Tewkesbury Borough Council	0	0	600,000	23,500	623,500
Cotswold District Council	0	0	600,000	23,500	623,500
Gloucester City Council	20,000	3,000	600,000	23,500	646,500
Cheltenham Borough Council	20,000	3,000	600,000	23,500	646,500
Total	40,000	6,000	2,470,000	107,900	2,623,000

Local authorities have flexibility to decide how to best to use the grant based on their own local circumstances. In practice, this has included:

Support payments to flood affected households;

Purchase and provision to flood affected households of new household items (e.g. fridges, cookers, washing machines);

Provision of temporary caravans to allow people to remain within their communities while houses are repaired; and

Other priorities set through consultation with flood-affected householders and communities.

Gloucestershire county council was allocated £1,007,900 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). None of the other local authorities within Gloucestershire provide education or children's services and thus were not eligible for this funding.

The Department for Transport has £3 million available to support longer term infrastructure costs in flood affected areas. There are on-going discussions with Gloucestershire county council about this resource.

The following are more general support that residents and businesses in Cheltenham and Gloucestershire can access:

The regional development agency with responsibility for Cheltenham and Gloucestershire has a £2 million flooding recovery package for the region and eligible businesses are able to claim up to a maximum of £2,500.

Department for Work and Pensions is helping people on income related benefits or the lowest of incomes affected by the flooding with essential costs through Community Care Grants and repayable interest-free Crisis Loans.

Also, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have made £1 million available to promote rural destinations and visitor attractions in flood affected areas.

Floods: Temporary Accommodation

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people are *(a)* still living and *(b)* have lived in emergency accommodation as a result of the summer 2007 floods, broken down by (i) county and (ii) type of accommodation. [155562]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not available in a comprehensive format centrally.

Information in respect of the housing situation is provided on a weekly basis on situation update forms by the Government offices for the regions based on information supplied to them by local authorities and other organisations.

The situation update forms do not include a detailed breakdown of all households who were or are living in temporary accommodation or the type of accommodation and may not include information where displaced households have made private arrangements.

Housing: Sales

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the proportion of homes sold through property location agents. [155413]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally.

Housing: South West Region

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what housing targets have been set for *(a)* Bournemouth, *(b)* Dorset and *(c)* the South West. [155459]

Mr. Dhanda: The draft South West Regional Spatial Strategy, which recently completed its examination in public, states a range for 2006-26 of *(a)* between 680 and 780 dwellings per annum for Bournemouth *(b)* between 1,925 and 2,780 dwellings per annum for Dorset and *(c)* between 22,895 and 23,060 dwellings per annum for the South West.

Mortgages: Insurance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the take-up rate was of mortgage payment protection insurance by new homebuyers in each year since 1997. [153692]

Mr. Iain Wright: The take-up rate of mortgage payment protection insurance (MPPI) for new mortgages is given in the following table. These figures are published by the Council of Mortgage Lenders in table PP12 on their website at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/statistics

Percentage of new mortgages with MPPI sold or provided for free, UK

	Percentage of all new mortgages with MPPI
2000	34
2001	33
2002	35
2003	33
2004	27
2005	25
2006	22

Source:
CML Research, Association of British Insurers

Planning: Appeals

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning decisions were appealed against in each year since 1996; and how many such appeals were successful. [155483]

Mr. Dhanda: Data held by the Planning Inspectorate are not reliable prior to April 2000. The following table shows the number of planning appeals *(a)* received *(b)* decided and *(c)* allowed (successful) in each calendar year from 2000 to 2007 where data for January to June has been supplied.

	(a) Number of appeals received	*(b) Number of appeals decided*	*(c) Number of appeals allowed*
2000	15,754	13,260	4,658
2001	16,413	14,044	5,025
2002	18,273	13,816	5,111
2003	20,593	18,056	6,018
2004	25,136	16,504	5,412
2005	20,765	22,362	7,208
2006	23,054	19,827	6,574
2007 (January to June)	11,335	10,055	3,516

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Baggage

Mr. Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to seek an increase in the baggage liability limitations applicable to airline passengers; and if she will make a statement. [155529]

Jim Fitzpatrick: None. It is mishandling of baggage that attracts complaints rather than the amount of compensation payable in redress. Baggage liabilities are governed by the 1999 Montreal Convention which came into force for the UK in June 2004. Revisiting the Convention would require international support. As this is a recent international instrument and remains to be ratified in many countries this is unlikely to be realistic in the short term.

Bus Services

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by how much the (*a*) total and (*b*) average per person use of (i) bus and (ii) light rail in (A) England and (B) each region changed between (1) 2000, (2) 1995, (3) 1990, (4) 1980 and (5) 1970 and the latest year for which figures are available. [152382]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following tables show patronage figures, by region, for bus and light rail, for each of the financial years 1990-91, 1995-96, 2000-01 and 2005-06. Data disaggregated by region or country of Great Britain are not available for years prior to 1985-86.

Total bus patronage

Millions of boardings

	1990-01	*1995-96*	*2000-01*	*2005-06*
North East	376	284	249	207
North West	691	596	506	500
Yorkshire and the Humber	544	454	397	366
East Midlands	247	217	216	201
West Midlands	517	470	459	405
East of England	173	160	183	161
Greater London	1,166	1,193	1,347	1,810
South East	299	278	297	293
Southwest	215	201	188	181
All England	4,227	3,853	3,842	4,125

Total Light Rail patronage

Millions of boardings

	1990-01	*1995-96*	*2000-01*	*2005-06*
North East	44	36	33	36
North West	6	17	21	24
Yorkshire and the Humber	—	5	11	13
East Midlands	—	—	—	10
West Midlands	—	—	5	5
East of England	—	—	—	—
Greater London	8	14	53	74
South East	—	—	—	—
South West	—	—	—	—
All England	57	73	124	162

Bus boardings per person per year

	1990-01	*1995-96*	*2000-01*	*2005-06*
North East	145	110	98	81
North West	101	87	75	73
Yorkshire and the Humber	111	92	80	72
East Midlands	62	53	52	47
West Midlands	99	89	87	75
East of England	34	31	34	29
Greater London	172	173	186	241
South East	39	36	37	36
South West	46	42	38	36
All England	89	80	78	82

Light rail boardings per person per year

	1990-01	*1995-96*	*2000-01*	*2005-06*
North East	17	14	13	14
North West	1	3	3	3
Yorkshire and the Humber		1	2	3
East Midlands				3
West Midlands			1	2
East of England				1
Greater London	1	2	7	
South East				10
South West				
All England	1	2	3	3

Departments: Customer Services

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much revenue each of her Department's executive agencies received from customer services calls in each of the last five years; [155512]

(2) how much was (*a*) spent on and (*b*) recouped by the customer services departments of each of her Department's executive agencies in each of the last five years. [155513]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Where the Department's executive agencies have a separate and distinct customer services department or enquiry unit, the costs incurred and income recouped over the last five years is shown in the following tables. Income recouped is interpreted as meaning revenue received from customer service calls.

Revenue

£

	DVLA	*DSA*	*VOSA*
2002-03	585,077	[1]—	0
2003-04	384,754	[1]—	0
2004-05	1,309,208	[1]—	10,386
2005-06	3,021,010	[1]—	63,407
2006-07	3,884,413	[1]—	72,397

[1] DSA has not recouped any money from its customer services calls

The amount of revenue share has grown through this period in line with increased call volumes, and the increase in the amount of revenue share provided by telecoms suppliers.

In line with the David Varney recommendations DfT intends to migrate its major service numbers to the new 0300 number range, dedicated to the Government and not-for-profit sector, as soon as they are available later this year. This will cease any revenue share arrangements and customers will pay no more than they pay for calls to 01 or 02 numbers.

Costs

			£
	DVLA	*DSA*	*VOSA*
2002-03	10,704,277	325,000	[1]
2003-04	15,081,330	428,000	[1]
2004-05	15,791,841	1,066,000	[1]
2005-06	15,706,096	573,000	[1]
2006-07	18,334,446	644,000	[1]

[1] VOSA does not hold separate data on costs of its Enquiry Unit

Departments: Gateway Reviews

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of gateway reviews returned (a) red, (b) amber and (c) green colour coding in each of the last five years. [155509]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This information is provided in the following table. To clarify, Gateway reviews assign a 'red', 'amber' or 'green' status on the basis of how quickly a recommendation should be actioned before moving into the next project phase. They do not measure a project's status or likelihood of success.

Report colour code	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Total*	*Total percentage*
Red	0	6	23	29	36	26	120	41.8
Amber	5	14	36	34	26	15	130	45.3
Green	3	3	12	10	6	3	37	12.9
Total	8	23	71	73	68	44	287	100
Percentage breakdown								
Red	0	26	32	49	53	59	42	
Amber	63	61	51	47	38	34	45	
Green	38	13	17	14	9	7	13	

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department spent in total on Gateway reviews in each of the last five years. [155510]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Prior to April of this year there were no direct charges for Gateway reviews. The Office of Government Commerce did introduce a payment scheme for reviews at the beginning of this financial year; however, the Department has yet to make any payments under this mechanism.

Other costs have been incurred by the involvement of external consultants in a small number of reviews; however, these ad hoc and infrequent charges are not recorded centrally.

Finally, there are also costs involved in the administration of reviews by departmental staff; however, because this varies significantly with the type of review being conducted, this could be calculated only at disproportionate cost.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of the cost of a gateway review is met by *(a)* her Department, *(b)* the budget for the project into which the review has been commissioned and *(c)* the companies contracted in to carry out the work on the project. [155511]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department supports the philosophy that Gateway reviews should be free at the point of delivery. All costs associated with a review are met from the Department's budget as part of its corporate assurance and governance processes.

In a small number of cases a project has specifically requested the involvement of an external consultant. The cost of consultants has been included in the project itself.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the value is of the unitary payments of each private finance initiative scheme overseen by her Department over the lifetime of the contract, expressed in constant 2007-08 prices, and discounted to present value. [155028]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The HM Treasury website provides updated details (on a six monthly basis) of unitary payments on PFI projects overseen by the Department for Transport. These were most recently updated in July 2007, with unitary charge payment projections extending until 2033-34. This information is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm .

Unitary charge payments should be expressed in 2007-08 prices. An appropriate inflation rate to use to express payments in 2007-08 prices is 2.8 per cent. This is HM Treasury's projection for RPI inflation consistent with CPI inflation remaining at its 2 per cent. target. The first year corrected for inflation should be 2008-09.

Unitary charge payments are projections covering more than the repayment of the capital value of a project and are conditional on the performance of the private sector contractor. The unitary charge payments often cover maintenance, cleaning and other services.

Heathrow Airport

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in relation to the Heathrow project board meeting note of 16 April 2007, item 8, what comments were received from BAA for inclusion in the public consultation document on expanding Heathrow airport; and if she will make a statement. [155110]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 10 September 2007]*: It is Government policy to work with BAA and other relevant bodies to see whether the further development of Heathrow is possible within strict environmental limits. It would be impossible to assess the viability of the further growth of Heathrow without the input of the airport operator. We expect to be consulting publicly later this year and for the reasons already explained in correspondence with the hon. Member, we do not believe it is in the public interest to release information on draft documents ahead of that consultation.

Lorry Drivers: Foreigners

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many foreign vehicles were inspected at the roadside in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; how many were served with an immediate prohibition; how many of these prohibitions related to drivers' hours; what the countries of origins were of these drivers; and how many prosecutions followed these roadside stops. [155387]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The relevant statistics relating to the Department's Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) are:

	2005-06	*2006-07 (to date)*
Roadworthiness inspections	15,183	31,321
Traffic offence inspections	18,251	27,449

Foreign vehicles issued with an immediate prohibition were:

	2005-06	*2006-07 (to date)*
Roadworthiness	5,442	13,348
Drivers hours	4,433	6,443
Overloading	1,436	2,631

VOSA does not record the nationality of drivers. There were no prosecutions for these specific offences because it is not possible—either for VOSA or the police—to require non-UK residents to return to the UK to attend court on such matters. The introduction of graduated fixed penalties and deposits next year will, however, ensure that they do pay the relevant penalty.

The police do have the power of arrest and use it to deal with serious offences. We do not have any statistics relating to enforcement action taken by the police. Such statistics as may be available relating to the prosecution of foreign nationals would be held by the Ministry of Justice.

M25

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent on the M25 widening project at the most recent date. [155154]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 12 September 2007]*: A total of £57 million has been spent on the M25 widening project up to and including 31 July 2007.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which of the M25 widening projects are *(a)* on schedule and *(b)* late. [155157]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 12 September 2007]*: Construction of M25 junction 1b-3 (section 3) started in June 2007 and is currently expected to complete ahead of schedule in summer 2008.

The remaining four sections were included in the Design Build Finance and Operate contract which is on schedule to be awarded at the end of 2008.

The actual dates for the improvements will be determined by the successful contractor and all four sections are expected to complete by 2016 subject to the satisfactory completion of the necessary statutory processes.

Railways: Death

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many members of the public lost their lives on the railway in the last three years; and how many deaths *(a)* occurred on Network Rail's Western Route and *(b)* are (i) suspected to be and (ii) confirmed as the result of suicide. [155455]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is not held by the Department for Transport but by the British Transport Police who can be contacted at:

British Transport Police
25 Camden Road
London
NW1 9LN
E-mail: general.enquiries@btp.pnn.police.uk

Road Traffic

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* motor vehicles, *(b)* cars and taxis, *(c)* motorcycles, *(d)* buses and coaches, *(e)* light vans, *(f)* other goods vehicles and *(g)* pedal cycles there were on the roads in each region of the UK in each of the last five years. [155498]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The data available from the DVLA vehicle register (which does not include pedal cycles) are shown in the tables which have been placed in the Libraries of the House. The tables show the number of licensed vehicles, registered to keepers residing in each Government Office Region in Great Britain, over the last five years.

The totals include vehicles where the region of residence of the registered keeper cannot be identified.

Roads: Accidents

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many traffic accidents there were involving *(a)* buses, *(b)* pedestrians and *(c)* cyclists in (i) Cheltenham constituency and (ii) other Gloucestershire constituencies in each of the last five years. [155497]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one *(a)* bus, *(b)* pedestrian casualty and *(c)* pedal cyclist in the Cheltenham constituency and the other five constituencies in Gloucestershire from 2002 to 2006 are shown in the table.

Accidents involving	Cheltenham	Cotswold	Forest of Dean	Gloucester	Stroud	Tewkesbury
					Number of accidents	
2002						
Bus	11	2	3	28	4	5
Pedestrian casualty	58	30	19	75	38	22
Pedal cycle	56	22	12	56	25	29
2003						
Bus	6	4	7	22	8	6
Pedestrian casualty	51	23	25	78	37	36
Pedal cycle	40	20	10	74	15	25
2004						
Bus	13	2	4	12	4	7
Pedestrian casualty	50	22	30	70	45	32
Pedal cycle	51	8	6	69	29	26
2005						
Bus	4	7	6	11	8	5
Pedestrian casualty	47	30	31	62	35	21
Pedal cycle	49	16	12	70	31	34
2006						
Bus	7	1	3	13	3	3
Pedestrian casualty	42	22	22	40	42	23
Pedal cycle	43	12	15	59	20	21

Roads: Construction

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consultations she has held since taking office on motorway widening schemes. [155156]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* Since June the Highways Agency has undertaken public consultation on two motorway widening schemes, M25 widening junction 16-23, and A453 widening (M1 junction 24 to A52 Nottingham).

Taxis: Licensing

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the effect on costs to local authorities of the abolition by the Road Safety Act 2006 of the exemption from the private hire taxi licensing regime for vehicles hired on a long-term basis. [155428]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The inclusion in the Road Safety Act 2006 of the repeal of the exemption from private hire vehicle (PHV) licensing requirements of contracts lasting for a period of not less than seven days was motivated by the paramount need to ensure the safety of those being carried under contracts for the hire of a PHV.

PHV licence fees are set by local licensing authorities and vary widely from area to area. Making reasonable assumptions about the total numbers of currently unlicensed drivers, vehicles and operators likely to be involved, and about average licence fees, we estimate that the total cost across all those sectors using PHV contracts will be about £1 million. We have not made a separate estimate of costs likely to be borne by local authorities.

It should be noted that many contracts will already be carried out by drivers, vehicles and operators that are already licensed or to whom the contact exemption did not apply. Furthermore, the proportion of licensing costs which will be passed on to those awarding contracts will depend on contracts terms in each case.

Transport: Hazardous Substances

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans there are to replace vehicle signage compliant with the United Kingdom Hazard Information System with vehicle signage compliant with the European Agreement concerning the international carriage of dangerous goods by road and rail. [155486]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The emergency services expressed clear views of the advantages given by the Emergency Action Codes (EACs) over Hazard Identification Numbers (HINs) in the first few minutes of responding to an incident involving dangerous goods when HSE consulted on this issue for the Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations 2004. It is proposed to consult on the continued use of EACs in the development of the 2011 revision of the Carriage of Dangerous Goods regulations. We are not required to replace the EAC codes as EC Directives permit member states to maintain existing national provisions.

Transport: Wellingborough

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans there are to improve transport infrastructure in Wellingborough under the South Midlands and Milton Keynes spatial strategy; and if she will list the projects to be undertaken and their *(a)* start and *(b)* completion dates. [155127]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* The principles of infrastructure delivery, as set out in the North Northamptonshire core spatial

strategy, will be considered at the independent public examination which is due to commence on 23 October.

During the next few months, Wellingborough will benefit from improvements to the A45 Wilby Way Roundabout and the commencement of the new East Midlands Rail franchise timetable, which will introduce a new hourly service between Kettering, Wellingborough and London.

In the longer term, both the work that Northamptonshire county council is doing in preparing its transport strategy for growth, and with the Department and other partners to resolve the particular issues associated with the A14 trunk road, will highlight potential scheme priorities but more detailed appraisal is required before any firm indication on specific target dates can be given.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Finance

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will allow *(a)* independent schools, *(b)* successful secondary schools and *(c)* further education colleges to sponsor city academies. [154975]

Jim Knight: Yes.

Academies: Isle of Sheppey

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether any of the funding commitments to the proposed federated academy on the Isle of Sheppey are dependent on the sale of local school property for development. [155397]

Jim Knight: Kent county council has committed to using the capital resources at its disposal to contribute £4 million to the budget for establishing an academy on the Isle of Sheppey. On the basis of information it has supplied, this sum may be realised in total or in part by land sales at school sites in Sheppey or elsewhere in Kent. Any land sale at a school site will be managed in accordance with the relevant guidance and legislation.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals have lead responsibilities for taking forward the plans for a federated academy on the Isle of Sheppey. [155410]

Jim Knight: Dulwich college, as lead sponsor, is responsible for taking forward the educational proposals for the Sheppey academy. It is represented on the Project Steering Group by Ralph Mainard, deputy master.

In line with national academies policy, the project to develop and deliver the building programme will be managed by Kent's Local Education Partnership. On the basis of information supplied by Kent county council (KCC), a preferred consortia is due to be selected to form the Local Education Partnership with KCC and Partnerships for Schools in the fourth quarter of 2007. The project to develop and deliver the academy will form part of the national wave 4 programme. Since the procurement is not yet complete, it is not possible to comment on which individual will have lead responsibility for this aspect of the project.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the team in charge of the development of the federated academy on the Isle of Sheppey has met the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment. [155411]

Jim Knight: The procurement of the Kent Local Education Partnership is not yet complete. However, all schools that are developed and delivered by the LEP will be subject to formal review, in line with national policy, by both CABE and Partnerships for Schools.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans there are to appoint a client design adviser to the executive team responsible for the development of the federated academy on the Isle of Sheppey. [155412]

Jim Knight: Kent county council has appointed Gensler as client design adviser for this academy project.

Curriculum: Citizenship

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will take steps to ensure that the citizenship curriculum includes the teaching of *(a)* the words of the National Anthem and *(b)* knowledge of the flags and patron saints of the nations of the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement. [154835]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The flags, patron saints and the national anthem of the United Kingdom are not a separate element of the citizenship curriculum and there are currently no plans to change this. However, understanding the origins and implications of the diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom is an important part of citizenship curriculum, which has been statutory for 11-16 year olds since 2002. Following the recommendation in Sir Keith Ajegbo's recent review of "Diversity and Citizenship in the Curriculum", from September 2008 the revised citizenship curriculum for secondary schools will include a new strand entitled "Identity and Diversity: living together in the UK". In this context, pupils will have the opportunity to explore what it means to be a UK citizen and the unique qualities that are part of our shared identity. They may consider the political, religious, social and constitutional systems that affect their lives and communities and that may include learning about the flags, patron saints and the national anthem.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Science

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on the decision by the Joint Council for Qualifications to increase the proportion of lower demand questions in the GCSE science examinations. [154944]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* It is for the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) as the independent regulator to ensure that standards at GCSE are maintained. The changes referred to follow a review of standards in GCSE double award science published in March 2007 and covering the five-year period 2000-05. QCA was involved in the process and believes that the changes in the proportions of questions will not affect the overall standard of the GCSE, while allowing lower achievers to demonstrate positive achievement.

Pupil Exclusions: West Yorkshire

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school children in (i) Leeds and (ii) West Yorkshire were excluded from school for a period of five days or fewer in each of the last five years. [154862]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The requested information can be provided at disproportionate cost.

Data on the number of fixed period exclusions in 2005/06 by local authority was published in June 2007:
http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000733/index.shtml

Data for 2004/05 was published in June 2006:
http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000662/index.shtml

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school children in (i) Leeds and (ii) West Yorkshire were permanently excluded from school in each of the last five years; in how many of these cases the decision was appealed; and in how many cases the appeal was successful. [154863]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The number of pupils permanently excluded from school in (a) Leeds and (b) Yorkshire and The Humber are shown in the table:

Maintained Primary, Secondary and Special Schools[1]: Number of Permanent Exclusions, 2001/02 to 2005/06

Leeds Local Authority Area

	Primary		Secondary		Special		Total (rounded)	
	Number of permanent exclusions	Percentage of school population[2]	Number of permanent exclusions	Percentage of school population[2]	Number of permanent exclusions	Percentage of school population[2]	Number of permanent exclusions	Percentage of school population[2]
2001/02	0	0.00	111	0.23	0	0.00	110	0.10
2002/03	10	0.01	130	0.28	10	1.06	150	0.13
2003/04	7	0.01	172	0.36	0	0.00	180	0.16
2004/05	*	*	118	0.25	0	0.00	120	0.11
2005/06	3	0.00	85	0.18	*	*	90	0.08

* = Figures below 3 are suppressed.
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] The number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils) in January each year.

Yorkshire and the Humber

	Primary		Secondary		Special		Total (rounded)	
	Number of permanent exclusions	Percentage of school population[2]	Number of permanent exclusions	Percentage of school population[2]	Number of permanent exclusions	Percentage of school population[2]	Number of permanent exclusions	Percentage of school population[2]
2001/02	110	0.02	780	0.23	30	0.34	920	0.11
2002/03	100	0.02	750	0.22	30	0.32	880	0.11
2003/04	100	0.02	790	0.23	20	0.25	910	0.11
2004/05	80	0.02	740	0.21	20	0.23	840	0.10
2005/06	80	0.02	680	0.20	10	0.17	770	0.10

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] The number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils) in January each year.
Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

The number of appeals against permanent exclusion from schools for (a) Leeds and (b) Yorkshire and the Humber are shown in the table:

Maintained Primary, Secondary and Special Schools[1]: Appeals Against Permanent Exclusion, 2001/02 to 2005/06

Leeds Local Authority Area

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Number of appeals lodged	12	23	27	36	28
Number of appeals heard	12	23	27	36	28
Percentage of appeals heard	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number of appeals decided in favour of the parent/pupil	*	4	3	8	4
Percentage of appeals decided in favour of the parent/pupil[2]	16.67	17.39	12.50	22.22	14.29

* = Figures below 3 are suppressed.
[1] Excludes non-maintained special schools.
[2] Shown as a percentage of the appeals heard.

	Yorkshire and the Humber				
	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Number of appeals lodged	137	104	129	127	107
Number of appeals heard	132	99	124	125	101
Percentage of appeals heard	96.35	95.19	96.12	98.43	94.39
Number of appeals decided in favour of the parent/pupil	18	169	18	27	25
Percentage of appeals decided in favour of the parent/pupil[2]	13.64	16.16	14.52	21.26	24.75

[1] Excludes non-maintained special schools. [2] Shown as a percentage of the appeals heard.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average total amount of spending on each student throughout their school lives was for the 2007 GCSE cohort; and how many students from that cohort finished compulsory school with no GCSE qualifications or equivalent. [155081]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The information requested is provided as follows:

(a) For pupils who completed their GCSEs in 2007, their schools will have on average received £40,000 in real terms revenue funding per pupil over the eleven years of their schooling from the age of 5 to 15.

(b) Students that finished compulsory school with no GCSE qualifications or equivalent in 2006 in contained within the following table:

	Number
Pupils at the end of Key Stage 4	645,931
Achieving no passes at GCSE or equivalent[1]	[2]14,346

[1] Including entry level qualifications, which are below grade G at GCSE.
[2] 2.2 per cent. of the cohort

Note:
These figures are based on final 2006 data; provisional 2007 data will be published on 18 October 2007.

Schools: Capital Investment

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the capital investment in schools in the City of York was in each year since 1996-97. [154938]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* Records are not maintained centrally of local authority capital expenditure on schools, as this is decided in accordance with local asset management plans and will depend upon local authorities' total sources of available funding. Capital allocations to York city council and schools in its area in each year since 1996-97 are set in the following table:

	£ million
1996-97	0.8
1997-98	1.3
1998-99	1.8
1999-2000	4.5
2000-01	7.4
2001-02	4.8
2002-03	25.5
2003-04	9.7
2004-05	9.4
2005-06	8.7
2006-07	28.5
2007-08	6.4

The large allocations in 2002-03 and 2006-07 result, respectively, from a PFI allocation of £15.4 million and successful Targeted Capital Fund (TCP) bids of £22.2 million. TCP allocations were made throughout the period 2001-02 to 2006-07. Although no TCP allocation was made in 2007-08, there is building work in progress this year resulting from the earlier allocations.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of *(a)* primary schools, *(b)* junior schools and *(c)* infant schools have been (i) placed in special measures and (ii) given notice to improve in 2006-07; and whether he has commissioned research on the frequency of these events in the three school types. [154860]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The following table gives the information requested.

Ofsted category	Primary schools placed into category during the 2006/07 academic year	Infant schools placed into category during the 2006/07 academic year	Junior schools placed into category during the 2006/07 academic year	Percentage All[1] primary schools placed into category during the 2006/07 academic year
Special Measures	0.8	0.2	1.4	0.7
Significant Improvement (Notice to Improve)	1.0	0.2	2.2	1.0

[1] Includes first schools and middle deemed primary schools.

The Department has not commissioned research in this area, but will discuss the matter with Ofsted.

Teachers: Languages

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers of modern foreign languages in secondary schools have degree level qualifications in *(a)* Mandarin and *(b)* Urdu. [155253]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* The information requested is not collected centrally.

Teenage Pregnancy

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made in reducing pregnancy rates among under 18-year-olds since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [155396]

Beverley Hughes: The latest annual under-18 conception data, published in February 2007, relate to conceptions that occurred in 2005. This data showed that the under-18 conception rate had fallen by 11.8 per cent. since 1998 (the baseline year for the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy), to its lowest level for over 20 years. The under-16 conception rate has also fallen—by 12.1 per cent. between 1998 and 2005.

First quarter 2006 data show an encouraging continued downward trend in both the under-18 and under-16 conception rates. While trends in quarterly conception rates should be interpreted with caution, first quarter 2006 rates are the lowest first quarter rates since 1993, when the statistical series started.

We have issued guidance to local authorities and primary care trusts on what we consider to be the key ingredients of local strategies, based on evidence from those local areas which have had most success in reducing teenage conception rates. All areas have been asked to use this guidance to accelerate progress to the levels of the best—if all areas had performed as well as the top quartile, the national reduction would be 26 per cent., more than twice the reduction actually achieved.

Truancy

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when and for what reasons the decision to end nationally co-ordinated truancy sweeps was taken; [155176]

(2) what measures his Department has in place to monitor the effectiveness of truancy sweeps; and what his most recent assessment is of the effectiveness of such sweeps. [155278]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* The Department began co-ordinating voluntary twice-yearly national truancy sweeps in May 2002. Each sweep focused local authority activity within the three-week period on which our data collections were based.

We took the decision in January 2007 to end this national co-ordination and data collection. Many local authorities had by then established local sweeps which were better aligned to local police service schedules, operating more frequently and effectively than within a centrally prescribed three-week period.

Having given local authorities the flexibility to make more effective local arrangements, we do not attempt to closely monitor these but instead gather and share their effective practice with others. Since April 2007, police community service officers have the power to remove absentee pupils from a public place. Later this month, we will publish updated guidance on effective practice in planning and undertaking truancy sweeps to reflect these powers.

HEALTH

Ambulance Services: Death

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the conditions for which extended travel times on blue light emergency ambulance journeys are *(a)* material and *(b)* immaterial to mortality. [155522]

Mr. Bradshaw: The way the national health service responds to emergencies needs to focus not just on getting the patient to a location but also on taking care of the patient. This is why it is necessary to focus on a range of measures, including response times by the ambulance service, its ability to administer a wide range of treatment and provision of urgent and social care in the community.

The aim should always be to provide high quality care for patients close to home where this is clinically safe. Some patients may require more specialised care at centres with clinicians who have the right expertise and equipment.

Local health services need to decide the shape of local urgent and emergency care services so that they are responsive to the needs of the local population.

Ambulance Services: Personnel

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of response staff in each ambulance NHS trust are *(a)* ambulance technicians, *(b)* paramedics and *(c)* emergency care practitioners. [155131]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* Data is available for ambulance staff breakdown, as at September 2006, through the Information Centre for health and social care 2006 Non-Medical Workforce Census. The following table sets out the proportion of ambulance technicians, paramedics and emergency care practitioners against the total number of employed staff for each ambulance trust. Response staff as a category is not collected and is therefore not available as part of the census return.

Ambulance trusts are currently producing individual five-year workforce outlook plans, providing more up-to-date information, which might show a different staffing position to the census.

Headcount percentages

	Total staff	*Of which:* *Ambulance technician*	*Ambulance paramedic*	*Emergency care practitioner*
Total Ambulance Trusts	100	21.4	25.4	1.3
East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	100	30.0	23.0	0.5
East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust	100	19.1	21.6	3.5
Great Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust	100	24.6	28.0	1.4
London Ambulance Service	100	31.7	23.9	1.0
North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust	100	23.6	23.5	0.0
North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust	100	12.4	26.6	0.9
South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust	100	19.5	21.6	1.2
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust	100	27.7	26.8	0.6
South Western Ambulance NHS Trust	100	4.1	37.5	1.0
Staffordshire Ambulance Service	100	31.2	39.1	0.0
West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	100	21.4	28.2	2.3
Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	100	18.8	21.4	0.9

Note:
South Western Ambulance NHS Trust's Ambulance Technician figures are low in comparison to other Ambulance trusts. This is likely to be due to the re-coding of Ambulance staff in 2006. These figures have been clarified and signed off by the Trust.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care 2006 Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Dental Services

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what targets his Department set for access to NHS dentists under the new dental contract. [155557]

Ann Keen: The Department does not set targets for levels of access. Primary care trusts are responsible for assessing local needs and providing or commissioning dental services that reflect these needs.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of *(a)* adults and *(b)* children in each primary care trust have access to NHS dentistry. [155558]

Ann Keen: Information is collected centrally and published regularly on the number of adults and children who receive care or treatment from an national health service dentist in a given area over a 24 month period and the percentage of the adult and child population this represents.

Information on the percentage of adults and children who received care or treatment, by primary care trust, in the 24-month period ending 31 March 2007 is contained in table C2 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England 2006-07" report. This is the most recent period for which data are available.

This report is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

Dental Services: Cornwall

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of dentist surgeries offered NHS services in Cornwall in each of the last 10 years. [155559]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of national health service dental surgeries in the primary care trusts (PCTs) within Cornwall are provided in the following table up to 31 March 2007. Information on the number of private dental surgeries is not collected centrally and therefore the proportion of dental surgeries offering NHS services cannot be calculated.

Number of NHS dental surgeries in the primary care trusts within Cornwall as at the specified dates

	30 September									*31 March*	
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
West of Cornwall	29	29	26	24	23	23	23	22	22	24	[1]—
North and East Cornwall	25	24	23	23	23	23	21	23	23	24	[1]—
Central Cornwall	34	35	35	40	38	38	40	39	39	42	[1]—
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	85

[1] Not applicable. On 1 October 2006, West of Cornwall PCT, North and East Cornwall PCT and Central Cornwall PCT merged to become Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT.
Notes:
1. The areas have been defined using practice postcodes within the PCT area.
2. The figures provide a snapshot of the number of addresses with open contracts at the specified time.
3. No account is taken to the amount of service, if any, that each dentist provides.
Sources:
The Information Centre for health and social care.
NHS Business Services Authority.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of *(a)* adults and *(b)* children were treated by NHS dentists in Cornwall, broken down by the smallest available areas for which data are available in each of the last five years. [155560]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is not held centrally in the form requested. For the period up to 31 March 2006, information is available on the proportion of patients registered with a dental practice to receive national health service care and treatment.

The proportion of patients registered, by adult/child, as at 31 March 2001 to 31 March 2006 are available in Annex B of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006". Information is available at strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT) level in England.

This report is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006.

Since April 2006, patients no longer have to register with a dental practice to receive NHS care and treatment. Instead, data are collected on the number of patients receiving NHS dental services (patients seen) in a given area over a 24-month period. This is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years when patients registered for a 15-month period.

The number of patients seen, by adult/child, in the previous 24 months as a percentage of the population, ending 31 March 2006 and 31 March 2007 are available in Table C1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England 2006-07" report. Information is available at SHA and PCT level in England.

This report is available in the Library and is also available at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607.

In both reports, data at PCT level are the smallest regional area for which information is available.

Departments: Departmental Coordination

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* ministerial committees and *(b)* permanent groups involving senior civil servants have been set up by his Department to liaise with the Ministers for Women. [155245]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* As with all cross cutting issues, Ministers and officials in this Department liaise with the Ministers for Women as necessary. There are no specific ministerial committees or permanent groups involving senior civil servants set up to do this.

Dietary Supplements: EC Law

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued on the addition of fluorosilicates to the public water supply in relation to the requirements of the EU Food Supplements Directive. [155453]

Ann Keen: We are aware that the European Commission has published an orientation paper on setting maximum and minimum amounts of vitamins and minerals in foodstuffs. The proposals seem compatible with the target concentration of 1 mg per litre used in fluoridation schemes in the United Kingdom, but we will monitor the progress of this consultation to see if any guidance is necessary.

Family Planning

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of general practitioners have received formal training in the provision of family planning services. [155508]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally.

Fluoride: Drinking Water

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued on the making of medical claims by NHS employees in relation to the fluoridation of the public water supply. [155454]

Ann Keen: The Department has not issued any specific guidance, but we would welcome discussion of any evidence-based claims about the effects of the fluoridation of water.

Health Services: Foreigners

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funds the UK has sought from *(a)* Poland, *(b)* Romania, *(c)* Hungary and *(d)* Brazil for treatment of their citizens by the NHS in each of the last three years. [155470]

Mr. Bradshaw: Romania, Hungary and Poland are new member states so discussions are taking place with them to establish the arrangements for settling claims for health care made under the European Union regulations.

There is no agreement with Brazil and any Brazilian nationals requiring national health service treatment would be required to pay.

Health Services: Overseas Residence

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with *(a)* French and *(b)* Spanish governments on health care costs of UK citizens resident in each such country. [155469]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are regular discussions with these governments on the operating of the European economic area (EEA) regulations under which the United Kingdom is responsible for the cost of health care for those UK citizens in EEA countries who are in receipt of UK pension and are not entitled to a pension from the country in which they are resident.

Home Care Services

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance is given to primary care trusts on the funding of the care of patients that are incapacitated and would rather stay at home and be cared for at home, but would cost less if they were moved to a residential home. [155438]

Mr. Bradshaw: No specific guidance has been issued to primary care trusts (PCTs). The White Paper, "Our health, our care, our say", outlines the Government's expectation that, wherever possible, PCTs and local authorities provide appropriate health and care services in the community to support people to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible.

Infant Foods: Fluoride

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued on the use of fluoridated water to make infant formula milk. [155452]

Ann Keen: We are evaluating advice issued by the American Dental Association that fluoridated water should not be used to make up powdered infant formula because of the risk of dental fluorosis. We need to judge whether the advice is relevant to the United Kingdom where there is a lower limit on the concentration of fluoride permitted in water than in the United States of America. The Department's advice to parents concerned about fluorosis is that breastfeeding is the best option. Where this is not possible, concerned parents could consider using ready-to-use infant formula which has a low fluoride content.

Infant Mortality: Incinerators

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the correlation between the presence of a functioning incinerator and the incidence of infant mortality in that area. [155374]

Mr. Bradshaw: In November 2005 the Health Protection Agency issued advice on the public health impact of Municipal Solid Waste Incineration and this is available on their website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/chemicals/ippc/incineration_posn_statement.pdf.

This information has also been placed in the Library.

Emissions from modern waste incinerators in the United Kingdom are subject to stringent health controls.

NHS Accountancy

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on which dates the annual accounts of the NHS were published in each of the last five years. [151515]

Mr. Bradshaw *[pursuant to the reply, 26 July 2007, c. 1443-44W]:* All national health service bodies are required to publish their accounts locally. The accounts must be presented at a public meeting held no later than 30 September following the end of the financial year (31 March).

The National Audit Office publish the NHS summarised accounts for strategic health authorities, primary care trusts and NHS trusts. The publication dates for the last five financial years were:

2001-02: 21 March 2003
2002-03: 28 April 2004
2003-04: 24 June 2005
2004-05: 7 June 2006
2005-06: 6 July 2007

NHS: Foreign Workers

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses from overseas countries have *(a)* entered the UK to work in the NHS and *(b)* subsequently returned to their own country in each of the last 10 years, broken down by country of origin. [155572]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally.

The Nursing and Midwifery Council collects data on the number of overseas nurses who register with them each year. It does not collect data on whether these nurses entered the United Kingdom, returned to their own country or worked in the national health service.

The data are available at: www.nmc-uk.org.

NHS: Labour Party

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many of the 10 strategic health authority visits by Lord Darzi's review group the NHS has agreed a filming opportunity for the Labour Party. [155524]

Mr. Bradshaw: None.

NHS: Public Participation

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the operation of citizens' juries on the NHS will *(a)* reflect and *(b)* affect the terms of the devolution settlement in Wales. [155192]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* Under the devolution settlement responsibility for health policy and healthcare delivery within Wales is devolved to the National Assembly for Wales (NAW). It is a matter for the NAW whether they wish to use citizens' juries to consider issues affecting the national health service in Wales.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans his Department has to consult with asthma sufferers as part of its review of prescription charges; [155473]

(2) what plans his Department has to review the cost of prescriptions for medication to treat asthma. [155474]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement given to the House on 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 44WS.

Pressure Sores

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what training healthcare staff receive on the prevention, detection and treatment of pressure sores; and what part of this training is a mandatory requirement; [155549]

(2) if he will make it his policy to introduce mandatory reporting of incidents of pressure ulcers; and if he will make a statement; [155551]

(3) what guidance and standards his Department has issued in respect of the prevention, management and treatment of pressure sores for all care settings; and how many care homes, nursing homes, hospitals and primary care trusts meet such guidance and standards. [155552]

Mr. Bradshaw: Education and training of healthcare staff, including the prevention, detection and treatment of pressure ulcers, is the responsibility of their employers. Tissue viability is a vital component of nursing care for patients, and one in which there is a strong body of evidence about effective treatment.

Nurses receive training in this during their preparation for registration, and as part of their continuing professional development. They have access to specialist tissue viability nurses who provide training as well as expert advice in the care of individual patients. To reinforce the necessity for continuing learning, regulatory bodies, such as the Nursing and Midwifery Council, require healthcare professionals to maintain competence in their field of practice as a condition of their continued registration.

There are no central plans to require healthcare staff to report incidents of pressure sores. However, National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance on tissue viability requires that pressure ulceration over grade 2 be treated as a local clinical incident. Tissue viability is considered a nurse-sensitive indicator and is viewed by trusts as an important pointer to the quality of patient care.

"Essence of Care", published in 2003, sets benchmarks for pressure ulcers in health and social care settings, and helps healthcare professionals to devise appropriate care plans. NICE has published detailed clinical guidelines on pressure ulcer management in primary and secondary care. It is the responsibility of local health bodies to ensure that this guidance is implemented.

In respect of care homes, regulation 13(6) of the Care Home Regulations 2001, states:

> "The registered person shall make arrangements, by training staff or by other measures, to prevent service users being harmed or suffering abuse or being placed at risk of harm or abuse."

In addition, there are other general training requirements in regulation 18 to ensure staff receive training appropriate to the work they perform, including, where relevant, the prevention and treatment of pressure sores.

Under regulation 17 of the Care Homes Regulations 2001, care homes for adults are required to keep a record for each service user, which includes the incidence of pressure sores and of treatment provided to the service user.

The requirements in the regulations are further clarified in the National Minimum Standards. The relevant standards are standard 30 in the Care Homes for Older People standards and standard 35 in the Care Homes for Adults standards. As at 31 March 2005 over 71 per cent. of older people's care homes and care homes for adults met the relevant standards.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department funded into pressure sores in each of the last 10 years. [155550]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department funds research to support policy and to provide the evidence needed to underpin quality improvement and service development in the national health service and through its health technology assessment programme has funded two projects on pressure sores at a total cost of £1.1 million. They are:

> a randomised controlled trial comparing alternating pressure overlays with alternating pressure mattresses for pressure sore prevention and treatment; and
>
> a systematic review of wound care management.

Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by NHS organisations. Details of individual NHS supported research projects including a number concerned with the causes and treatment of pressure sores are available on the national research register at:

> www.dh.gov.uk/research

Worthing Hospital

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when a Minister from his Department last visited Worthing Hospital. [155525]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are not aware of a Health Minister having visited Worthing Hospital in the last 10 years.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the estimated *(a)* number and *(b)* value is of new payment entitlements following the abolition of the fruit, vegetable and potato authorisation system in England under the rules of the single payment scheme. [155350]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* As I announced on 29 August 2007, the system of fruit, vegetable and potato authorisations under the single payment scheme (SPS) will be abolished from 2008. A consultation will follow shortly on implementation of the other SPS aspects of the reforms of the EU fruit and vegetable regime agreed earlier this year. This will include when orchard and nursery land will become eligible under the scheme and the criteria under which any new entitlements will be allocated in respect of such land.

Animals: Disease Control

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff there were in *(a)* complement and *(b)* post at the Health and Safety Executive allocated to the task of monitoring safe practices in accordance with statutory requirements at UK bio-containment facilities on 31 December in each of the last five years. [154853]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

In each of the last five financial years the number of specialist inspectors employed on this work in the Biological Agents Unit of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) was as follows:

Specialist inspectors

	Number
2002-03	16
2003-04	16
2004-05	13
2005-06	13
2006-07	16

HSE considers the Unit fully staffed at 16 specialist inspectors. The shortfalls in 2004-05 and 2005-06 arose from staff turnover.

HSE's responsibilities do not extend to the bio-security of animal pathogen laboratories.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) on how many occasions in each month in the last five years *(a)* the high security unit, *(b)* incinerators and *(c)* effluent treatment plant at the Compton and Pirbright facilities of the Institute for Animal Health were closed down for safety reasons; and how long the closures were in each case; [154854]

(2) whether the *(a)* Pirbright and *(b)* Compton site of the Institute for Animal Health is in compliance with the statutory requirements for (i) legionella, (ii) asbestos, (iii) five year fixed wiring tests and (iv) fire survey statutory regulations; [154859]

(3) on how many occasions in each month in the last five years there were recorded instances of the negative building operating pressure in *(a)* bio-containment facilities at Compton and Pirbright and *(b)* the High Security Unit at Compton (i) being accidentally reversed, (ii) falling below normal levels and (iii) experiencing noticeable periods of loss of negative pressure. [154871]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 10 September]:* I have been asked to reply.

These are matters for the Institute of Animal Health which is an independent company limited by guarantee with charitable status. I have drawn the attention of the Chairman of the Governing Board to the hon. Member's questions.

Bees: Diseases

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of bee colonies in the UK affected by colony collapse disorder. [155352]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* Colony collapse disorder (CCD) is a generic name given to a number of major colony losses reported by no more than around 60 commercial bee farmers spread across 25 states in the USA. Currently, the UK is not suffering from similar bee health-related problems on the same scale. Nevertheless, the National Bee Unit (NBU) at DEFRA's Central Science Laboratory is maintaining close contact with researchers from the USA who are investigating possible causes.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people have been appointed to his Department outside of Civil Service grades in the last 30 days. [153098]

Jonathan Shaw: The only appointments made outside civil service grades are board appointments. My Department publishes information annually on appointments to the public bodies for which it is responsible. Data for 2006-07 are in the process of being collated, and will be published shortly.

Departments: Redundancy Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by his Department on redundancy payments in the last 12 months. [153088]

Jonathan Shaw: In the 12 months from July 2006 to June 2007 there were 318 redundancies from my Department and its Executive Agencies.

During that period, £11.3 million was spent on payments relating to these redundancies. A further £15.6 million was set aside for related payments which would fall due after that period in cases where the redundancies were in the form of early retirement, or where single payments were due to staff whose last day of service fell on or after 30 June 2007.

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* staff training and *(b)* communication training in the last 12 months. [153090]

Jonathan Shaw: The staff training expenditure for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for 2006-07 was £3.9 million. To identify the expenditure on communications training would incur disproportionate costs as this information is not held centrally.

Dogs: Licensing

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has made a recent assessment of the merits of the reintroduction of dog licensing. [155345]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* We currently have no plans to reintroduce a dog licence. The Government support the approach taken

by responsible dog owners who voluntarily have their pets permanently identified and registered on nationwide databases. The effectiveness of a dog licensing system is questionable; in the last year licences were administered (1988) only 44 per cent. of dog owners applied for a licence. There is no evidence to suggest that the opinion of dog owners has changed and that any new scheme introduced would be adopted by the majority of dog owners.

Energy: Conservation

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much central government funding has been spent on energy efficiency measures in *(a)* council, *(b)* housing association and *(c)* private homes in York in each year since 1997. [155492]

Mr. Woolas: The Information requested, where available, is given in the following table:

Local Authority Housing Investment

	Investment (£ million)
1997-98	1,534,000
1998-99	1,625,000
1999-2000	1,267,000
2000-01	1,349,000
2001-02	1,944,000
2002-03	1,529,000
2003-04	2,227,000
2004-05	1,767,000
2005-06	2,096,000
2006-07	[1]

[1] Data not yet available.

Information is not currently available for housing association homes.

These figures cover double-glazing, cavity wall insulation, loft insulation and heating improvements. This work has been completed by the local authority as part of an overall modernisation programme for housing under the Communities and Local Government's Decent Homes scheme.

Defra's main programme for improving the energy efficiency of vulnerable households is the Warm Front scheme, which provides grants for heating and insulation measures. Warm Front spending on measures in York is set out in the following table:

Private Households

	Investment (£000)
1997-98	94,000
1998-99	202,000
1999-2000	82,000
2000-01	46,677
2001-02	176,359
2002-03	111,675
2003-04	98,963
2004-05	319,461
2005-06	319,461
2006-07	536,997
Year to date	214,107

Environment Agency: Official Hospitality

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Environment Agency spent on *(a)* hotel bills, *(b)* trips to the Belfry Golf Course, *(c)* trips to Henley Regatta, *(d)* other hospitality and *(e)* other corporate costs in each year since 1997. [149295]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 12 July 2007]:* This is a matter for the Environment Agency and I have asked them to write to you direct with the information you requested.

Flood Control: Northamptonshire

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans there are to improve flood defences in North Northamptonshire. [155484]

Mr. Woolas: In 2007-08 the Environment Agency plans to spend £0.6 million on routine maintenance in the Corby, Wellingborough and Kettering areas. Over the period from 2008-09 to 2010-11 it is planned to commit a further £1.8 million in this area to maintain watercourses and assets.

The Environment Agency also has a programme of capital improvements to flood defences. In 2007-08 £0.14 million will be spent on improving flood storage facilities downstream of Northampton and at Weldon. Over the next 10 years from 2008-09 a further £4.8 million is included in the Agency's capital programme to deliver flood defence improvements identified in the Nene Catchment Flood Management Plan, the Nene Strategy (Kettering and Wellingborough) and the Nene Flood Defence Structures refurbishment programme.

In North Northamptonshire further strategic flood risk measures will be necessary to mitigate proposed future development and housing growth. The Environment Agency, working in partnership with North Northamptonshire Planning Unit, will seek to secure up to £50 million from developer and local authority contributions to fund and build the new flood defences required to provide sustainable flood risk management infrastructure ahead of development.

Floods

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the economic impact of the summer 2007 floods on the *(a)* agriculture industry, *(b)* horticulture industry, *(c)* local government and *(d)* tourism industry. [155565]

Mr. Dhanda: I have been asked to reply.

We do not hold centrally the information requested on the economic impact of the summer 2007 floods and a full answer could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Our application for the European Union Solidarity Fund European was submitted on 20 August. A provisional assessment of damage caused by the June and July floods lies at above €4 billion. While this is

currently the best working estimate based on work with local authorities and other agencies, the final and confirmed costs will not be known for some time.

Data on the economic impact on the agriculture and horticulture industries of the summer 2007 floods are not yet available. I understand that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) have commissioned work to estimate the value of immediate crop and livestock losses from flooding, and will publish this when it is complete later in the year.

Following the floods 50 local authorities have registered for assistance from the Bellwin Scheme for June and 52 have registered for July. 20 local authorities have registered for both schemes. Once we have assessed the claims from these local authorities we will have information on the uninsurable costs they have incurred as a result of the floods. For the last nationwide flooding scheme in 2000, we paid out £21 million to 76 local authorities. We do not know yet what the level of costs will be this time.

A full estimate of the costs to the tourism industry of the floods has not been completed. It is of the nature of tourism that the impact on future holiday bookings will take time to emerge. However, the British Holiday and Home Parks Association estimates losses of around £25 million. Worcestershire estimates losses of between £100 to £150 million and Advantage West Midlands have reported losses of £20 million. Data on Hull and East Yorkshire suggest tourism costs of £4.75 million. A full assessment of the total impact on the tourism industry will not be available for some time.

Floods: Insurance

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the amount of uninsured losses arising from the summer 2007 floods. [155563]

Mr. Dhanda: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested on the amount of uninsured losses arising from the summer 2007 floods is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Floods: Worcestershire

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions on *(a)* the insurability of properties in Worcestershire and *(b)* the availability of loss adjusters the Government are having with insurance companies following the July floods. [155055]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* Myself and ministerial colleagues from other departments met with the Association of British Insurers (ABI) on 10 July and there has been a continuing dialogue with both the ABI and individual insurers. The ABI has confirmed that its members are continuing to adhere to the statement of principles and this should ensure continued widespread availability of domestic flood insurance cover.

Officials have met regularly with the ABI and representatives from other Government departments, forming a flood recovery and insurance working group to exchange information and help to identify and resolve potential bottlenecks in the recovery process. The ABI is working with its members to manage the extra claims which have arisen to ensure they are processed as quickly as possible and additional loss adjusters have been brought in from other countries.

Fly Tipping

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 24 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 946W, on fly-tipping, how many incidents of fly-tipping were recorded in 2006-07, broken down by local authority; what the estimated cost was of dealing with incidents of fly-tipping in that year in each local authority area; and how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there were for fly-tipping in each local authority area in the UK in 2006-07. [155579]

Joan Ruddock: Fly-tipping data for 2006-07 are currently being prepared and are not yet available. I will arrange for copies to be placed in the Library of the House when they have been finalised.

Foot and Mouth Disease

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which recommendations of the Spratt Review into the outbreak of foot and mouth disease the Government do not intend to take forward in full. [155576]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA agrees with all recommendations of the "Independent Review of the safety of UK facilities handling foot and mouth disease virus" by Professor Brian Spratt.

In regard to Recommendation 1, we agree in principle but there is uncertainty as to whether any further work could conclusively identify the source of the virus. At present, we do not believe that it would add to our understanding of the risk mitigation measures that need to be put in place as a result of the Pirbright escape but we will keep that assessment under review.

Professor Spratt's report and the Government response are available on the DEFRA website and in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the cost to the Government of the measures put in place during the most recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease. [155035]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* To date, the total cost to the Department of dealing with the recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease is approximately £8.7 million. This figure is subject to amendment as more data become available.

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the total financial cost to the cattle industry of the latest outbreak of foot and mouth disease. [155038]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 10 September 2007]*: My Department has made an initial estimate of the total costs of the outbreak to the UK of £20 million, based on an economic model that has been developed for foot and mouth disease. The full impact will depend on domestic and international restrictions that remain in place and the estimate may be revised as further data become available. Disaggregated estimates of the cost for the cattle industry would be subject to very considerable margins for error.

Government Laboratories: Security

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what biosecurity breaches have occurred over the last five years at Government-funded laboratories conducting research into infectious animal diseases; and what penalties have been imposed on those responsible. [155361]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 12 September 2007]*: Licences issued by DEFRA to laboratories which handle specified animal pathogens under the Specified Animal Pathogens Order (SAPO) 1998 impose strict requirements in relation to biosecurity. Under the Animal Health Act 1981, it is an offence to breach a term of a licence.

No such offences have been confirmed, and so no penalties have been imposed, at a Government-funded laboratory conducting research into infectious animal diseases, whether funded by DEFRA or another Department, in the last five years. Regular inspection and ongoing liaison with SAPO-licensed laboratories seeks to ensure that potential deficiencies in biosecurity are identified quickly and remedial action is taken.

The Health and Safety Executive has published a report on potential breaches of biosecurity at Pirbright following the recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Surrey. This report is available from the DEFRA website and the Libraries of the House. SAPO legislation is enforced by local authorities. Surrey county council are now urgently considering the contents of the reports and will determine what action, if any, is necessary.

Lorries: Exhaust Emissions

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 85W, on lorries: exhaust emissions, what plans he has to *(a)* to undertake and *(b)* to commission further research into the effects of HGV emissions on (i) special protection areas, (ii) sites of special scientific interest and (iii) sites of importance for nature conservation. [150871]

Joan Ruddock: There are no plans, at present, for my Department to undertake or commission further research into the effects of HGV emissions on any of the areas mentioned in (i) – (iii).

However, Defra has committed, through the Air Quality Strategy review launched in July, to carrying out further analysis over the next year and considering how best to ensure the protection of ecosystems against air pollution in the medium to the long term. Decisions on the funding of future research will be taken once this work is complete.

Milk Marketing Board: Gloucestershire

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Milk Marketing Board TB testing station in Longford, Gloucestershire was closed; what the reasons were for its closure; and where its records have been kept since its closure. [154870]

Jonathan Shaw: *[holding answer 10 September 2007]*: The Milk Marketing Boards (MMB) were abolished in 1994. While Defra took on some responsibilities for the Residuary Milk Marketing Boards, the records we retain do not relate to testing regimes.

Milk: Overseas Trade

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the reasons were for his Department commissioning Agra Leas Consulting to produce a report into the potential for future GB-European trade in liquid milk. [155360]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 12 September 2007]*: DEFRA commissioned this work to clarify the various economic, logistical and technological barriers and risks apparently resulting in limited trade in liquid milk between GB and the rest of Europe (including Ireland). The report was also commissioned to provide an evidence base for the industry to use to identify further threats and opportunities with regard to global trade.

National Bee Unit: Finance

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding the National Bee Unit received in each of the last five years; and how much it will receive in the next financial year. [155354]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 12 September 2007]*: Expenditure on the National Bee Unit (NBU) by DEFRA and the Welsh Assembly Government are as follows:

Financial year	*Expenditure (£)*
2003-04	1,518,000
2004-05	1,518,000
2005-06	1,518,000
2006-07	1,518,000
2007-08	1,518,000

These figures do not include any expenditure on specific research projects, although some of the NBU's activity is in support of research initiatives. DEFRA's annual expenditure on bee health research has averaged around £210,000 since 2001.

There is an ongoing review of expenditure on all DEFRA programmes, including bee health. Future funding will need to be considered alongside the full range of priorities facing the Department but we will not take decisions that could compromise biosecurity and the sustainability of bee health in England.

National Bee Unit: Inspections

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for how many beekeepers each National Bee Unit inspector is responsible in the six months of the year when inspections are undertaken. [155353]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* The number of beekeepers for which bee inspectors have responsibility varies according to the inspector's allocated area and whether they are employed on a part-time or full-time basis. In 2006, 5092 apiary visits were carried out. Many inspectors conducted around 100 to 150 visits, and some 200 to 250 visits, per season. In addition, regional bee inspectors are available all year and can carry out inspections outside the traditional season. Inspections are targeted in areas where disease risk and colony density are highest and about 10 per cent. of the total number of apiaries is inspected each year.

Pirbright Laboratory: Standards

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the last inspection of biosecurity standards at the Pirbright Laboratory in Surrey took place before August 2007; and what the outcome was of that inspection. [155351]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* DEFRA inspects laboratories which are licensed to handle specified animal pathogens under the Specified Animal Pathogens Order (SAPO) 1998. The laboratory at the Institute for Animal Health (IAH) in Pirbright was last inspected under SAPO in December 2006. Some issues relating to biosecurity were identified. IAH was required to submit action plans for addressing them and the progress of these plans was closely monitored.

Marine Bill

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs by what date he expects to bring forward a Marine Bill. [155313]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State on 19 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 505W.

Warm Front Scheme: Finance

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the merits of the recommendation in the Fuel Poverty Advisory Group for England's fifth annual report that funding for the Warm Front scheme be maintained at the 2007-08 level of £351 million per annum until 2011; and if he will make a statement. [155222]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* The Government's response to the recommendations made by the Fuel Poverty Advisory Group in its annual report, which was published in April 2007, will be available in the fifth annual progress report.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Minorities

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of people from *(a)* black and minority ethnic, *(b)* disabled and *(c)* socially excluded groups were considered to be (i) attending and (ii) participating in arts opportunities when (A) baseline figures were set and (B) the latest departmental estimate was made; what assessment he has made of progress made towards his Department's public service agreement target to increase significantly the take-up of arts opportunities by new users from priority groups; and if he will make a statement. [155086]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The baseline estimates set in December 2006 were as follows:

(i) Attendance at two different types of arts events by priority groups during the past 12 months:

(a) 23.5 per cent. of people from black and minority ethnic groups,

(b) 24.1 per cent. of people with a limiting disability,

(c) 17.4 per cent. of people from socially excluded groups.

(ii) Participation in two different types of arts activities by priority groups during the past 12 months:

(a) 20.8 per cent. of people from black and minority ethnic groups,

(b) 18.9 per cent. of people with a limiting disability,

(c) 15.3 per cent. of people from socially excluded groups.

A progress report, published in June 2007, showed no statistically significant change to these figures. However, this is only the first progress report on the target and this Department is intensifying its work with Arts Council England to broaden access and increase engagement with the arts among under-represented groups. Progress on the target will be monitored on a regular basis until the final assessment is available in late 2008.

Artworks: Prime Minister

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the *(a)* title and *(b)* artist is of each piece of artwork that has been (i) added and (ii) removed from Number 10 Downing street and the Prime Minister's offices since 27 June 2007. [153347]

Margaret Hodge: Other than some works of art that were temporarily removed from 10 Downing street during building works and subsequently returned, the only work removed from 10 Downing street since 27 June 2007 has been a painting (Paris-Plage, Picardy by William Frederick Mayor) removed by the Government Art Collection for display in another Government building. No works of art have been installed at 10 Downing street since this date.

Hotels: Insolvency

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate his Department has made of the number of *(a)* hotels and

(b) bed and breakfasts that have declared themselves insolvent since 1997, broken down by region; and if he will make a statement. [148543]

Margaret Hodge: The Insolvency Service maintains records of bankruptcies and liquidations for residential accommodation businesses. These figures include care homes, as well as hotels, bed and breakfasts and other holiday accommodation providers.

	Bankruptcies	*Compulsory liquidations*	*Voluntary liquidations*	*Annual total*
1997	154	24	0	178
1998	125	31	0	156
1999	100	39	0	139
2000	100	42	0	142
2001	76	23	0	96
2002	67	31	39	137
2003	72	25	27	124
2004	42	14	34	90
2005	42	22	37	101
2006 (first three quarters)	33	15	30	78

These are national figures, and regional analyses are not maintained. HM Revenue and Customs' trade intelligence shows that 750 new hotel and bed and breakfast businesses have started trading in the same period since 1997.

Monuments: Legislation

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will bring forward legislation to amend the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 to require public consultation when there is an application for Scheduled Monument Consent. [154837]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* Under the 1979 Act, the Secretary of State is required, before determining whether or not to grant Scheduled Monument Consent, to afford to the applicant, and any other person to whom it appears to the Secretary of State to be expedient to afford it, an opportunity of making representations. The Secretary of State is obliged to consider any representations made to him by any person on that application and also to consult English Heritage.

As set out in the White Paper, Heritage Protection for the 21st Century (March 2007), the Government plan to merge Scheduled Monument Consent and Listed Building Consent, to create a new historic asset consent, administered, in the first instance, by the Local Planning Authority. In respect of assets which were previously scheduled monuments the Local Planning Authority would be required to consult English Heritage and the national amenity societies on any application, and to take into consideration any representations received from these and any other parties, before determining a consent application.

Primary legislation will be required to implement the proposals set out in the White Paper, and we plan to publish a draft Heritage Protection Bill in the next session.

Olympic Games: Tourism

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding has been allocated to a tourism strategy for the 2012 Olympics. [155439]

Margaret Hodge: The Government recognise the importance of tourism to the success of the 2012 games, and to their economic legacy. VisitBritain's activities in marketing and working in partnership with the industry will form a major part of the forthcoming tourism strategy for the games, and appropriate levels of funding for this work will be allocated in the context of the current Comprehensive Spending Review.

Tourism: Foot and Mouth Disease

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment has been made by the Government of the impact on tourism caused by the recent outbreaks of foot and mouth disease; and if he will make a statement. [155052]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The Government worked closely with the Tourism Industry Emergency Response Group (Chaired by Visit Britain) in monitoring the impact on tourism and in ensuring that both visitors and those providing visitor attractions had accurate information about access to the countryside, thus minimising any adverse impact.

Monitoring by Tourism South East suggests that 88 per cent. of tourism businesses in and around the Surveillance Zones enjoyed business as usual, with only a minority of accommodation providers reporting cancellations or falls in advance bookings. Animal based attractions and events such as agricultural shows and farmers' markets were mainly affected by putting precautions in place, and animal based events elsewhere in the country were affected by the ban on certain animal movements.

It is not possible to quantify the impact further as the outbreak coincided with wet weather and severe flooding, which were considered to have a greater impact on tourism. In recognition of the cumulative impact of these events on rural areas, on 14 August the Government announced a £1 million campaign to support the domestic tourism industry, particularly in the countryside and those regions affected by flooding.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Charities: Political Activities

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether his Department's Ministers have met Baroness Kennedy of The Shaws to discuss the rules relating to political campaigning by charities. [154912]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* Cabinet Office Ministers have not met Baroness Kennedy of The Shaws to discuss the rules relating to political campaigning by charities.

Ministers

Mr. Heath: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many Government *(a)* Departments and *(b)* Ministers there were in each of the last 10 years. [155495]

Edward Miliband: The Cabinet Office publishes a "List of Ministerial Responsibilities" after significant changes to the Government and Ministers' responsibilities. Smaller changes are published as necessary, by way of amendments to the list. Copies of previous editions of the "List of Ministerial Responsibilities" are available for reference in the Libraries of the House.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment she has made of the likelihood that the proposed venue for Olympic shooting events at the Royal Artillery Barracks will meet the necessary safety requirement for clay-pigeon shooting; and if she will make a statement. [154846]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games is continuing its work to assess further the precise design requirements for the temporary shooting venue at the Royal Artillery Barracks. This includes a full examination of the necessary safety requirements and all the facilities will meet both local and international safety standards. This work is still in progress.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps she has taken to ensure that small businesses benefit from the 2012 Olympics; and what estimate has been made of the number of small businesses who will benefit from these games. [155200]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) will buy and manage up to 2,000 direct contracts with businesses who will in turn manage up to 50,000 agreements across their own supply chains. The ODA estimates that approximately half of the contracts that have been awarded to date have gone to SMEs and intends to issue details of the exact number and an analysis of contracts issued in the near future. Contracts will be awarded to those judged to be the best suppliers and service providers. The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform is mobilising its full range of business support tools, such as its Business Link services, available in all English regions. Similar support services are available in the devolved Administrations. This helps those companies who wish to get fit to supply, not just games-related contracts but also the £125 billion per annum public procurement opportunities.

All businesses can register their interest in these contracts on the business section of the ODA's website www.london2012.com/business which details all contract opportunities and includes advance notice of future opportunities. The ODA published in June 2007 its Supplier Guide for businesses interested in pursuing Olympic-related contracts, also available online.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assistance is being provided to employers in London in relation to training local people, in respect of the skills and services that will be required in preparing for and staging the 2012 Olympics. [155201]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* The London Employers Accord pilots will link the skills needs of employers with training providers to provide job ready employees. It offers a flexible and employer-led recruitment channel in return for employers' commitment to those furthest away from the labour market. The pilots involve approximately 20 companies across nine sectors, including construction and hospitality. As the Prime Minister stated at the TUC conference on Monday 10 September we anticipate that this will help around 5,000 Londoners into work by 2012.

In addition, the Train to Gain service run by the Learning and Skills Council is designed to help SMEs get the training they need to succeed. It gives every employer access to a free skills brokerage service offering independent and impartial advice and matching training needs with training providers.

A significant amount of activity is also under way, through the Local Employment and Skills Taskforce Action Plan, to help train local people for 2012 across many sectors including construction and hospitality.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many public affairs consultancies have been shortlisted for the position of London 2012 Public Affairs Advisor; and whether any of those agencies have declared *(a)* a party political donation to the Labour Party in the last three years and *(b)* attendance at the Labour Party fundraiser at Wembley in July as part of the tendering process. [155309]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* The London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is currently undertaking a procurement process for public affairs services and support. LOCOG is a privately financed company.

In line with the commitment they have made to extending the opportunities created by the games as widely as possible, LOCOG openly invited all relevant companies to tender through its website. LOCOG is committed to conducting a fair procurement process.

From a list of 28 companies that expressed an interest and submitted a pre-qualification questionnaire, nine have been invited to tender. It would be inappropriate for LOCOG to disclose the names of parties on that list while the procurement process is ongoing. In relation to parts *(a)* and *(b)*; these specific questions have not been asked as part of the tender, and therefore will form no part of the evaluation. However all applicants must declare any conflicts of interest, and outline the code of ethics to which they subscribe.

V Charity: Finance

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster following the Final Report of the Third Sector Review, how much in public funds was allocated to 'v' *(a)* in each financial year since it was established and *(b)* in each year covered by the comprehensive spending review 2007. [154914]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 10 September 2007]*: The youth volunteering organisation, v, was launched in May 2006, following the recommendations of the Russell Commission report on youth action and engagement, published in March 2005.

In the financial year 2006-07, £25,643,000 was allocated to v. This includes £7.5 million provided on a match funded basis with the private sector.

In the financial year 2007-08, just over £39 million is allocated to v. This includes funding for the Millennium Volunteers programme. In addition to this, there is funding available to v to be provided on a match funded basis with the private sector.

The initial funding, allocated to the implementation of the recommendations of the Russell Commission report on youth action and engagement, announced in Budget 2005 was for the 2004 spending review period.

As set out in the final report of the review of the third sector in social and economic regeneration, published in July 2007, the Government will invest around £117 million in v over the 2007 comprehensive spending review (CSR) years, which includes funding for the successor to the Millennium Volunteers programme. This £117 million is currently expected to be allocated on the basis of £39 million in each of the CSR years.

The Government will in addition maintain the arrangement where they match contributions from the private sector over the 2007 CSR years.

Voluntary Organisations: Finance

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which organisations have been allocated funds from the Office of the Third Sector Strategic Partners Programme in 2007-08; and how much each organisation has been allocated. [154913]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 10 September 2007]*: The Strategic Partners Programme began in April 2006 and the names of all partners were publicised at the time of their awards and are available on the Cabinet Office website. Strategic funding is highly valued by the sector. It represents long-term cooperation between Government and the sector.

In 2007-08 the following organisations have been allocated funds by Office of the Third Sector under the Strategic Partners Programme (2007-08). They are:

	£
Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO)	205,000
BASSAC	151,225
Charities Evaluation Service	151,036
Charity Trustee Networks	92,250
Community Action Network (CAN)	120,694
Community Development Exchange (CDX)	246,441
Community Matters	255,223
Consortium of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender VCOs	92,250
Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Organisations (CEMVO)	256,250
Development Trusts Association (DTA)	142,072
Foyer Federation	115,313
National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA)	414,394
Scarman Trust	153,750
National Councils for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS)	236,237
Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE)	205,000
Urban Forum	93,788
Voice 4 Change England	256,250
Third Sector European Network	82,256
Church Urban Fund	88,329
Faith Action	256,250
Women's Resource Centre	192,188
National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO)	1,014,887
Community Service Volunteers (CSV)	1,025,000
BTCV	307,500
Mentoring and Befriending Foundation (MBF)	1,025,000
TimeBank	512,500
Volunteering England	1,537,500
Association of Charitable Foundations	123,000
Beacon Fellowship Trust	92,300
Institute of Fundraising	256,300
Citizenship Foundation	205,000
Community Foundation Network	205,000
British Youth Council	92,300
National Youth Agency	307,500
Youth Action Network	153,800
YouthNet	461,300
V	2,050,000
Plunkett Foundation	62,000
Social Enterprise Coalition	557,000
Social Enterprise London	92,000
School for Social Entrepreneurs	76,000
Social Firms UK	101,000
Co-operatives UK	107,000
Prowess	30,000
Women's Royal Voluntary Service	1,000,000

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the level of Government funding was for the main voluntary sector umbrella groups in each financial year since 1996-97. [154916]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 10 September 2007]*: The amount of funding provided by the Office of the Third Sector (and formerly the Active Communities Directorate pre 2006-07) is as follows:

	£
1998-99	3,055,412
1999-2000	3,816,680
00-01	3,917,562
01-02	3,496,180
02-03	2,038,373
03-04	5,554,838
04-05	6,896,491
05-06	10,603,062
06-07	10,073,002
07-08	7,895,905
Total	57,347,505

These figures include funding to umbrella organisations defined as national voluntary and community sector organisations (VCS) who provide support to their members (other VCS organisations).

The above includes strategic funding to VCS umbrella groups and different project grants for specific purposes. For example, significant grants to umbrella organisations:

in 2005-06 for start of infrastructure development before the creation of CapacityBuilders NDPB to co-ordinate capacity building funding;

a one-off grant in 2006-07 to the Scout Association to fund the celebration of the association's centenary.

TREASURY

Armed Forces: Compensation

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will introduce a windfall tax on the armaments industry to fund *(a)* enhanced compensation payments for members of the armed forces injured in Afghanistan and Iraq and *(b)* charities engaged in assisting serving and former members of the armed forces and their families. [155482]

Andy Burnham: We have no plans to introduce such a tax.

Bank Notes: Scotland

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many complaints he has received on non-acceptance of Scottish bank notes in other home nations of the UK in each of the last five years; [155421]

(2) what estimate he has made of the total value of transactions using Scottish bank notes in the UK, excluding Scotland, in each of the last five years; [155422]

(3) what recent estimate he has made of the total value of Scottish bank notes in circulation in the UK, excluding Scotland; [155423]

(4) what steps he is taking to promote the acceptance of Scottish bank notes by retailers in home nations of the UK other than Scotland; and what legislation governs the issue and usage of Scottish bank notes across the UK. [155424]

Angela Eagle: Between 2002 and 2007 the Treasury has received a total of 63 complaints regarding the non-acceptance of Scottish bank notes in England and Wales.

No estimate has been made by the Treasury of the value of Scottish banknotes used in UK transactions.

No estimate has been made of the value of Scottish banknotes in the UK excluding Scotland.

Responsibility for promoting recognition and encouraging the acceptance of Scottish and Northern Ireland banknotes lies with the issuing banks.

The acceptability of any banknotes will be influenced by the parties' familiarity with the banknotes and consequent ability to authenticate them as genuine as well as their ability to obtain value for the banknote.

The four banknote denominations issued by the Bank of England account for around 90 per cent. of banknotes issued in the United Kingdom. In contrast, the three commercial note issuing banks in Scotland and four in Northern Ireland collectively issue 39 banknotes designs. Consequently, some Scottish and Northern Ireland banknotes may not be as readily recognised and accepted in England and Wales as Bank of England banknotes.

Powers for the Scottish issuing banks to issue notes are set out in the Bank Notes (Scotland) Act 1845.

Child Benefit: EC Nationals

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the most recent estimate is of the annual cost of paying child benefit to EU nationals who are resident in the UK though their children are not. [155543]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 18 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 951W, to the hon. Member for Cannock Chase (Dr. Wright).

Child Benefit: Yorkshire and Humberside

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in respect of how many children in *(a)* Yorkshire and Humber and *(b)* City of York child benefit was received (i) in 1997 and (ii) at the latest date for which figures are available; and what the weekly value of child benefit was in (A) 1997 and (B) the latest date for which figures are available. [152206]

Jane Kennedy: August 1999 is the earliest date for which child benefit data are available below national level.

The following table shows the number of children for whom child benefit was claimed in *(a)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(b)* City of York in August 1999 and August 2006.

Number of children for whom child benefit was claimed: August 1999 and August 2006

Thousands

	Yorkshire and the Humber	*City of York*
August 1999	1,129.7	36.0
August 2006	1,113.1	34.8

The weekly value of child benefit in 1996-97 was £10.80 for the first child and £8.80 for each subsequent child. In 2006-07 these rates were £17.45 and £11.70 respectively.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many children in *(a)* Yorkshire and Humber and *(b)* the City of York received child benefit (i) in 1997 and (ii) at the latest date for which figures are available; what the weekly value is of child benefit; and what it was in 1997. [155430]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 13 September (UIN 152206).

Civil Servants: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent civil servants were employed in City of York by each Government Department or Executive agency in each year since 1996-97. [155491]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 17 September 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many full-time equivalent civil servants were employed in City of York by each Government department or executive agency in each year since 1996-97. (155491)

Civil Service employment statistics are published only at the level of the Government Offices for the Regions. In order to provide the information requested for York, an ad hoc analysis has been required. This analysis is based on the Mandate survey which currently provides approximately 90 per cent coverage of Civil Service departments and agencies. For years prior to 2003 the coverage is lower. For comparison purposes, employment numbers for the Yorkshire and Humber region are therefore presented alongside the statistics for York i) as published for the total Civil Service and ii) as available from the Mandate survey. The breakdown by department and agency (as available from Mandate) is provided in the attached spreadsheet.

Civil Service Employment—Permanent Non-Industrial Employees 1997-2006

Year (1 April unless otherwise stated)	*Civil Service—Yorkshire and The Humber*	*Civil Service (Mandate only)—Yorkshire and The Humber*	*Civil Service (Mandate only)—York*
1997	32,270	17,350	1,560
1998	32,010	17,450	1,460
1999	31,860	17,320	1,490
2000	33,060	18,120	1,630
2001	33,890	19,370	1,760
2002	35,050	22,490	2,140
2003	35,570	25,190	2,420
2004	39,140	27,270	2,760
2005	38,670	34,200	2,850
2006 (30 September)	36,920	33,160	2,680

Department name	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Attorney General's Departments										
Crown Prosecution Service	140	140	150	150	160	180	170	200	270	300
Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	10	10
Treasury Solicitor's	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	30	*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ministry of Justice										
Ministry of Justice (excl. agencies)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	*	*	*	n/a
HM Courts Service	40	40	30	30	30	40	40	40	40	n/a
HM Land Registry	90	130	140	150	150	150	150	130	130	120
Ministry of Defence[1]										
Ministry of Defence (including Royal Fleet Auxiliary)	460	300	280	170	180	190	200	220	230	570
Army Base Repair Organisation	10	*	*	*	*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Defence Secondary Care Agency (MOD)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
MOD Police (MOD)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	*	70	100	n/a
RAF Training Group Defence (MOD)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	*	*	n/a
Army Training and Recruiting Agency (MOD)	10	10	10	10	10	20	20	20	20	n/a
Defence Communications and Services Agency (MOD)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	*	*	*	n/a
Defence Estates (MOD)	*	*	*	*	*	*	n/a	30	n/a	n/a
Defence Dental Agency (MOD)	n/a	n/a	n/a	*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Army Personnel Centre (MOD)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	*	n/a	n/a	n/a
Defence Vetting Agency (MOD)	n/a	*	*	60	160	160	180	330	310	n/a

Department name	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Defence Housing Executive (MOD)	n/a	n/a	20	20	20	20	20	n/a	n/a	n/a
Home Office										
Home Office (excl. agencies)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	*	20	*
HM Revenue and Customs										
Former Customs and Excise	10	20	20	10	20	20	10	10	n/a	n/a
Former Inland Revenue	170	170	190	210	220	210	200	220	220	190
Valuation Office	40	40	30	30	30	30	30	40	40	30
Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform										
Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (excluding agencies)	n/a	*	*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	*
Department for Education and Skills (former)										
Department for Education and Skills (former)	n/a	*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Department for Work and Pensions										
DWP Corporate and Shared Services	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	10	*	60	60
Child Support Agency	10	10	*	n/a	n/a	n/a	*	n/a	n/a	*
Jobcentre Plus	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	240	210
Pension Service	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	*	280	310	20	10
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs										
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (excl. agencies)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	310	290	310	330	370
Central Science Laboratory	370	400	410	550	560	600	630	620	610	600
Pesticides Safety Directorate	200	190	200	200	180	180	170	180	190	180
State Veterinary Service	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	*	*
Department for Transport										
Driving Standards Agency	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Communities and Local Government										
Ordnance Survey	10	10	*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

n/a = Not applicable.
* = Cells with less than five employees (but greater than zero) are suppressed.
[1] MOD provided consolidated figures for 2006.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people have been appointed to his Department outside Civil Services grades in the last 30 days. [153175]

Angela Eagle: Two temporary workers were hired between 25 June and 25 July 2007.

Departments: Minister for Women

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* ministerial committees and *(b)* permanent groups involving senior civil servants have been set up by the Treasury to liaise with the Ministers for Women. [155432]

Angela Eagle: No ministerial committees or permanent groups of senior civil servants have been set up to liaise with the Ministers for Women. As with all cross cutting issues, Ministers and officials in this Department liaise with the Ministers for Women as necessary.

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to which periodicals his Department subscribes. [153169]

Angela Eagle: Records show HM Treasury Library subscribes to the following periodicals on behalf of the Department:

Periodicals

Brookings Papers on Economic Activity
Bulletin for International Taxation
Business Week
Cambridge Journal of Economics
Civil Service Yearbook
Computing
Contemporary Economic Policy
Der Spiegel
Discussion Papers of the Centre for Economic Policy Research
Dod's Companion
Econlit
Econometric Theory
Econometrica
Economic Affairs
Economic and Financial Review
Economic Inquiry
Economic Issues
Economic Journal & Econometrics Journal
Economic Modelling
Economic Outlook
Economic Policy
Economica—Oxford
Economics Letters
Economist
Financial Accountability and Management
Financial Adviser
Fiscal Studies
Forbes
Foreign Affairs—Palm Coast
IDS HR Studies & IDS HR Study Plus
IDS Pay Report
International Economic Review
International Journal of Public Sector Management
International Tax and Public Finance
Investors Chronicle
Journal of Comparative Economics
Journal of Econometrics
Journal of Economic Literature & American Economic Review & Journal of Economic Perspective
Journal of Finance
Journal of Financial Economics
Journal of International Economics
Journal of Macroeconomics
Journal of Money Credit and Banking
Journal of Policy Analysis and Management
Journal of Political Economy
Journal of Public Economics
Money Facts
Municipal Journal
Natwest SBRteam Quarterly Survey of Small Business in Britain
NBER Technical Working Papers—National Bureau of Economic Research
NBER Working Papers & NBER Reporter & NBER Digest
New Scientist
New Statesman
OECD Economic Studies
Oxford Bulletin of Economics And Statistics
Oxford Review of Economic Policy
Parliamentary Affairs
People Management
Political Quarterly
Private Eye
Public Finance
Public Money and Management
Public Servant
Quarterly Journal of Economics
Review of Economic Studies
Review of Economics And Statistics
Scientific American
Spectator
Sustain—Built Environment Matters
Time
Times Educational Supplement
Trade Finance
Vacher's Quarterly
Which
World Economics

HM Treasury teams are permitted to subscribe directly to periodicals of specific interest to their area. A centralised list of such titles can be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* staff training and *(b)* communication training in the last 12 months. [153167]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury spent £1,716,000 on staff training during 2006-07, including any communication training. A separate figure for spending on communication training could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Excise Duties

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will abolish the differential between the duty paid on cider and that paid on beer; [155385]

(2) what the reasons are for the differential between the duty payable on cider and that paid on beer; and what assessment he has made of the effect of the differential on the level of sales of each product in the last two years. [155386]

Angela Eagle: Decisions about the appropriate levels of excise duty are made on a Budget-by-Budget basis, taking into account all relevant factors.

Forfeiture: Motor Vehicles

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidelines are given to Customs officers on the impounding of vehicles. [151298]

Jane Kennedy: Customs officers are instructed that a vehicle may be seized if it is or has been used to carry goods that are liable to forfeiture or if it is constructed,

adapted, altered or fitted for the purpose of concealing goods and is or has been within the limits of a port, aerodrome or while in Northern Ireland, within the prescribed area.

Where a vehicle has been used to carry excise goods from another member state that are not for own use, but instead are intended to be sold to others on a reimbursement basis, then provided there are no aggravating circumstances and it is the first offence, Officers are instructed not to seize the vehicle but to warn the driver and owner that it is liable to forfeiture.

If a vehicle has been used to carry prohibited items then, providing the quantities involved are small and the vehicle was incidental to the offence, officers are instructed the vehicle should not normally be seized.

Where any vehicle has been seized, it maybe restored under the powers set out in section 152 of the Customs and Excise Management Act, subject to such terms and conditions as the Commissioners may think fit.

Anyone who has goods or a vehicle seized and wishes to claim they were not liable to forfeiture may challenge the legality of the seizure by writing to any HMRC office with details of their claim within one month of the seizure. Anyone who requests restoration and is unhappy with the decision they receive may ask for that decision to be reviewed and, if still dissatisfied, may appeal the decision to the VAT and Duties Tribunal.

Immigration

Damian Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what projections the Government have made of levels of net immigration in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2013, *(c)* 2018 and *(d)* 2023; and if he will make a statement. [155542]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 17 September 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question regarding what projections have been made for net in-migration for the years (a) 2008 (b) 2013 (c) 2018 and (d) 2023. (155542)

The most recent assumptions made about the future level of migration are those published in October 2005 as part of the 2004-based national population projections. A long-term assumption of net inward migration of 145,000 was made for the United Kingdom. This assumption applies from 2007-08 onwards and therefore all of the years listed above have a projected net in-migration of 145,000.

New assumptions will be made for the 2006-based national population projections. Details of these assumptions will be released in the next edition of Population Trends, on 27 September 2007. The 2006-based population projections will be published on the National Statistics website on 23 October 2007.

Immigration: EC Enlargement

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people from the 2004 EU accession countries entered the UK in each year since the accession, broken down by country of origin; what the average length of stay was estimated to be of such visitors; and how many have subsequently returned to their home country. [155571]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 17 September 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking about the number of people from the 2004 EU Accession Countries who entered the UK in each year by country of origin, what the average length of stay was estimated to be for such visitors, and how many have subsequently returned to their home country. (155571)

Visits to the UK by overseas residents are estimated from data collected on the International Passenger Survey (IPS). A visit is defined as being a stay of less than 12 months. The survey is conducted at major airports, and on major sea and tunnel routes, and the data collected are weighted up to national passenger figures provided by CAA and BAA, Department for Transport, Eurotunnel and Eurostar.

The IPS is a continuous survey carried out throughout the year. Approximately 1 in 500 passengers passing through airports, seaports and die tunnel are sampled and both overseas residents and UK residents are interviewed. The survey measures the numbers of visits to the UK by overseas residents and overseas by UK residents and how much is spent on each of these visits. As it measures visits, any one person travelling a number of times will be counted each time they travel.

The information contained within the attached table shows the estimated number of visits by residents of those countries who joined the European Union in 2004, and the average length of visit.

Those people entering the UK who stay for 12 months or more are defined as long term international in-migrants and are treated separately from visitors (staying under 12 months). Estimates of AS migration by country of last residence, for 2004 and 2005 are available from the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=507, Table 2.2

Estimates for 2006 will-be published on 15 November 2007.

No data are available on the numbers of migrants who subsequently return to their country of previous residence. Data on numbers of out-migrants in any year to A8 countries are available from the link above.

Estimated number of visits to the United Kingdom by residents of the 2004 EU accession countries and average length of stay, 2004-06

	2004		*2005*		*2006*	
	Number of visits (thousand)	*Average length of stay (nights)*	*Number of visits (thousand)*	*Average length of stay (nights)*	*Number of visits (thousand)*	*Average length of stay (nights)*
Malta	58	9	53	8	57	8
Southern Cyprus	98	12	99	12	105	11
Slovenia	66	5	55	4	68	14
The Czech State	274	7	292	9	323	12
Slovakia	63	8	148	17	242	13
Hungary	188	10	274	10	278	9
Poland	528	22	1,041	20	1,326	17

Estimated number of visits to the United Kingdom by residents of the 2004 EU accession countries and average length of stay, 2004-06

	2004		2005		2006	
	Number of visits (thousand)	*Average length of stay (nights)*	*Number of visits (thousand)*	*Average length of stay (nights)*	*Number of visits (thousand)*	*Average length of stay (nights)*
Estonia	21	5	36	3	41	5
Latvia	30	15	68	27	89	16
Lithuania	83	30	134	30	148	10

Taxation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate *(a)* direct and *(b)* indirect taxes as a percentage of gross income for households with an income (i) lower and (ii) higher than (A) 95 per cent. of all households, (B) 99 per cent. of all households, (C) 75 per cent. of all households and (D) 25 per cent. of all households for each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [155376]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 17 September 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what estimate *(a)* direct and *(b)* indirect taxes as a percentage of gross income for households with an income (i) lower and (ii) higher than (A) 95 per cent of all households, (B) 99 per cent of all households, (C) 75 per cent of all households and (D) 25 per cent of all households for each year since 1997. (155376)

Estimates of household income and payments of direct and indirect taxes appear in the ONS analysis 'The effects of taxes and benefits on household income'. The latest analysis for 2005/06 was published, on the National Statistics website on 17th May 2007 at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/taxesbenefits The analysis is based on data from the Expenditure and Food Survey, which is a survey of approximately 7,000 households in the UK. The estimates of direct and indirect tax payments for the groups of households requested, have been calculated from the data underlying the annual taxes and benefits analyses., and these estimates appear in the table below.

Gross income includes income from wages, occupational pensions, self-employment income, investment income, and income from state benefits. Direct taxes include income tax, national insurance contributions and council tax. The indirect taxes include VAT, duties, and a number of smaller items such as television licences. Indirect taxes also include intermediate taxes—these are indirect taxes paid by companies which are deemed to be passed onto households through the prices they pay for goods and services. A more detailed breakdown showing each of the different taxes appears in the annual article.

Indirect taxes, when expressed as a proportion of gross income appears particularly high for those on lower income, although this result needs to be interpreted carefully. Estimates of indirect taxes are estimated based on household expenditure. It should be remembered that measured expenditure will not necessarily balance with measured income for the year. This is especially true for low income households where average measured income is significantly lower than average measured expenditure. For these households, indirect taxes (which reflect expenditure) are not being met solely from current income, and so indirect taxes are very high when expressed as a proportion of gross income.

There are a number of possible reasons why for some households expenditure might exceed income. Households with low incomes may draw on their savings or borrow in order to finance their expenditure. In addition, the lower income households in particular include some groups who have, or report, very little income, for example, self-employed people starting a business or someone who has just been made redundant. Some types of receipts are not included as income in the EFS e.g. inheritance and severance payments are regarded as lump sums and therefore are not considered to be current income. In some cases, the information given on expenditure is not consistent with that on income because of timing differences.

The annual effects of taxes and benefits article is focused primarily on the differential effect of taxes and benefits on different parts of the income distribution, rather than on changes over time. There have been some changes to the way in which the figures are compiled. Up until 2001/02, charges for water, environmental and sewage services were treated as local taxes, whereas from 2002/03 onwards they were excluded. The local tax category now just includes council tax and Northern Ireland rates.

There was also a change to the way that tax credits were treated. Up until 2002/03 tax credits were treated as cash benefits. From 2003/04, they are classified as negative income tax, but only to the extent that income tax less tax credits remains greater than or equal to zero for each family. So for households paying relatively little or no income tax, tax credit payments are still regarded either partially or wholly, as cash benefits. The effect of these changes would be a small reduction in the calculated tax burden in the years following these changes.

Figures for the top 1% of households in particular should be treated with some caution, as they are based on a small sub-sample of the survey. These estimates will be more affected by sampling variability.

Taxes as a percentage of gross income[1], United Kingdom, 1996-97-2005-06

Percentage

	1996-97	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Indirect taxes[2]										
Households below the 99th percentile	17	17	17	17	17	16	16	16	15	15
Households above the 99th percentile	6	6	7	7	7	5	6	6	6	7
Households below the 95th percentile	17	18	18	18	18	17	17	17	16	16

Taxes as a percentage of gross income[1], United Kingdom, 1996-97-2005-06

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Percentage 2005-06
Households above the 95th percentile	9	9	9	9	9	8	9	8	9	9
Households below the 75th percentile	20	20	20	20	20	19	19	19	18	18
Households above the 75th percentile	12	12	13	12	13	11	12	11	11	11
Households below the 25th percentile	26	27	26	27	28	28	26	26	25	25
Households above the 25th percentile	15	15	15	15	15	14	14	14	14	13
Direct taxes[2]										
Households below the 99th percentile	20	20	20	20	21	21	19	20	20	20
Households above the 99th percentile	24	25	25	22	19	22	26	25	26	24
Households below the 95th percentile	19	19	20	20	20	20	19	19	19	20
Households above the 95th percentile	23	25	25	24	23	25	25	25	25	26
Households below the 75th percentile	17	17	18	17	18	17	16	17	17	17
Households above the 75th percentile	23	23	24	23	23	24	23	24	24	24
Households below the 25th percentile	10	12	10	11	12	12	9	10	10	10
Households above the 25th percentile	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	22
Total taxes										
Households below the 99th percentile	37	37	37	37	38	37	35	36	35	35
Households above the 99th percentile	30	31	32	29	26	27	32	31	32	31
Households below the 95th percentile	36	37	38	38	38	37	36	36	35	36
Households above the 95th percentile	32	34	34	33	32	33	34	33	34	35
Households below the 75th percentile	37	37	38	37	38	36	35	36	35	35
Household s above the 75th percentile	35	35	37	35	36	35	35	35	35	35
Households below the 25th percentile	36	39	36	38	40	40	35	36	35	35
Households above the 25th percentile	36	37	36	36	36	35	35	35	35	35

[1] Households are ranked by equivalised disposable income.
[2] Includes VAT, vehicle excise duty and taxes on tobacco, alcohol and hydrocarbon oil.
[3] Income tax, employees' national insurance contributions (including tax relief at source on life assurance premiums) and council tax and Northern Ireland rates after deducting discounts.
Source:
Office for National Statistics.

Valuation Office: ICT

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment has been made of the value for money of the Aspire contract in relation to services provided to the Valuation Office Agency. [151326]

Jane Kennedy: The Aspire contract is output based and the value for money of this type of contract was assessed under the original competition. To ensure value for money is maintained there is a rolling benchmark programme to measure Aspire charges against the market.

VAT: Home Information Packs

Alistair Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 400W, on VAT: home information packs, if he will list each *(a)* authorised and *(b)* required item of a home information pack that is liable for VAT if included. [151198]

Jane Kennedy: The normal VAT liability rules will apply when the constituent parts of a Home Information Pack (HIP) are purchased from a VAT registered business. VAT will usually be chargeable, although local authority and Land Registry search fees are normally VAT free.

VAT will also be due on any fee charged by a VAT registered agent in connection with the compilation of a HIP.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mike Wood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the proportion of the cost of administering the *(a)* working and *(b)* child tax credit systems that relates directly to the updating of claims. [152732]

Jane Kennedy: Information on administrative costs for tax credits can be seen in the Comptroller and Auditor General's Standard Report on HM Revenue and Customs 2006-07 accounts available at

www.nao.gov.uk.

JUSTICE

Citizens' Juries

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how participants in citizens' juries will be chosen; and who is responsible for the *(a)* process and *(b)* decisions. [155547]

Mr. Straw: The choice of participants is dependent on the objectives for the jury and the subject matter. This might require a representative sample of the population, a random sample or perhaps particular groups as in the DCSFs recent citizens' juries which involved young people, parents, teachers and local community stakeholders.

(a) The Department or organisation running the citizens' jury or other engagement process will retain responsibility for the process, even when a third party may have been engaged to deliver such a process.

(b) Each citizens' jury or other engagement process should make clear to the participants where the final decision will be taken.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the operation of citizens' juries will comply with the Code of Practice on Consultation. [155548]

Mr. Straw: Where the Government are consulting with the public it will comply with the Code of Practice. However, where citizens' juries are used to explore ideas and initial policy thinking rather than gain feedback on specific proposals the question of compliance or otherwise with the code may not arise. Any engagement has to be serious and help to strengthen the relationship between government and the public. This will mean adherence to good engagement principles.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to publish *(a)* transcripts and *(b)* reports of citizens' juries. [155554]

Mr. Straw: The Government expect that the conclusions of citizens' juries will be made available. However decisions on whether this should be in the form of transcripts and reports is a matter for the individual Department with policy lead.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will list the dates and subject matters of citizens' juries to be held by the Government. [155555]

Mr. Straw: To date, the following citizens' juries have been or are planned to be held:

DCSF, 6 September, considered issues affecting children.

Home Office, 12 September, considered crime and community.

Department of Health, 18 September, on the NHS supporting the work of the Darzi review.

Other engagement activities are being organised as part of the Governance of Britain constitutional reform programme.

Community Service Orders

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average waiting time for offenders joining unpaid work groups has been since January, broken down by probation area. [155366]

Mr. Hanson: Probation service national standards require that the first work session is undertaken within 10 days of sentence. Data are collected nationally about the first appointment only where it is designated as a pre-placement work session, that is, an induction and briefing session. For those probation areas where it is available, the average number of days in the period January to June, between this session and joining the unpaid work groups is set out in the following table.

Area	*Waiting time*
Avon and Somerset	—
Bedfordshire	11.8
Cambridgeshire	—
Cheshire	6.2
County Durham	0
Cumbria	5
Derbyshire	6.2
Devon and Cornwall	4.1
Dorset	0
Dyfed Powys	5
Essex	8
Gloucestershire	13.9
Greater Manchester	4
Gwent	6

Area	Waiting time
Hampshire	9
Hertfordshire	3.6
Humberside	6
Kent	5.5
Lancashire	7
Leicestershire and Rutland	10.8
Lincolnshire	—
London	5
Merseyside	4.3
Norfolk	1
North Wales	1.4
North Yorkshire	—
Northamptonshire	4
Northumbria	0
Nottinghamshire	9.8
South Wales	6.5
South Yorkshire	6.2
Staffordshire	3
Suffolk	3
Surrey	6.5
Sussex	8.8
Teesside	0
Thames Valley	11.6
Warwickshire	5.2
West Mercia	0
West Midlands	5
West Yorkshire	5.6
Wiltshire	6.5

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many unpaid work appointments have been cancelled since January, broken down by probation area. [155367]

Mr. Hanson: Across all probation areas a total of 29,852 work appointments were cancelled between 1 January 2007 and 30 June 2007. This compares with 644,697 appointments which were kept, which is a cancellation rate of 4.6 per cent. The number of unpaid work appointments cancelled in each probation area is set out in the following table.

Area	Appointment cancelled
Avon and Somerset	848
Bedfordshire	313
Cambridgeshire	777
Cheshire	1,737
County Durham	41
Cumbria	483
Derbyshire	62
Devon and Cornwall	311
Dorset	164
Dyfed Powys	21
Essex	747
Gloucestershire	182
Greater Manchester	472
Gwent	884
Hampshire	1,927
Hertfordshire	939
Humberside	107
Kent	1,589
Lancashire	328
Leicestershire and Rutland	489
Lincolnshire	204
London	3,786
Merseyside	768
Norfolk	1,183
North Wales	318
North Yorkshire	203
Northamptonshire	177
Northumbria	237
Nottinghamshire	301
South Wales	121
South Yorkshire	445
Staffordshire	1,346
Suffolk	959
Surrey	181
Sussex	657
Teesside	30
Thames Valley	4,287
Warwickshire	34
West Mercia	1,152
West Midlands	1,090
West Yorkshire	25
Wiltshire	30

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the adequacy of supply of unpaid work supervisors between January and August, broken down by probation area. [155368]

Mr. Hanson: The probation Human Resources Workforce Information Report for June 2007 records that at the end of December 2006 there were 31.29 full-time equivalent vacancies related to unpaid work supervision that were the subject of an active recruitment process. These data are not broken down by probation area.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hours of unpaid work were ordered by the courts during 2006-07. [155379]

Mr. Hanson: There were 9,162,000 (rounded) hours of unpaid work ordered by the courts on unpaid work requirements commencing probation supervision between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2007.

This figure has been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many orders for unpaid work were completed during 2006-07. [155380]

Mr. Hanson: There were 42,210 unpaid work requirements completed during 2006-07.

This figure has been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders were sentenced to unpaid work during 2006-07. [155381]

Mr. Hanson: There were 94,349 offenders who commenced unpaid work requirements under probation supervision during 2006-07 following sentence by the courts.

This figure has been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any national probation areas have experienced difficulties in transporting offenders to unpaid work placements since January 2007. [155382]

Mr. Hanson: We do not collect information centrally about the transport of offenders to unpaid work placements. From time to time it is possible that difficulties may arise as a result of staff being unavailable at short notice, or mechanical difficulties with vehicles, for example.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders have been stood down during any period of unpaid work in *(a)* North Yorkshire, *(b)* Cheshire, *(c)* Warwickshire, *(d)* Avon and Somerset, *(e)* Wiltshire, *(f)* Essex, *(g)* Dorset, *(h)* Norfolk, *(i)* Cheshire, *(j)* Devon, *(k)* Greater London and *(l)* Gwent probation areas since January. [155383]

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any unpaid work groups have been stood down in *(a)* North Yorkshire, *(b)* Cheshire, *(c)* Warwickshire, *(d)* Avon and Somerset, *(e)* Wiltshire, *(f)* Essex, *(g)* Dorset, *(h)* Norfolk, *(i)* Devon, *(j)* Greater London and *(k)* Gwent probation area since January. [155369]

Mr. Hanson: The total number of offenders who have been stood down from unpaid work is not available centrally, but the National Offender Management Service monitors the number of unpaid work days lost as a result of offenders being instructed in advance not to attend, or having been sent home after reporting for work, as a result of operational difficulties. This is expressed as a percentage of the total days worked. For the areas requested the percentage of days lost is as follows:

Probation area	*Percentage of days lost, January to June 2007*
North Yorkshire	3
Cheshire	12
Warwickshire	0.6
Avon and Somerset	8.5
Wiltshire	0.5
Essex	5.3
Dorset	2.8
Norfolk	8.8
Devon and Cornwall	3.1
London	4.7
Gwent	10.8

Nationally the total number of unpaid work days lost as a result of offenders being instructed not to attend on particular days, or being stood down having reported for work is 4.8 per cent. of the total days worked.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders sentenced to unpaid work since 1 January 2007 have been unable to commence their sentences owing to a lack of supervising staff or placements. [155568]

Mr. Hanson: Between January and the end of June national data indicate that 40,218 offenders have undertaken an initial pre-placement session of unpaid work. Of these offenders 38,808 are recorded as having received an instruction to attend for subsequent sessions of unpaid work. This would suggest that 1,410 or 3.5 per cent. of offenders did not immediately commence their sentences. Those offenders who were not instructed following the initial session of unpaid work would have been instructed to attend on a subsequent date, unless the requirement was terminated as a result of breach action, or the requirement was revoked for another reason.

Crime: Victims

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many payments of compensation to victims were ordered by courts for *(a)* young and *(b)* adult offenders in each of the last three years; [155392]

(2) how many payments of compensation to victims have been made by *(a)* young and *(b)* adult offenders in each of the last three years. [155393]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested on compensation orders imposed by the courts, for the years 2003-05, is contained in the following table.

Data are collected by HM Court Service on the value of financial penalties (including compensation) paid but do not enable the number of payments to be identified.

Offenders[1] ordered to pay compensation at all courts by age group, England and Wales, 2003-05

Age group	*Number of offenders ordered to pay compensation*
Under 18	
2003	18,770
2004	20,773
2005	22,511
18 and over	
2003	101,695
2004	102,470
2005	109,176
All ages	
2003	120,465
2004	123,243
2005	131,687

[1] Principal offence basis.

Source:
RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Custody Plus Scheme

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to introduce Custody Plus. [155503]

Mr. Hanson: No decision has yet been taken as to when Custody Plus will be introduced.

Departments: Delivery Services

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what volume of correspondence his Department sent *(a)* by Royal Mail and *(b)* by other commercial delivery services in each of the last five years; and what the reasons were for the use of other commercial delivery services. [150455]

Maria Eagle: Since the Ministry of Justice was only formed on 9 May 2007, my response refers to the former Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) and those bodies which were formerly part of the Home Office which are now part of the new Department.

DCA

(a) Information about the volume of correspondence sent by Royal Mail is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

(b) Regarding the use of other commercial delivery services, for the last five years the former DCA used one other licensed carrier, DX Network Services.

Information relating to the whole of the period is not held. Information for the last two years is as follows:

	Item
2006-07	6,920,400
2005-06	4,303,257

These figures are based on the results of an annual sampling exercise extrapolated to provide an annual usage figure.

DX Network Services provides a cost effective and efficient mail service between courts, to the legal profession and other business addresses.

Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR)

Information about the volume of correspondence sent by Royal Mail and other commercial delivery services is not available.

National Offender Management Service (NOMS)

Information about the volume of correspondence sent by Royal Mail and other commercial delivery services is not available.

HM Prison Service (HMPS)

Information about the volume of correspondence sent by Royal Mail and other commercial delivery services is not available.

Postage is handled on an individual prison basis and there are no central contracts for mail collection and distribution; volumes are not recorded either.

Drugs: Misuse

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of people convicted of drug offences as a result of the Misuse of Drugs Act 2005; and how many such people have received a prison sentence. [152257]

Maria Eagle: Regulations under the Misuse of Drugs (Designation) (Amendment) Order 2005 came into force on 18 July 2005 and reclassified magic mushrooms as class A drugs. The following table shows the number of defendants convicted at all courts, sentenced, and sentenced to immediate custody for drug offences related to "other class A drugs" in England and Wales for the years 1996-2005.

It is not possible to identify which convictions related specifically to magic mushrooms because all offences for the less commonly used class A drugs are grouped together and therefore cannot be separately identified. Additionally, as the regulations came into force in 2005 it is likely that they would have had an impact only on the number of convictions from 2006 onwards.

Data for 2006 will be available in the autumn.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences in relation to the production, supply, possession, and possession with intent to supply as well as the use of premises for the production of "other class A" drugs, England and Wales 2001-05[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*	*Sentenced*	*Of which Immediate custody*
1996	988	1,071	1,066	475
1997	1,147	1,123	1,117	489
1998	1,395	1,181	1,158	453
1999	1,478	1,180	1,153	425
2000[4]	1,354	1,029	1,071	382
2001	1,720	1,355	1,341	500
2002	2,014	1,542	1,503	538
2003	1,928	1,571	1,556	561
2004	1,763	1,521	1,510	625
2005	1,575	1,507	1,505	570

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Offences under sections 4(2), 4(3), 0(2), 5(3) and 8 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 respectively.

[4] Staffordshire Police Force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

[5] Does not include convictions for separately classified class A drugs such as cocaine, heroin, methadone, morphine, LSD and ecstasy.

Source:

Court proceedings database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Electoral Systems

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the Government will publish its review of electoral systems in use in the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement. [155490]

Mr. Wills: It is anticipated that the review of voting systems will be completed by the end of the year.

Firearms: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many firearm-related offences were recorded in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [155323]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

Firearms are taken to be involved in an incident if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person or used as a threat. The number of offences recorded by Cambridgeshire Constabulary in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used between 2001-02 and 2005-06 is given in the following table. These centrally-collected data cannot be broken down to a more local level. Figures for 2006-07 are scheduled to be published in January 2008.

Crimes recorded in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used[1]: Cambridgeshire constabulary 2001-02 to 2005-06[2]

	Number of firearm offences
2001-02[2]	49
2002-03[3]	57
2003-04	34
2004-05	50
2005-06	34

[1] By the weapon being fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person or used in a threat.
[2] Data for 2006-07 will be published in January 2008.
[3] Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.
Note:
The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced nationally in April 2002 and figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this. Figures from 2002-03 onwards are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Legal Aid

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what contingency plans are in place to meet the needs and requirements of legal aid clients in circumstances where significant numbers of legal aid providers cease operating. [155475]

Mr. Wills: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) does not expect significant numbers of legal aid providers to cease operating in the foreseeable future. Where providers do withdraw from legal aid work, for example when contracts are re-tendered, the LSC is well experienced in finding alternative suppliers.

Legal Aid: Fees and Charges

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research his Department has conducted on the impact of fixed legal aid fees on the provision of legal aid since the publication of Lord Carter's review of legal aid procurement in 2006. [155450]

Mr. Wills: Each fixed fee scheme published by the Legal Services Commission (LSC) is accompanied by an impact assessment that shows the result of internal work undertaken by the LSC. The LSC also commissioned research from Otterburn Legal Consulting Ltd which considered the impact on criminal firms of the new fee schemes.

The LSC published the final report in April and it is available on the LSC's website at:

http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/docs/consultations/Otterburn_Report-background-note2.pdf

In addition the LSC and my Department commissioned work by NERA Economic Consulting which looks at the impact of fixed fees as part of a wider examination of the possibility of minimum thresholds for legal aid work. The LSC will publish this research on its website when the work has been finalised.

Lord Chancellor: Pay

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was paid to the last Lord Chancellor as a lump sum on termination of his employment. [155580]

Mr. Straw: To date no payment has been made over to the former Lord Chancellor, my right hon. Friend Lord Falconer. As I told the House on 23 July, I will make a statement on this matter in due course.

Magistrates Courts: ICT

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the Libra computer system will be operational in all magistrates courts in England and Wales. [155505]

Maria Eagle: Libra deployment is currently scheduled to complete in December 2008.

Mobile Phones: Driving Offences

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females have been (i) arrested and (ii) prosecuted for using their mobile phones while driving since the legislation banning their use while driving was introduced, broken down by age group. [152859]

Maria Eagle: Information requested on arrests for summary motoring offences of 'use of a hand-held mobile phone while driving' is not collected centrally.

Available information taken from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, for 2004 (latest available) is provided in the following table. 2005 data will be available in the autumn of 2007.

Proceedings[1,2] at magistrates courts for offences of using a hand held mobile phone whilst driving[3] by sex and age group of offender, England and Wales, 2004[4]

Number of offences

Sex	All ages	Under 18	18 and under 21	21 and under 25	25[5]	26 and under 30	30 and under 35	35 and under 40	40 and under 50	50 and under 60	60 and over
Males	728	6	35	83	148	73	152	91	92	40	8
Females	61		5	5	16	11	9	7	5	3	—
Persons	789	6	40	88	164	84	161	98	97	43	8

[1] The table shows the number of offences dealt with and not the number of persons appearing in court.
[2] Includes cases where fixed penalty notices were originally issued but not paid and subsequently referred to court.
[3] Offences under the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, Regulations 110 (1), 110 (2 and 110 (3).
[4] The offences were introduced as from 1 December 2003. The court proceedings database records only one proceeding in that year.
[5] Age 25 separate as used as a default age when date of birth is not known.

Notes:
1. In 2003 1,888 fixed penalty notices were issued for offences of 'using a hand held mobile phone whilst driving'. In 2004 the figure was 73,976.
2. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete. Work is under way to ensure that the magistrates courts case management system being implemented by the Ministry of Justice reports all motoring offences to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. This will enable more complete figures to be disseminated.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used

Source:
Court proceedings database held by OCJR.

Offenders: Organised Crime

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any probation areas in England and Wales have issued policy statements since 1 January 2006 on *(a)* the existence of or the attitude to be taken towards gang membership and *(b)* the reporting arrangements for offenders believed to be gang members or affected by gang membership. [155569]

Mr. Hanson: No such statements have been issued, although some probation areas have developed and disseminated relevant good practice guidance. The National Offender Management Service is organising a national seminar this autumn for practitioners to share current examples of good practice and to develop a best practice guide for offender managers nationally.

Open Prisons

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people detained at open prisons have been granted permission to keep and use a car for work assignments; and how many have been convicted of *(a)* murder, *(b)* grievous bodily harm, *(c)* sexual offences and *(d)* rape; [155312]

(2) what criteria are taken into account when considering whether to grant a prisoner detained at an open prison permission to keep and use a car for work assignments; and whether the nature of the crime committed is taken into account. [155313]

Mr. Hanson: Prisoners entering the open estate are subject to rigorous risk assessment. A further risk assessment is undertaken before being allowed to use a motor vehicle to attend work placements.

Work placements are designed to promote successful reintegration into the community, reduce the likelihood of re-offending and improve the resettlement outcomes of prisoners. The resettlement regime provides prisoners with increasing levels of personal responsibility, ensures that they are tested rigorously on any risk areas in an environment closer to that found on release and in particular equips them with readily transferable skills and practical experiences which they can take to employers in their home areas once discharged.

As at 10 September 2007, 202 prisoners in open conditions have permission to keep and use a car for work purposes under the above regime and one prisoner keeps and uses a motorcycle. Of these, 33 have been convicted of murder, seven of grievous bodily harm and one of rape and murder. Public protection is our greatest priority.

Prison Service: Public Appointments

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how managed moves authorised by the Deputy Director General of HM Prison Service are monitored; who is responsible for monitoring them; to whom they report; and if he will make a statement. [153677]

Maria Eagle: There is no separate monitoring arrangement for managed appointments at senior manager level. The appointment of senior managers to operational positions, including all governor and deputy governor posts is published weekly on the Prison Service intranet. When an appointment has been managed this is clearly indicated.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of staff moves to *(a)* deputy governor and *(b)* governor grades were by managed appointment in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [153674]

Mr. Hanson: Out of a total of 146 vacancies in governing governor posts, since October 2003 to date, 52 governing governor posts have been appointed via managed moves (36 per cent.) and 94 as a result of open competition; out of a total of 60 deputy governor posts, 13 were appointed via managed moves (22 per cent.) and 47 via open competition.

	Move type	Governor grades	Deputy governor	Total
2003	Open competition	3	2	5
	Managed moved	0	0	0
2004	Open competition	30	11	41
	Managed moved	12	2	14
2005	Open competition	21	13	34
	Managed moved	11	5	16
2006	Open competition	27	15	42
	Managed moved	18	2	19
2007	Open competition	13	6	19
	Managed moved	11	4	15
Total	Open competition	94	47	141
	Managed moved	52	13	65
Total posts filled		146	50	206

Figures are not available before 12 October 2003 when the Career and Succession Planning Unit was established (now Succession Management Unit). These figures do not accurately cover all deputy governor posts as the unit is only responsible for senior operational manager grades A-D. The table therefore reflects all deputy governor moves at D level or above. Figures are not held for E level deputy posts.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Companies House

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how Companies House is expected to report on its activities to *(a)* the public and *(b)* Parliament following the introduction of the Companies Act 2006. [155588]

Mr. Timms: Companies House will continue to report on its activities to the public and to Parliament by means of its annual report and accounts.

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 26 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 619-20W, on Departments: Aviation, how many flights to overseas destinations were taken by officials from *(a)* outside his core Department and its predecessor, *(b)* the Patent Office and *(c)* the Competition Commission in each of the last three calendar years; and what the total cost was of such flights. [148417]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 10 July 2007]*: In each of the last three calendar years, the number of flights taken to overseas destinations and the cost of those flights was:

Competition Commission

	Number of Flights	Flight Costs (£)
2006	37	31,835
2005	50	36,103
2004	51	31,054

Intellectual Property Office (formerly Patent Office)

	Number of Flights	Flight Costs (£)
2006	190	137,075
2005	254	144,041
2004	226	113,192

National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML)

	Number of Flights	Flight Costs (£)
2006	2	166
2005	17	2,598
2004	13	1,816

These figures were included within the departmental figure provided in the answer of 26 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 619-20W. Figures are not available for flights taken by officials from outside the core Department and its Agencies. The figures provided are from the Department's travel agent Carlson Wagonlit. The figures do not include any flights that may be booked through other travel agents as this is not separately captured or recorded.

The number of flights corresponds with the number of tickets issued and may include a number of flights to different destinations made on the same business trip. The number of flights may also include tickets from an overseas destination to the UK if the flight is on a different carrier from the outward flight, or if the return leg is in a different class of travel with the same or a different carrier.

Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people have been appointed to his Department outside Civil Service grades in the last 30 days. [153133]

Mr. Thomas: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided at disproportionate cost only.

Electricity Generation: Wind Power

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the total cost to energy companies of supplying power lines and other infrastructure to connect wind turbines to the national grid in each of the last 10 years; and what forecast he has made of the equivalent costs over the next 10 years. [155514]

Mr. Timms: Investment in electricity networks is made by the Transmission Owners and Distribution Network Operators under the regulatory supervision of Ofgem. Investments will in most cases reflect the cumulative effect of a number of generators of all types seeking to connect.

In terms of investment over the next few years, Ofgem have agreed £560 million of investment in the transmission network specifically to connect new renewable generation in Scotland and the North of England. In the Transmission Price Control, which covers the five year period from 1 April 2007, a further £3.8 billion of investment in the transmission network was agreed. This figure includes both refurbishment and the costs of connecting new generators of all types and may increase if warranted by generator demand.

Industrial Disputes: Arbitration

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of mediated employment disputes were successfully concluded at that stage in the latest period for which figures are available. [151290]

Mr. McFadden: Mediation is a widely used term which covers a number of activities related to the resolution of disputes or the management of conflict. ACAS staff are involved in working in a number of areas which sit under this umbrella term. These are:

Conciliation in employment tribunal cases

Conciliation in collective disputes

Mediation in work-place disputes

Mediation in collective disputes.

Conciliation in employment tribunal cases

In almost all cases where a claim is submitted to an employment tribunal, ACAS has a statutory duty to promote a resolution that both sides find acceptable instead of going to a tribunal hearing.

In 2006-07 ACAS received a total of 105,177 employment tribunal claims for conciliation. During the same period 38 per cent. of claims were subject to a legally binding settlement brokered by ACAS, 31 per cent. of claims were withdrawn following discussion of the case with the ACAS conciliator, and 27 per cent. of claims proceeded to an employment tribunal for hearing. 4 per cent. of claims were disposed of in other ways.

During the period, and in addition, ACAS brokered a resolution to 57,476 potential claims, of which 56,159 were potential local authority equal pay claims.

Conciliation in collective disputes

ACAS also assists parties to resolve their differences where a dispute arises between an employer and trades union or other work force representation group, or between groups of workers.

In 2006-07 ACAS was involved in 912 collective disputes. During the same period, 835 were completed, 91 per cent. successfully.

Mediation in work place disputes

In 2006-07 ACAS accepted 134 individual work place disputes for mediation. 99 of these were resolved through mediation, and in a further eight cases progress was made, giving a total success rate of 80 per cent.

Mediation in collective disputes

Where a collective dispute is resolved by means of a reference to an independent mediator who is empowered to write a formal report making recommendations, ACAS will appoint a mediator from its list of independent arbitrator/mediators.

In 2006-07 ACAS received two requests for collective mediation, both of which were resolved.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 16 July on a constituent, Ref 625784; and what the reasons are for the time taken to reply. [155017]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 10 September 2007]*: The response to my hon. Friend was delayed by administrative issues. The response was sent on 11 September 2007.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 5 July on a constituent, Ref 624991; and what the reasons are for the time taken to reply. [155019]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 10 September 2007]*: The response to my hon. Friend was delayed by administrative issues. The response from my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Employment Relations and Postal Services was sent on 12 September 2007.

Renewable Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received from *(a)* the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, *(b)* other Government departments, *(c)* the private sector and *(d)* non-governmental organisations on proposed stakeholder participation in developing policies to meet the UK's commitment to the EU 20 per cent. renewable energy target; and what recent changes his Department has made to its plans. [155415]

Mr. Timms: The Government have received two requests from industry to set up a 2020 renewables taskforce. Rather than setting up a new body we are now working with the Renewables Advisory Board (RAB), which was set up to improve Government understanding of the obstacles and opportunities for the development of renewable technologies in the UK. The Government have also received correspondence calling for a transparent process of policy development. This is entirely in line with our plans for a full and transparent public consultation following publication of the draft Renewables Directive by the European Commission.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the renewables obligation will be banded in order to provide different levels of support for different renewable energy technologies. [155500]

Mr. Timms: Yes. We confirmed in the Energy White Paper 2007 our intention to introduce banding.

A consultation on the reform of the renewables obligation including the practicalities of implementing a banded system closed on 6 September 2007 and we will be considering the responses to this consultation before setting out our response.

Seals: Animal Products

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will introduce a national ban on the import and sale of seal products. [155371]

Mr. Thomas: National measures would be impossible to enforce under EU single market rules so the Government are instead pressing hard for EU-wide action. The European Commission is currently conducting a study of the Canadian seal hunt in order to assess the need for EU-wide measures.

Wind Power

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many wind turbines were installed in the United Kingdom in each of the last 10 years; what total installed wind turbine capacity was in each such year; and what forecast he has made of such capacity in each of the next 10 years. [155539]

Mr. Timms: The Department does not keep statistics on the number of wind turbines installed though we do have figures for the number of wind farm sites for the past eight years and the installed capacity from wind farms for the past 10 years.

These figures are published annually in the Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics (DUKES) and can be found in the following tables:

Number of sites

	Onshore wind	*Offshore wind*	*Total*
1999	91	0	91
2000	104	0	104
2001	108	1	109
2002	115	1	116
2003	184	3	187
2004	168	4	172
2005	206	5	211
2006	327	6	333

Installed capacity (MWe), end December each year

	Wind (onshore)	*Wind (offshore)*	*Total*
1997	321.68	—	322
1998	331.32	—	331
1999	356.99	—	357
2000	408.0	3.8	412
2001	423.4	3.8	427
2002	530.6	3.8	534
2003	678.4	63.8	742
2004	809.4	123.8	933
2005	1,351.2	213.8	1,565
2006	1,650.7	303.8	1,955

BERR does not have forecasts on the capacity of wind turbines over the next 10 years. Based on the Energy White Paper central case, the projected wind capacity figures—for installed capacity—and rounded to the nearest whole number, are:

2010: 5 GW
2015: 11 GW and
2020: 13 GW.

Wind Power: Subsidies

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the total subsidy paid to the owners of wind turbines under the Renewables Obligation Certificate Scheme has been in each of the last 10 years; and what forecast he has made of such payments for each of the next 10 years. [155515]

Mr. Timms: The Renewables Obligation does not pay a direct subsidy to generators but instead places an obligation on licensed electricity suppliers to source a specific and annually increasing proportion of their sales from renewable sources. Suppliers meet their obligation by presenting Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROCs) which are issued to generators for eligible renewable generation; paying a buy-out price; or a combination of both. Money from the buy-out fund is recycled pro-rata to suppliers presenting ROCs.

The ROC price is therefore set by the market but a nominal value of the ROC to the supplier can be calculated by adding the buy-out price to the recycled buy-out fund attributable to each ROC. Multiplying this by the number of ROCs issued for wind generated renewable electricity gives an indication of the support provided.

The Renewables Obligation came into force for 2002-03 so figures are not available before that date. For 2002-03 to 2004-05 the figures are finalised and for 2005-06 the figures are estimated. The figures going forward are based on estimated wind generation and ROC price as part of a modelling framework developed for us by Oxera Consulting Ltd and published alongside our recent consultation on reform of the Renewables Obligation.

	Wind generated renewable electricity (TWh)	*Equivalent support provided (£ million)*
2002-03	1.1	53.5
2003-04	1.3	69.3
2004-05	2.0	96.6
2005-06	2.8	120.4
2006-07	4.2	210.4
2007-08	5.3	257.5
2008-09	6.5	300.5
2009-10	10.6	529.3
2010-11	14.5	659.9
2011-12	18.1	802.6
2012-13	22.7	1,016.1
2013-14	25.0	1,117.9
2014-15	27.3	1,218.3
2015-16	29.1	1,299.2
2016-17	30.1	1,337.2
2017-18	30.9	1,371.3

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* documents and *(b)* procedures govern the relationship between the Department and the Child Support Agency. [152805]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 26 July 2007]:* The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Departmental Framework sets out the governance arrangements in place across the Department including in its relationship with the Child Support Agency (CSA). The Departmental Framework is underpinned by corporate frameworks, instructions and policies that apply across DWP and its agencies.

A copy of the Departmental framework can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/aboutus/departmental_framework.asp

The Chief Executive of the CSA is a member of the DWP Executive Team. The CSA's main targets are set by the Secretary of State having taken advice from the Director General of Work, Welfare and Equality Group and performance against these and other internal operational targets and objectives takes place within the Department's overall performance management framework. This includes regular Performance Accountability Reviews between the Permanent Secretary and the CSA Chief Executive and Board.

The Agency has four Secretary of State targets for 2007-08, which can be found in the Agency's business plan for that year a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library.

Child Support Agency: Complaints

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps are available for hon. Members to take when dissatisfied with the response by the Child Support Agency to their representations. [152068]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 12 July 2007]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Duncan Gilchrist, dated 13 September 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As the Chief Executive is currently on annual leave I am responding, with his authority, on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps are in place to enable hon. Members to raise their dissatisfaction with the work of the Child Support Agency. [152068]

There is not one specific route for a Member of Parliament (MP) to take should they want to raise their dissatisfaction with the work of the Child Support Agency (CSA). The route taken would depend on the circumstances or reasons for the dissatisfaction, and the avenues that had previously been used.

MPs can write to the CSA Chief Executive or contact the CSA MP Hotline. If these options have been explored, the following options are available:

Write to the Minister with responsibility for Child Support. The MP can decide to write to the Minister at any time, by-passing the Agency's complaints process entirely. The Minister will reply for policy issues. Any operational or case specific enquiries are referred to the Chief Executive to reply as he is in the best position to do so.

The case can be raised with the Independent Case Examiner (ICE). In order to raise a case with the ICE, the Agency has to have had the opportunity to answer the complaint, usually through a response from the Chief Executive.

Raise the case with the Parliamentary Ombudsman.

Raise a Parliamentary Question.

Raise an Adjournment Debate.

Relevant contact details have been included as Annex A to this letter for your reference.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Annex A—CSA centre addresses

Belfast Child Support Agency Centre
Great Northern Tower
17-21 Great Victoria Street
Belfast
BT2 7AD

Falkirk Child Support Agency Centre
Parklands
Callendar Business Park
Callendar Road
Falkirk
FK1 1XT

Birkenhead Child Support Agency Centre
Great Western House
Woodside Ferry Approach
Birkenhead
CH41 6DA

Hastings Child Support Agency Centre
Ashdowne House
Sedlescombe Road North
Hastings
East Sussex
TN37 7NL

Dudley Child Support Agency Centre
Pedmore House
Level Street
Brierly Hill
West Midlands
DY5 1XA

Plymouth Child Support Agency Centre
Bickleigh Down Business Park
Clearbrook House
Towerfield Drive
Plymouth
PL6 7TN

Address for a complaint to the CSA Chief Executive

The Chief Executive of Child Support Agency
Room M0801
Durham House

Washington
Tyne and Wear
NE38 7SF

Address for a complaint to the Minister

Lord McKenzie of Luton
Parliamentary Under Secretary (Lords)
Department for Work and Pensions
Caxton House
Tothill Street
London
SW1H 9DA

Address for the Independent Case Examiner

Independent Case Examiner
P.O. Box 155
Chester
CH99 9SA

Address for the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman

Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman
Millbank Tower
Millbank
London
SW1P 4QP

MP hotlines

Location	*Availability*	*Contact details*
Dudley	8.30 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Thursday; 8.30 am to 5.30 pm Friday	Tel: 01384 488515; Fax: 01384 488050
Hastings	8.30 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday	Tel: 01424 711555; Fax: 01424 711897
Falkirk	8.30 am to 9.00 pm Monday to Friday	Tel: 01324 615092; Fax: 01324 615419
Plymouth	8.30 am to 9.00 pm Monday to Friday	Tel: 08457 137198; Fax: 01752 726379
Birkenhead	9.00 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday	Tel: 0151 6492323; Fax: 0151 6495649
Belfast	9.00 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday	Tel: 02890 339343; Fax: 02890 339114
MP telephone inquiries to chief executive	8.30 am to 5.30 pm Monday to Thursday; 8.30am to 5.00pm Friday	Tel: 01384 574917; Fax: 01384 574926

Child Support Agency: Costs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the net cost of the Child Support Agency in each year since 1993-94, including administrative costs and the effect of reduced benefit payments; and if he will make a statement. [146448]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Duncan Gilchrist dated 9 October 2007:

In reply to your recent parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As the Chief Executive is currently on annual leave I am responding, with his authority, on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what estimate he has made of the net cost of the Child Support Agency in each year since 1993-94 including administrative costs and the effect of reduced benefit payments; and if he will make a statement.

The information available, including the amount of maintenance paid to the Secretary of State in respect of parents with care on Income Support and Income-based Jobseekers Allowance, is presented in the attached table.

The amounts of benefit saved has declined each year since 2003-04. This is because the proportion of benefit cases within our overall caseload has decreased. The introduction of the Child Maintenance Premium in 2003 has also meant that the amount passed to the Secretary of State on each case has decreased as parents with care on benefit are entitled to keep a proportion of the money paid to them by non-resident parents.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Net cost of the Child Support Agency in each year since 1993-94 including administrative costs and annual savings in benefits

£ million

	Annual agency net administration costs	*Annual savings in benefit*
2005-06	465.22	103.71
2004-05	425.59	117.30
2003-04	451.60	141.30
2002-03	428.90	146.50
2001-02	361.90	137.50
2000-01	298.30	143.00
1999-2000	266.70	148.00
1998-99	231.20	[1]
1997-98	225.90	[1]
1996-97	224.50	[1]
1995-96	199.30	[1]
1994-95	192.40	[1]

[1] Not available.

Notes:

1. We are unable to provide figures for 1993-94, as audited accounts were not published for that year; therefore the information is not available.
2. Details of the annual savings in benefits are unavailable before 1999-2000.
3. Annual saving in benefit relates to maintenance collected and passed to the Secretary of State rather than the parent with care.
4. Information from 1994-95 to 2005-06 is sourced from the Child Support Agency's published Annual Report and Accounts, and differs slightly from the published Quarterly Summary Statistics, which uses monthly figures, not subjected to year-end adjustment.
5. In 2005-06, following National Audit Office advice, the Agency's accounting boundaries were changed to include Child Support Reform Programme costs in the Agency's Annual Report and Accounts. The 2005-06 accounts and the 2004-05 comparatives were changed. In line with this policy the table above includes Child Support Reform costs from 1999-2000.
6. Figures are rounded.

Child Support Agency: Debt Collection

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what powers the Child Support Agency has to recover arrears which are more than six years old; and if he will make a statement. [146137]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 13 September 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions regarding the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what powers the Child Support Agency has to recover arrears which are more than six years old; and if he will make a statement.

The Child Support (Collection and Enforcement) Regulations 1992 were recently amended to remove the six-year limitation period for applying to the court for a liability order in England and Wales. The amended legislation came into force on 12 July 2006 and the effect is that debts of child support that have accrued since 12 July 2000 can be pursued through the courts.

Where arrears are outstanding for periods prior to 12 July 2000 the Child Support Agency may instigate debt recovery by alternative measures, which include imposing a Deduction from Earnings Order or employing external debt collection agencies to recover outstanding debt.

The position regarding civil recovery of child support debt in Scotland remains unchanged, with a twenty year limitation period on applications for liability orders set by the Prescription and Limitation (Scotland) Act 1973.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency: Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the cost in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms of running the Child Support Agency and its successor for each year from 1996-97; what forecast of costs he has made for each year up to 2012-13; and if he will make a statement; [146183]

(2) what the running costs of the Child Support Agency (CSA) were in each year from 1993-94 to 2006-07; what estimate he has made of the running costs of the CSA and its successor organisation in each year from 2007-08 to 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [146441]

Mr. Plaskitt: The estimate of the cash requirements for the agency both historically and in the future is determined as part of the overall cash requirement for the Department. The overall estimate is not broken down on an agency basis, but is instead derived from overall departmental spend against its bank account, on a historic basis. We are therefore unable to provide the separate cash costs of running the agency.

The following table provides details of Child Support Agency actual and forecast net administration costs from 1996-97 to 2007-08 including, from 1999-2000, the costs of child support reform and the operational improvement plan.

From 2008-09 the Government intend that the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission will undertake the agency's activity. The exact future steady state costs of that organisation will depend on what choices parents make; how the Commission will finally configure its services; and the details of the transitional arrangements to the new scheme. All of these factors are subject to significant uncertainties. Consequently, precise year-by-year estimates are not currently available. It is estimated that, in steady state, the statutory maintenance service is expected to lead to a reduction in administrative costs of around £200 million per annum.

Child Support Agency's actual and forecast net administration costs years 1996-97 to 2007-08

Financial year	*£ million*
1996-97	224.50
1997-98	225.90
1998-99	231.20
1999-2000	266.70
2000-01	298.30
2001-02	361.90
2002-03	428.90
2003-04	451.60
2004-05	425.59
2005-06	465.22
2006-07	[1]520.34
2007-08	[1]570.00

[1] Forecast figures, may be subject to change.

Notes:

1. All information from the 2005-06 and earlier years is sourced from the Child Support Agency annual report and accounts.
2. In 2005-06 following National Audit Office advice the agency's accounting boundaries were changed resulting in the inclusion of Child Support Reform Programme costs in the agency's annual accounts. The 2005-06 accounts and the 2004-05 comparatives were changed accordingly. In line with this policy the table includes Child Support Reform costs from 1999-2000.
3. The 2006-07 net administration costs and maintenance collections may be subject to change and will be confirmed when the Child Support Agency annual report and accounts are published following the summer recess 2007.

Child Support Agency: Lone Parents

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of Child Support Agency applications are for cases where only one parent is named on the birth certificate; and if he will make a statement. [146438]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available.

Child Support Agency: Manpower

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff were allocated a Child Support Agency enforcement worker in each quarter from 1997 to June 2007; and if he will make a statement. [146440]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Duncan Gilchrist, dated 17 September 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As the Chief Executive is currently on annual leave I am responding, with his authority, on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many staff were allocated a Child Support Agency enforcement worker in each quarter from 1997 to June 2007; and if he will make a statement. [146440]

We contacted your office to clarify your question and were advised that you wanted to know the numbers of people working in enforcement activities in each quarter from 1997 to June 2007.

The information available is set out in the attached table.

Prior to the Operational Improvement Plan (OIP), the Agency had a small centrally managed team engaged in legal enforcement work which involved the Civil Enforcement of debt following the failure of Bailiff action, 3rd Party Debt Orders, Charging Orders and Orders for Sale and their Scottish equivalents. This also involved committal to prison or driving license removal.

Debt Enforcement is responsible for the initial handling of cases when payment breaks down or is not achieved. This involves Deduction from Earnings Orders when appropriate and secures legal recognition of debt through obtaining Liability Orders as well as initiating bailiff action in respect of those debts. Historically, this was carried out by a variety of different teams throughout the Agency.

The first year of the OIP focused on organisational and operational restructuring, and the training of our people to increase capacity and capability.

In the OIP we committed to increasing the resource on both types of enforcement work by 600 people. This was achieved by July 2006.

This is the first step to meet the OIP commitment to quadruple the number of people deployed on enforcement work by March 2009. The Agency has contracted out the recovery of debt on 50,000 cases, effectively increasing the total resource devoted to enforcing Child Support maintenance and getting more money to more children. The largest proportionate increase has been in the Agency Legal Enforcement Teams, which have also taken on a greater workload; there has been a substantial increase in the amount of court based enforcement activity in the first year of the OIP. The Agency now has 2861 people (Full Time Equivalent) working in our new Enforcement lines of business; Debt and Legal.

More investment in enforcement activity will continue as we make progress in clearing uncleared applications and are able to re-deploy more people on to this work.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Number of people working in enforcement activities in each quarter from 1997 to June 2007

Quarter ending	*Number of people working in enforcement associated roles*	*Number of people working in central enforcement activities*
2001		
September	1,265	97
December	1,315	111
2002		
March	1,339	124
June	1,365	133
September	1,396	161
December	1,385	170
2003		
March	1,305	173
June	1,192	166
September	1,173	194
December	1,152	212
2004		
March	1,073	221
June	1,504	222
September	1,588	227
December	1,599	238
2005		
March	1,551	188
June	1,615	264
September	1,699	277
December	1,917	294
2006		
March	2,082	280
June	2,168	281
September	—	2,494
December	—	2,966
2007		
March	—	2,861
June	—	n/a

n/a = Not available.

Notes:

1. Information prior to September 2001 is not available.
2. The numbers given are the numbers employed by the Agency on full-time equivalent basis (FTE).
3. Enforcement includes, debt enforcement which is responsible for the initial handling of cases when payment breaks down or is not achieved, including deduction from earning orders and liability orders and legal enforcement work involves the civil enforcement of debt following the failure of bailiff action, through 3rd party debt orders, charging orders and orders for sale and their Scottish equivalents.
4. For the period prior to June 2006, details include people in each area and the CSA Central Enforcement teams engaged in a variety of activities including, but not exclusively enforcement work.
5. From September 2006, figures relate to two new lines of business, debt enforcement and legal enforcement.

Child Support Agency: Payments

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases resulted in the Child Support Agency (CSA) in each of the last three years; how many such payments the CSA made in each year; and what the total amount of such payments was in each year. [151853]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Duncan Gilchrist, dated 13 September 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As the Chief Executive is currently on annual leave I am responding, with his authority, on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many cases resulted in the Child Support Agency making a conciliatory payment in each of the last three years; how many such payments the CSA made in each year; and what the total amount of such payments was in each year. [151853]

The information provided in the table below reflects the total number of consolatory awards, not the number of cases where a payment has been made. A client may have been awarded separate payments in respect of, for example, embarrassment and

severe distress. Figures quoted in the table will therefore count two awards against the one case. It is unfortunately not possible to provide the number of cases where a consolatory payment has been made, as we do not routinely collect this information.

Total amount of consolatory awards to clients

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Consolatory payments (£m)	0.582	0.608	0.666
Total number of consolatory awards made	9,001	9,208	9,194

Child Support Agency: Standards

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many unprocessed Child Support Agency cases there were in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each of the last 12 months. [151402]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Duncan Gilchrist, dated 17 September 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As the Chief Executive is currently on annual leave I am responding, with his authority, on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many unprocessed Child Support Agency cases there were in (a) Eastbourne and (b) East Sussex in each of the last 12 months.[151402]

The information requested is provided in the attached table.

The Agency begins to process new applications as soon as they are received and continues until they have been cleared. Uncleared applications will be at varying stages in the application processes, with very few being completely unprocessed.

This table does not include those cases where the parent/person with care's residential postcode is not recorded. In some of these cases, the Agency holds a residential address without a postcode; a "contact" address; or a business address. We have excluded cases that have not yet reached the stage in the process where the postcode information has been confirmed, as it is not possible to associate them to a local authority. At June 2007 there were 22,600 uncleared applications with an 'unknown' Local Authority. This equates to 13% of all uncleared cases in June 2007.

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. As the quality of the management information within the Agency improves, the figures are subject to revision and information in the table, therefore, may differ slightly from previously released figures.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Volume of uncleared applications in East Sussex local authority: new and old scheme from July 2006 to June 2007

	Number
2006	
July	1,280
August	1,290
September	1,290
October	1,330
November	1,330
December	1,320
2007	
January	1,300
February	1,280
March	1,250
April	1,230
May	1,220
June	1,240

Volume of uncleared applications in Eastbourne parliamentary constituency: new and old scheme from July 2006 to June 2007

	Number
2006	
July	310
August	320
September	320
October	320
November	330
December	330
2007	
January	330
February	330
March	320
April	310
May	310
June	320

Notes:

1. These tables counts applications for child support. Not all applications become live cases.
2. A potential new application is defined as cleared when it:
has had a calculation and a payment arrangement set up (new scheme only) or has had an assessment (old scheme only);
has been closed;
has been identified as having had a good cause decision accepted;
has been identified as being subject to a reduced benefit decision;
has been identified as a change of circumstances to an existing case, as opposed to a new application (new scheme only).
3. Volumes are rounded to the nearest 10.
4. The figures are subject to revision and therefore may differ slightly from previously released figures.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what restrictions there are on the Child Support Agency accessing HM Revenue and Customs information about non-resident parents' *(a)* income, *(b)* employment status and *(c)* home address; and if he will make a statement. [146432]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Child Support Agency can only access HM Revenue and Customs information about non-resident parents' *(a)* income *(b)* employment status and *(c)* home address subject to meeting the requirements of the legal information gateways set out in the Child Support Act 1991, the Social Security Administration Act 1992, the Social Security Act 1998, the Tax Credits Act 2002, and the Data Protection Act 1998.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many non-resident parents being pursued by the Child Support Agency *(a)* have moved abroad and *(b)* are untraceable; and if he will make a statement. [146443]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 17 September 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many non-resident parents being pursued by the Child Support Agency (a) have moved abroad and (b) are untraceable; and if he will make a statement. [146443]

Information on the number of non-resident parents who are untraceable is not available. The number of non-resident parents currently residing abroad but within our jurisdiction is reported in the Agency Quarterly Summary Statistics and, as of March 2007, currently stands at 6,600. We do not have any information on any non-resident parents living abroad outside our jurisdiction.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the Child Support Agency compliance rates are in cases where the parent with care is on benefits with *(a)* a complete clawback of maintenance and *(b)* a £10 per week disregard of maintenance; and if he will make a statement. [146445]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 13 September 2007:

In reply to your recent parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the Child Support Agency compliance rates are in cases where the parent with care is on benefits with *(a)* a complete clawback of maintenance and *(b)* a £10 per week disregard of maintenance; and if he will make a statement.

Information on the numbers of parents with care on income based benefits is only available to August 2006. The compliance rate for new scheme cases where the parent with care was in receipt of income based benefits and therefore eligible to receive the £10 child maintenance premium was 65 per cent. in the quarter ending August 2006. The compliance rate for old scheme cases where the parent with care was on income based benefits and therefore not eligible to receive the child maintenance premium was 64 per cent. in the quarter ending August 2006.

I hope you find this helpful.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much income support was recovered by the Child Support Agency in each year from 1993-94 to 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [146446]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available in the format that you have requested. Although the agency publish total payments made to the Secretary of state in the annual report and accounts, the amount of child maintenance recovered to the Secretary of state cannot be fully broken down by each benefit.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of parents with care who received any form of regular child maintenance from the non-resident parent in each year from 1990-91 to 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [146447]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Duncan Gilchrist, dated 13 September 2007:

In reply to your recent parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As the Chief Executive is currently on annual leave I am responding, with his authority, on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of work and Pensions, what estimate he has made of the proportion of parents with care who received any form of regular child maintenance from the non-resident parent in each year from 1990-91 to 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [146447]

The information requested can be obtain from Table 7.2 of the March 2007 Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics. A copy of this is available in the House of Commons Library, or on the internet via the following link:

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_jun07.asp.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in how many and what percentage of cases that were dealt with by the Child Support Agency in the last 12 months it was impossible to establish the identity of the non-resident parent due to failure to register parenthood jointly on the birth certificate; and if he will make a statement. [146628]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of non-resident parents whose child maintenance payments will rise by more than *(a)* 10 per cent., *(b)* 20 per cent., *(c)* 30 per cent. and *(d)* 50 per cent. under the new arrangements for the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission; and if he will make a statement. [146631]

Mr. Plaskitt: With the increased focus on voluntary arrangements and the ending of the requirement that parents with care on benefit be treated as applying for child maintenance, not all of the current Child Support Agency caseload will choose to use the statutory maintenance service. In many cases parents will choose to make voluntary arrangements supported by an information and support service. Since these arrangements are a matter for parents to agree upon it is not possible to estimate the proportion of non-resident parents whose child maintenance payments will rise by more than certain percentages.

Where parents do choose to use the statutory maintenance arrangements the proposed statutory maintenance formula has been chosen to broadly replicate the current system. Figures on the amount paid under the second child support scheme and

statutory maintenance arrangements under different income levels and for different family sizes can be found in table 2, page 19 of the regulatory impact assessment which accompanied the Child Maintenance and Other Payment Bill.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the current rate of deduction for child maintenance is for non-resident parents on benefits by the Child Support Agency; when the rate was fixed; what the rate would be worth if uprated by the retail price index; and if he will make a statement. [147081]

Mr. Plaskitt: The current flat rate of deduction in respect of child maintenance from non-resident parents who are in receipt of benefit is £5 per week. The current flat rate was fixed when the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act 2000 was granted Royal Assent in July 2000.

We estimate that if the £5 flat rate had been uprated each March, in line with the retail price index, it would currently be £5.99 per week.

Children: Poverty

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the Government's targets were for lifting children out of poverty in each year since 1997; and whether each target was met. [150048]

Caroline Flint: We do not have annual child poverty targets; however we have set challenging goals to halve child poverty by 2010 and eradicate it by 2020.

Council Tax Benefits

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* people, *(b)* senior citizens and *(c)* families (i) were entitled to and (ii) received council tax benefit in each borough in the last period for which figures are available. [155215]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* The latest estimates of the take-up of the main income-related benefits: income support, pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and jobseeker's allowance (income-based) in Great Britain can be found in the DWP report entitled "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2004/2005".Copies of the publication are available in the Library.

The available information about the number of families receiving council tax benefit in each local authority has been placed in the Library.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households are in receipt of council tax benefit, broken down by region; and what estimate he has made of the number of households eligible to receive council tax benefit. [155582]

Mr. Plaskitt: The latest estimates of the take-up of the main income-related benefits—income support, pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and jobseeker's allowance (income-based)—in Great Britain can be found in the DWP report entitled 'Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2004-05'.Copies of the publication are available in the Library.

The available information is in the following table.

Council tax benefit caseloads by Government office region, February 2007

	Total CTB claimants
All GB	5,096,570
North East	295,620
North West	686,640
Yorkshire and Humber	461,040
East Midlands	338,270
West Midlands	506,650
East	390,900
London	728,470
South East	504,029
South West	268,810
Wales	282,240
Scotland	533,920

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. Caseload has been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. CTB figures exclude any second adult rebate cases.
5. The totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source:
Housing benefit and council tax benefit management information system quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in February 2007.

Council Tax Benefits: Ethnic Groups

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of black and minority ethnic households that are *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* in receipt of council tax benefit. [155581]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Council Tax Benefits: Forms

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum number is of pages of the council tax benefit form a person is required to complete to claim the benefit. [155214]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* DWP issues model claim forms for council tax benefit (CTB). The minimum number of pages a claimant has to complete on a DWP CTB form is two, where they are reclaiming CTB after a break of less than 12 weeks.

The minimum number of pages a claimant who is making a brand new claim for CTB has to complete is three. This applies to customers who are also getting or have applied for pension credit.

The maximum number of pages a claimant has to complete to claim CTB is 27. This is where the customer is making a brand new claim for CTB, and is not claiming alongside another means-tested benefit. If housing benefit is also claimed at the same time as CTB, the total number of pages to claim both benefits could be a maximum of 33.

Council Tax Benefits: Low Incomes

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to change the council tax benefit system to redistribute unclaimed benefit to the poorest households. [153736]

Mr. Plaskitt: We have no plans to change the council tax benefit system to redistribute unclaimed benefit to the poorest households.

Council Tax Benefits: Scotland

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was provided to the Scottish Executive for the payment of council tax benefit in each of the last five years. [151499]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* The information is in the following table:

Council Tax Benefit Subsidy Paid to Scottish Local Authorities

	£ million
2001-02	288
2002-03	294
2003-04	307
2004-05	345
2005-06	354

Notes:
1. Local authorities pay council tax benefit (CTB) to eligible claimants and central Government fund the payments by way of CTB subsidy paid to the authorities.
2. Payment of CTB subsidy is made to individual local authorities, not the Scottish Executive, based on audited claims made by the authorities.
3. Benefit which is paid in accordance with CTB rules is subsidised at 100 per cent., but lower rates of subsidy are paid where there has been an overpayment of benefit, caused by, for example, claimant error or fraud.

Source: Audited subsidy claims submitted to DWP by local authorities.

Departments: Accountancy

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions the Department had its accounts qualified by auditors in the last 10 years. [154880]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* In his report on the 2006-07 accounts, published on 25 July, the Comptroller and Auditor General said:

This is the 18 successive year in which I have qualified the Department's accounts. I am please to report, however, that this year has seen further real progress towards removing or tackling these long-standing qualifications, building on initiatives put in train last year.

"The Department's staff have continued to demonstrate real determination to resolve the underlying causes of these qualifications. Indeed I have been able to remove two aspects of the long-standing limitation of scope qualification on customer overpayment debt balances, which is a tribute to the clear leadership evident within the Department in tackling these issues."

Departments: Air Conditioning

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on the hire of mobile air conditioning units in each of the last five years. [151980]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Works and Pensions spent the following amount on hire charges relating to the provision of mobile air conditioning units:

	£
2002-03	0
2003-04	7,641.00
2004-05	10,824.00
2005-06	705.00
2006-07	278.00

The Department entered into a 20 year PFI Contract with Land Securities Trillium (LST) in 1998 known as the PRIME Contract, which was expanded in 2003 following the merger of Department of Social Security and the Employment Service. The contract is for the provision of fully serviced accommodation and the Department pays an all-inclusive unitary charge to LST for this provision.

This unitary charge includes the provision, if required, for mobile air conditioning units. Therefore, the costs identified are for the provision of a unit that falls outside of the scope of the PRIME Contract, and is therefore relatively small. An example of a requirement outside the scope would be a site not included within the PRIME portfolio, where facility management responsibility is retained by the Department.

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* first class and *(b)* business class flights in the last 12 months. [153183]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department has spent in the last 12 months:

(a) £6,374 on first class flights

(b) £1,415,556 on business class flights

Departments: Crime

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which criminal offences have been introduced by his Department in primary legislation since October 2006. [149705]

Mrs. McGuire: The only criminal offence created by Department for Work and Pensions primary legislation made since October 2006 is contained in section 43 of the Welfare Reform Act 2007.

This provision, when in force, will make it a criminal offence for a local authority employee to make an unauthorised disclosure of benefit information obtained under section 42 of the 2007 Act. A person guilty of an offence under section 43 is liable to a maximum of two years imprisonment in the Crown court or (subject to section 43(8)) 12 months imprisonment before the magistrates court or a fine or both.

Section 43 replaces a very similar provision in the Local Government Act 2000.

Departments: Delivery Services

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what volume of correspondence his Department sent *(a)* by Royal Mail and *(b)* by other commercial delivery services in each of the last five years; and what the reasons were for the use of other commercial delivery services. [150463]

Mrs. McGuire: The information for *(a)* is listed in the following table. It does not include output of mail items sent from the Department's local offices as this information is not held centrally and could be obtained only by incurring disproportionate costs. Royal Mail collect, sort and deliver mail from majority of DWP sites including the collection of first class mail from a DWP supplier who produces mail on behalf of the Department.

	Volume
2002	121,754,264
2003	116,806,028
2004	105,367,565
2005	84,532,423
2006	89,694,433

(b) DWP uses other commercial delivery services secured through competitive tender awarded on the basis of value for money and increased efficiency.

UK Mail were recently awarded a contract following a competition to handle items of DWP second class mail collected from two regional distribution centres which is passed to Royal Mail for final mile delivery under downstream access. DWP will achieve significant savings over the duration of this contract.

The Department sends approximately 18 million items per year between DWP offices through a courier service. This includes the distribution of internal mail and stationery from our print suppliers. We are unable to provide more accurate information as these data are not held centrally and to obtain them would incur disproportionate costs.

The Department has an annual average volume of 1.5 million items of international mail dealt with from various sites by a company called "Spring". Again, we are unable to provide more accurate data as the information is not held centrally and to obtain it would incur disproportionate costs.

Departments: Departmental Records

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 84W, on Departments: Departmental Records, what estimate he has made of the annual increase of files in storage since 2004; what the basis is on which files are kept and accessed; for how long they are kept; and what the criteria for disposal are. [152738]

Mrs. McGuire: The original file holding in central sites in July 2004 was 16,700,00.

	File holding Heywood site
July 2007	44,425,291
July 2006	35,055,824
July 2005	25,003,306
July 2004	16,714,353

The number of files held by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and its agencies at July 2007 is approximately 52.7 million (this includes 7.3 million DCS files are held at Nelson store).

DWP employs a policy to actively maintain and retain customer information and documentation for as long as they are required for departmental business purposes.

Documentation relating to customer claims for benefit are retained for as long as the decision to pay or not pay on the claim remains current and 14 months after it is superseded, withdrawn or refused.

The retention of corporate documentation is determined by business need, taking into account any statutory, legal considerations. Corporate information, such as Registered Files are retained, reviewed and disposed of in accordance with the Public Records Acts 1958 and 1967 and in consultation with the National Archives.

This takes regard to the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 and Freedom of Information Act 2000, however, retention periods are determined to meet DWP business purposes.

Access to all records is strictly determined by departmental business reasons. Operational procedures are in place to control this.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 84W, on Departments: Departmental Records, what mechanisms are in place to prevent the duplication of files for the same claimants. [153704]

Mrs. McGuire: Customer details are entered onto DWP's electronic file system using the national insurance number as the key unique identifier and this will prevent the duplication of customer files.

Each business unit and benefit type within that unit will retain its own record/file for each individual. Within DWP guidance there is a requirement to consider previous records and either maintain all documents within one file or ensure that the earlier files are marked for destruction depending on how long ago the previous claim went dormant.

In addition there may be occasions for urgent cases when a duplicate file may be raised with the intention that is linked with the original at the first opportunity. Depending on linking rules some benefits will legitimately have more than one record.

Departments: Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employees of his Department in receipt of statutory sick pay moved on to incapacity benefit in each year since 1997, broken down by disease group. [152146]

Caroline Flint: Unfortunately this information cannot be calculated in the timescale and would be at disproportionate cost. The Payroll system does not hold data on staff who move from SSP to incapacity benefit. The Data Matching Service have advised that it would be a disproportionate cost to get this information from the PSCS system.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many press officers are employed by his Department. [153181]

Mrs. McGuire: As at 30 July 2007, 16 national press officers and 26 regional press officers were employed by the Department.

Departments: New Deal Schemes

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many individuals recruited by his Department from new deal programmes since the inception of the scheme left within *(a)* six and *(b)* 12 months; [152158]

(2) how many individuals his Department has recruited from new deal schemes since the inception of the new deal, broken down by scheme. [152159]

Mrs. McGuire: We are unable to provide the number of individuals the Department has recruited from new deal schemes, by specific scheme, as this information is not collected.

Departments: Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of staff in his Department are making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions; and what steps he has taken in the last year to encourage more people to make such contributions. [147319]

Mr. Plaskitt: 2,189 members of staff in the Department for Work and Pensions (1.74 per cent. of the total number of staff employed by the department) currently make additional voluntary contributions through deductions from their pay.

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by his Department on newspapers and magazines in the last 12 months. [153185]

Mrs. McGuire: The DWP spent a total of £126,393.63 on periodicals and newspapers in the last 12 months.

Departments: Railways

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by his Department on first class train tickets in the last 12 months. [153184]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department spent £9.48 million on first class rail tickets in the last 12 months.

Departments: Sick Leave

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average duration was of an absence from work through sickness in his Department in each year since 1997. [152150]

Mrs. McGuire: Official figures on the level of sickness absence in the civil service are reported by the Cabinet Office annually in a report titled 'Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service'. However, the Cabinet Office does not report 'average duration' at summary level in this report, therefore the figures quoted in the table are taken from data held internally. Data on 'average durations' have been recorded internally since 2002-03.

Financial year	*Average duration working days*
2006-07	6.3
2005-06	6.5
2004-05	7.1
2003-04	6.7
2002-03	6.2

The figures for 'average duration' are based on April to March working days.

Departments: Sick Pay

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what total amount of statutory sick pay was received by employees of his Department in each year since 1997; [152147]

(2) how many and what proportion of employees in his Department were in receipt of statutory sick pay in each year since 1997; [152161]

(3) how much occupational sick pay has been paid to employees of his Department in each year since 1997. [152162]

Caroline Flint: A new system has been rolling out since November 2006 and the information cannot be provided from legacy systems without disproportionate cost. On the new system the information will not be available until the end of the financial year.

Departments: Tribunals

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by his Department on industrial tribunals in the last 12 months. [153187]

Mrs. McGuire: The total amount spent by the Department for Work and Pensions in legal costs (representing the amount spent on case workers, lawyers and barristers) in defending Employment Tribunal claims between 1 July 2006 and 30 June 2007 is £2,907,334.90.

Departments: Westmorland

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will consider locating or relocating additional departmental jobs to Westmorland and Lonsdale. [152842]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department currently employs 26.91 (full-time equivalent) staff within the Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency at the Jobcentre Plus office in Kendal. The Department has no plans at this time to either expand on or reduce the service delivered from this Jobcentre Plus office.

Disability Aids: Departmental Cooperation

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to improve the delineation of responsibility between the Social Fund and other public agencies in connection with the provision of disability aids and adaptations. [154831]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The Social Fund is flexible and capable of covering a wide range of individual circumstances. In particular, the Social Fund Community Care Grant complements the help of other supporting agencies such as the national health service and local authorities in fulfilling general aims for community care.

It is the responsibility of local Social Services Departments to carry out assessments and provide assistance with necessary aids and adaptations for disabled people. Guidance to Social Fund decision makers makes it clear that a Community Care Grant should be considered in the normal way where expenses do not fall within the statutory responsibility of a local authority.

Disability Living Allowance

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims for disability living allowance there were between April 2006 and January 2007. [152731]

Mrs. McGuire: Between April 2006 and January 2007 there were 355,090 claims received for disability living allowance.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims for disability living allowance were made in each year since 1997; what proportion were approved; and if he will make a statement. [153583]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Disability living allowance (DLA) new claims

Year ended November	*Total DLA claims received*	*Percentage of claims approved*
1997	490,620	45.1
1998	396,830	45.5
1999	393,090	45.4
2000	405,530	50.7
2001	413,070	51.1
2002	422,830	52.8
2003	436,720	50.7
2004	439,750	48.2
2005	428,960	46.2
2006	427,080	45.5

Notes:
1. These data are drawn from management information and should not be used in conjunction with sample statistics drawn from the benefit administration systems.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10;
Source:
DCS Computer System

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in what circumstances an individual's eligibility for disability living allowance is reassessed; and if he will make a statement. [153587]

Mrs. McGuire: Eligibility to disability living allowance is reassessed when an award is due to end and a further claim is submitted, or when the customer asks for the decision to be looked at again or when information is received suggesting that there has been a change of circumstances since the original award of benefit was made.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the earnings disregard for disability living allowance was in April of each year since 1997. [153588]

Mrs. McGuire: Disability living allowance is not an income-related benefit. Earnings are not taken into account when entitlement is assessed and there is therefore no earnings disregard.

Disability Living Allowance: Appeals

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disability living allowance claimants appealed against decisions made on their claims between April 2006 and January 2007. [152752]

Mrs. McGuire: From 1 April 2006 to 31 January 2007, 79,237 appeals were registered on the disability living allowance computer system.

Employment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to list the groups in the working age population which he thinks should not be expected to work. [152596]

Mr. Plaskitt: A key element of the Government's strategy to increase the overall employment rate is to extend employment and skills support to those who are economically inactive.

Establishing a list of groups that are not expected to work might limit the aspirations of those who, where appropriate and with the right support, could re-enter the labour market and then move back into work. In our Welfare Reform Green Paper "In work, better off" Cm 7130, published on 18 July 2007, we have reiterated our aim of extending the opportunity to work to all.

Employment Schemes

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he plans to make of the analysis of the barriers to work set out in the National Audit Office report Helping People from Workless Households into Work, HC 609. [152280]

Caroline Flint: We welcome the National Audit Office report "Helping People from Workless Households into Work". As the report describes, there are now more people in work than ever before and the existing range of employment programmes have been a success. They are also right that there remain three

million workless households with too many children living in poverty. This is why we have put forward new proposals in the Green Paper, "In work, better off: next steps to full employment", to deliver a step change in the employment and skills support we offer to the most disadvantaged in the labour market.

We will consider their analysis of the barriers to work and the recommendations they have made.

Employment Services

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for pilot studies of private and voluntary sector involvement in the provision of employment support; what the timetable is for such pilots; and if he will make a statement. [150855]

Caroline Flint: Private and third sector organisations already play an important role in delivering employment support to people who are out of work. Examples of this include the new deal for disabled people, employment zones, and pathways to work, for which we are currently letting contracts. We will continue to learn from all of these different types of involvement and consider how we can provide better incentives and rewards for providers.

As our Green Paper "In work, better off" Cm7130, published on 18 July 2007, sets out, we are currently developing a more strategic approach to the commissioning of employment programmes. Over the coming months we will be talking to a wide variety of providers and others and drawing on evidence from the UK and elsewhere to inform this approach. We also propose to test certain approaches, such as rewarding providers who are successful in moving people into sustained employment with increased funds to invest in further activity.

Employment: Disabled

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made in piloting the redesigned personal capability assessment; and what evaluations he has made of the results of the pilots. [150856]

Caroline Flint: Following the early testing of the revised personal capability assessment that was carried out last year and reported in February 2007, we have completed a more extensive, Phase 2 test on a larger and more representative sample of cases. The outcome of this is currently being evaluated, and we expect to publish a report of Phase 2 evaluation in the late summer or early autumn.

Employment: Pensioners

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of individuals in employment over state pension age who want to work; and what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on employment of people over the state pension age. [152598]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The number of people working past state pension age has been increasing, and currently stands at just under 1.2 million. Research has shown that there are a number of reasons why people want to continue working. Around one third of those people aged under 70 who retired after state pension age gave enjoying their job/working as one reason for retiring after SPA in 2002 research (DWP RR200). Financial reasons play an important part but also orientation towards work, job satisfaction and valued social networks formed through work are influential. Health status has an important influence over whether people are able to work after SPA.

DWP commissioned and published research reports on this area are listed as follows:

- Factors affecting labour market participation of older workers (DWP RR 200): a quantitative survey of 2,800 people aged 50 to 69;
- Factors affecting labour market participation of older workers: qualitative research (DWP RR 281): a qualitative study with in-depth interviews and focus groups with individuals aged 50 to 69;
- Working after state pension age: quantitative analysis (DWP RR 182): analysis of quantitative surveys such as the Labour Force Survey, Family Resources Survey, British Household Panel Survey looking as the circumstances under which people work after SPA;
- Working after state pension age: qualitative research (DWP RR 208): in-depth interviews and focus groups with people approaching and over SPA including those in work and those not working.

Our evaluation of this research has informed policy developments in this area.

We have commissioned, but not yet published, research to examine how we can best enable the 60 to 64 age group to take up or remain in work. The research is due to be published late in 2007.

Employment: Retail Trade

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which retailers have been chosen *(a)* in Scotland and *(b)* throughout the UK to supply the incentive vouchers used by engagement consultants employed by Working Links to attract potential recruits under the scheme since its commencement. [152362]

Caroline Flint: The information is not available.

Government Departments: New Deal Schemes

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department keeps a record of the recruitment of individuals from New Deal programmes by other Government departments. [152445]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department does not keep a record of how many individuals, from new deal programmes, have been recruited by other Government Departments.

Housing Benefit

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what year rental valuations are based for the purpose of calculating housing benefits. [152548]

Mr. Plaskitt: Rental valuations for the purpose of calculating housing benefits are not based on a specific year.

Housing Benefit: Islington

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average level of housing benefit paid to *(a)* local authority tenants, *(b)* housing association tenants and *(c)* private sector tenants in the borough of Islington was in (i) the last 12 months and (ii) each of the last three years. [150509]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 18 July 2007]:* The available information is in the following tables.

Average weekly amount of housing benefit by tenure in the London borough of Islington in the last available 12 months

£ per week

	Local authority tenants	*Registered social landlord tenants*	*Private tenants*
February 2006	77.51	89.85	127.00
May 2006	82.77	91.75	129.51
August 2006	82.95	94.18	131.64
November 2006	82.79	95.17	133.87

Average weekly amount of housing benefit by tenure in the London borough of Islington in the last available three years

£ per week

	Local authority tenants	*Registered social landlord tenants*	*Private tenants*
November 2004	75.14	83.13	118.71
November 2005	77.55	89.17	126.52
November 2006	82.79	95.17	133.87

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. Average amounts have been rounded to the nearest penny.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Housing benefit excludes any extended payment cases.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in the quarters shown.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many officials an incapacity benefit claimant has to deal with on average before he or she can claim the benefit; and if he will make a statement. [155227]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* Customers who wish to claim incapacity benefit can do so in several ways. They can telephone a Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre and speak to an official or arrange to see an official in a Jobcentre or obtain a claim form from Jobcentre Plus and return it by post or complete a claim form online via the Jobcentre Plus website.

Generally therefore, a customer would only contact a single Jobcentre Plus official in order to make a claim to incapacity benefit.

Incapacity Benefits: Mortgages

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support is available to assist *(a)* able-bodied and *(b)* disabled people who stop work at short notice due to incapacity in paying the interest on their mortgages; and what limits are placed on this support relating to (i) weekly payments, (ii) the size of mortgage covered and (iii) timespan for which support is available. [152795]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 26 July 2007]:* There is no difference between income support and jobseeker's allowance regarding the level of assistance with housing costs for disabled and non-disabled claimants who leave work. Claimants who took out a mortgage after 2 October 1995 must wait 39 weeks before assistance with their housing costs is paid.

People who have caring responsibilities, or who have been refused payments under an insurance policy due to either a pre-existing medical condition or because they were infected with HIV may receive such assistance earlier.

Generally no assistance is available where a person takes a loan out while in receipt of benefit and no assistance is provided towards arrears, capital repayments or insurance premiums. Help can be given towards the interest on the first £100,000 of the outstanding loan. Such assistance with housing costs is available until entitlement to income support or income-based jobseeker's allowance ceases.

Similar rules apply to people on pension credit. However, they do not have to serve a waiting period before assistance with housing costs can be paid.

The capital limit of £100,000 does not apply to loans taken out to adapt the existing dwelling for the needs of a disabled person.

A claimant may take out a loan during their benefit claim in order to move to a new property that is more suitable for the needs of a disabled person. However, in these cases the capital limit of £100,000 would still apply.

Jobcentre Plus: Closures

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Jobcentre Plus offices closed in each year since 2001, broken down by Parliamentary constituency. [152791]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 26 July 2007]:* The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether there are plans to close Jobcentre Plus offices in Scotland. [153444]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 17 September 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking whether there are plans to close Jobcentre Plus offices in Scotland. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Over the last five years Jobcentre Plus has undertaken a programme of major refurbishment to modernise its office network and introduce improved business processes to support customers. This programme commenced in 2002 when Jobcentre Plus integrated the services formerly provided by the Employment Service and parts of the Benefit Agency. We inherited around 1,500 offices from these two organisations, many of which were unsuitable for Jobcentre Plus either in terms of their location or their physical structure.

I can confirm there are definite plans to close three Jobcentre Plus offices in Scotland: Portobello; Dundee (Seagate); and Perth. These offices currently deal with benefit processing only and therefore are not open to the public. The work is being migrated to our Benefit Delivery Centre network.

Since its inception Jobcentre Plus has continuously improved its services to customers through modern telephony and e-services. This allows us to review our network of offices to focus our resources where they are most needed.

I hope this is helpful

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were employed by *(a)* the Employment Service and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus in each year since 2002, broken down by region. [150039]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Regional breakdown is not available for 2002 and 2003. The number of full-time equivalents (FTE) employed by Jobcentre Plus (formed in 2002) in each of these years is 86,910 and 82,904 respectively.

The available information for 2004 to 2007 is in the following table.

	FTE as at March:			
Region	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
East Midlands	4,647.87	4,379.46	4,328.26	4,315.52
East of England	5,105.77	4,833.82	4,566.04	4,226.43
London	11,400.74	10,401.92	9,367.19	8,788.02
North East	4,949.76	4,650.66	4,475.21	4,258.80
North West	10,810.76	10,011.12	9,544.17	9,254.00
Scotland	8,508.70	7,817.84	7,123.28	6,738.43
South East	6,666.49	6,111.41	5,432.48	5,279.61
South West	5,012.37	4,694.79	4,448.53	4,254.78
Wales	4,878.71	4,675.03	4,520.56	4,414.25
West Midlands	6,851.50	6,318.87	5,946.79	5,869.54
Yorkshire and the Humber	7,327.12	6,911.23	6,117.87	6,104.38
Other[1]	3,936.98	3,668.32	5,351.04	4,441.81
Grand total	80,096.77	74,474.47	71,221.42	67,945.57

[1] Figure includes staff in central support teams and the national directorates where a regional breakdown is not available.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Management Information Portal

Jobcentre Plus: Standards

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received on the *(a)* accessibility and *(b)* efficiency of Jobcentre Plus services since the move to centralised contact and processing centres; and if he will make a statement. [151494]

Mr. Plaskitt: Ministers and officials meet regularly with stakeholders regarding the services we provide. Specifically we have received representations from the House of Commons Work and Pensions Select Committee Report in March 2006, and the Citizen's Advice Bureau report on 19 July 2007.

In light of the Select Committee report and feedback, Jobcentre Plus commissioned independent research around the accessibility of Jobcentre Plus services with key stakeholder groups. These groups included benefit claimants with hearing impairments, speech impediments, learning difficulties, mental health issues and non-English speakers and Jobcentre Plus staff.

The findings from this research were published on 19 July 2007. The full report "The Use of Jobcentre Plus Telephony and Face-to-face First Contact Services by Customers with Specific Communication Barriers" (Research Report No. 446) is now available on the DWP website and copies have been placed in the Library.

Jobcentre Plus: Unemployment Benefits

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what advice on benefit entitlement is available at Jobcentre Plus offices; and how that advice may be accessed. [151495]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 13 September 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what advice on benefit entitlement is available at Jobcentre Plus offices and how that advice may be accessed. This

is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus offices provide comprehensive advice on all benefits. General advice can be obtained through a range of leaflets available online, in our offices and by post. Benefit information is also available face to face and by telephone. For customers who are hard of hearing or have speech difficulties, a textphone is available. Interpreting services are also available when required.

When a customer telephones Jobcentre Plus to make a claim to benefit, or has a meeting with a Personal Adviser, we are able to provide more personalised advice on jobs and benefits. Of course, a customer's entitlement can only be determined when a claim to a benefit has been properly made.

I hope this is helpful.

Jobcentres: Scotland

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which Scottish Jobcentre Plus offices with *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time opening hours were closed in each of the last five years. [152839]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 13 September 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking which Scottish Jobcentre Plus offices were closed in each of the last five years, with full-time and part-time opening hours. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Over the last five years Jobcentre Plus has undertaken a programme of major refurbishment to modernise its office and introduce improved business processes to support customers. This programme commenced in 2002 when Jobcentre Plus integrated the services formerly provided by the Employment Service and parts of the Benefit Agency. We inherited around 1,500 offices from these two organisations, many of which were unsuitable for Jobcentre Plus either in terms of their location or their physical structure. In drawing up local Service Delivery Plans for our modernisation programme the offices considered "unsuitable" were earmarked for closure. I attach a list of offices closed in Scotland in the last five years, stating whether they were full or part time.

Since its inception Jobcentre Plus has continuously improved its services to customers through modern telephony and e-services. This allows us to review our network of offices to focus our resources where they are most needed. I am committed to consulting local people and other stakeholders if this means we have to revise our original Service Delivery Plans.

I hope this is helpful.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseeker's allowance claims were repeat claims *(a)* in the last year for which figures are available and *(b)* in each of the preceding five years; and how many claimants claimed jobseeker's allowance more than twice in each year. [154927]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The available information is in the following tables.

Number of repeat jobseeker's allowance claims where an award has been made

	Number
2001-02	1,596,500
2002-03	1,687,400
2003-04	1,643,300
2004-05	1,563,100
2005-06	1,576,700
2006-07	1,596,000

Notes:
1. 100 per cent. administrative data are only available since June 1999.
2. A claim has been defined as a repeat claim if the jobseeker has previously (since June 1999) made a claim for JSA.
3. Figures rounded to the nearest 100.
4. Figures include credits-only awards of jobseeker's allowance.

Source:
National Benefits Database.

Number of people making a claim for jobseeker's allowance more than twice in the year where an award has been made

	Number
2001-02	114,200
2002-03	119,500
2003-04	107,200
2004-05	96,100
2005-06	88,500
2006-07	93,300

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 100.
2. The figures give the number of people who have made more than two claims for JSA within a single year.
3. Figures include credits-only awards of jobseeker's allowance.

Source:
National Benefits Database.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Basic Skills

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what percentage of jobseeker's allowance claimants identified with basic skills needs by JobCentre Plus screening acquired a basic skills qualification in *(a)* the latest year for which figures are available and *(b)* in each of the preceding five years; [154920]

(2) how many jobseeker's allowance claimants were identified as having basic skills needs as a result of screening at six months from the start of their claim *(a)* in the latest year for which figures are available and *(b)* in each of the preceding five years. [154921]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The information is not available in the format requested, other than at disproportionate cost.

Jobseeker's Allowance: West Midlands

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* the Black Country district and *(b)* the Marches district in each month between June 2006 and June 2007. [154834]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The information is in the following table.

Jobseeker's allowance claimants June 2006 to June 2007

	Black Country Jobcentre Plus district	*Marches Jobcentre Plus district*
June 2006	31,336	12,809
July 2006	32,169	12,840
August 2006	32,399	12,845
September 2006	32,554	12,674
October 2006	31,211	12,159
November 2006	30,652	12,288
December 2006	30,694	12,492
January 2007	31,610	13,490
February 2007	31,496	13,838
March 2007	30,632	13,711
April 2007	29,587	13,111
May 2007	28,835	12,496
June 2007	27,564	11,992

Notes:
1. Figures are unrounded.
2. Figures include clerically held cases.

Source:
100 per cent. count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus Computer Systems.

Labour Market

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* 20 parliamentary constituencies and *(b)* 20 local authorities were with the highest number of job vacancies in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many job vacancies there were in each case. [152644]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 26 July 2007]:* The information requested is not available.

Labour Migration

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has *(a)* made to and *(b)* received from the Migration Advisory Committee since its inception; how many times (i) he and (ii) Ministers in his Department have met the Committee; what communication he has otherwise had with it; and what decisions he has taken which have been informed by the Committee. [152595]

Mrs. McGuire: None. The Committee has not yet met.

Local Employment Partnerships

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how environmental sustainability will be taken into account in developing the 30 local employment partnerships announced on 18 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 284. [152216]

Caroline Flint: The Green Paper "In Work, better off", published on 18 July 2007, sets out Government proposals on the next steps towards achieving full employment. A key element of this is a new partnership with employers, through Local Employment Partnerships (LEPs). These do not aim to create new jobs but to open up more of the many job opportunities already coming up in the economy to long-term unemployed people and other priority jobless groups.

LEPs will prepare individuals for the world of work, provide the chance to apply for a wider range of jobs and help with the skills and motivation needed to be successful. The detailed design of the programme is currently being developed. However, in conjunction with other initiatives such as DWP's 'city strategy', an important element of Government policy is to promote sustainable and cohesive communities. This means tackling the concentrations of worklessness in certain areas and raising employment rates by enabling more local people to take up the jobs coming up in a local area. This will allow individuals to better support themselves and their families and play a full role in society, as well as supporting wider goals around eliminating child poverty and improving health and well being.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his oral statement of 18 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 280, what his definition is of high-quality wrap-around childcare. [152217]

Caroline Flint: High quality childcare is that provided in a setting where parents are happy to leave their children knowing they are safe and well cared for in a stimulating environment. It is provision where staff are properly qualified and well-motivated and where the inspection regime provides the reassurances parents need.

Wrap-around childcare is care that is available to parents at either end of the school day, enabling them to consider employment and to balance work and family life.

Low Incomes

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people lived in households earning *(a)* less than 30 per cent., *(b)* less than 40 per cent., *(c)* less than 50 per cent., and *(d)* less than 60 per cent. of (i) median and (ii) mean income in (A) 1997 and (B) 2006. [152038]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994/95-2005/06 (Revised)".

The estimates for numbers below 30 and 40 per cent. of median and mean income are not available. Figures below the 40 per cent. of income thresholds are not reliable as sample sizes are too small.

The available information is shown in the following tables:

Table 1: Number of individuals (million) below 50 per cent. of median and mean income: 1996-97 and 2005-06

	Below 50 per cent. of median income		*Below 50 per cent. of mean income*	
	Before housing costs	*After housing costs*	*Before housing costs*	*After housing costs*
1996-97	5.9	9.4	10.8	14.2
2005-06	5.9	8.6	11.1	13.6

Table 2: Number of individuals (million) below 60 per cent. of median and mean income: 1996-97 and 2005-06

	Below 60 per cent. of median income		Below 60 per cent. of mean income	
	Before housing costs	After housing costs	Before housing costs	After housing costs
1996-97	10.8	14.0	16.6	18.4
2005-06	10.4	12.8	17.3	19.0

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when a reply will be sent to the constituent of the hon. Member for the Isle of Wight whose reference is CSA 321031224246/NR 185956A. [152816]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 26 July 2007]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Duncan Gilchrist, dated 8 October 2007:

In reply to your recent parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As the Chief Executive is currently on annual leave I am responding, with his authority, on his behalf.

You ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, when a reply will be sent to the constituent of the hon. Member for the Isle of Wight whose reference is CSA 321031224246/NR 185956A. [152816]

As details about individual cases are confidential I have written to you separately about this case.

Migrant Workers: Labour Market

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the impact of migration on the labour market; and what assessment he has made of the impact of migration on measures to promote welfare to work. [152594]

Mr. Plaskitt: In February 2006, DWP published a working paper on the impact of free movement of workers from Central and Eastern Europe on the UK labour market. This is available in the Library.

DWP also contribute to the quarterly accession monitoring report which is published on the Home Office website.

We are continuing to monitor the impact of accession country migration on the UK labour market.

In the last year, despite the effect of EU expansion on the number of workers from the new member states registering to work in the UK, the claimant unemployment count has fallen by over 90,000.

The availability of new workers from abroad does not reduce the need to ensure that domestic workers have the skills and support they need to compete effectively in the labour market. Over the last 10 years the Government has significantly increased its investment in helping people move back into work, and the recent Green Paper "In work, better off: next steps to full employment" sets out proposals to further extend the opportunity for individuals to take up one of the 600,000 vacancies that come up each and every month.

Minimum Wage

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many hours a week *(a)* a lone parent with one child and *(b)* a couple with two children earning the minimum wage would have to work to clear the poverty line. [150049]

Caroline Flint: The hours a week that families with children would need to work to escape poverty would depend on the individual circumstances of the household, for example the number and age of dependent children, housing costs or benefit, and the wage that any working adult receives. Therefore, the information requested is not available.

National Insurance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many national insurance numbers there are in the national insurance database; [149960]

(2) how many people are registered in the national insurance database. [149961]

Mr. Plaskitt: From the latest information available there are 76,719,264 national insurance numbers on the customer information system, not including child reference numbers.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many duplicate national insurance numbers there are in the national insurance database. [149969]

Mr. Plaskitt: From March 2007, DWP's Customer Information System replaced the Departmental Central Index as the national insurance database. Due to the way the Customer Information System is set up, the same national insurance number cannot be allocated twice. However, from time to time we identify national insurance numbers that are being used by more than one person, usually through transcription errors.

The number of instances where this has occurred is shown in the following table.

Cases of a national insurance number being used by more than one individual

	Number of cases
2001	2,539
2002	2,418
2003	2,533
2004	1,896
2005	1,991
2006	1,984

Note:
In these cases we take corrective action with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to correct the account.

National Insurance Credits

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his written ministerial statement of 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 47-48WS, on national insurance credits, what his estimate is of the total amount of *(a)* overpayments and *(b)* underpayments. [152934]

Mr. Plaskitt: Initial estimates are that annual potential overpayments could be around £90 million.

Initial estimates of potential underpayments are around £65 million.

These estimates do not take into account any entitlement to, or payment of, income-related benefits which would affect the amounts over or under paid.

National Insurance: Fraud

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases have been reported of *(a)* an individual using more than one national insurance number and *(b)* a national insurance number being used by more than one individual in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [152713]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Bury St. Edmunds (Mr. Ruffley) on 6 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 870W.

National Insurance: Romania

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers have been issued to *(a)* Romanian and *(b)* Bulgarian citizens since 1 January. [151633]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table.

National Insurance number registrations to Romanian and Bulgarian citizens between 1 January 2007 and 5 April 2007.

	Number
Bulgaria	1,680
Romania	2,660

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Numbers are based on 100 per cent data from the National Insurance Recording System (NIRS).

Source:
100 per cent sample at 14 May 2007 from the National Insurance Recording System (NIRS).

New Deal for Young People

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many participants on the New Deal for Young People were taking part in the scheme for the second or subsequent time in each month since 1998. [149117]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the following table.

Month of participation	*Total number of participants*	*Number participating for second or subsequent time*
July 1998	102,490	180
August 1998	112,800	290
September 1998	120,050	450
October 1998	126,090	700
November 1998	129,940	890
December 1998	133,130	1,110
January 1999	138,490	1,590
February 1999	141,760	2,040
March 1999	144,530	2,610
April 1999	145,560	3,440
May 1999	145,730	4,440
June 1999	144,410	5,460
July 1999	145,990	7,630
August 1999	143,560	9,270
September 1999	138,050	10,910
October 1999	131,360	12,800
November 1999	126,800	14,610
December 1999	127,700	17,240
January 2000	129,470	20,090
February 2000	128,730	22,310
March 2000	128,350	24,640
April 2000	127,090	26,350
May 2000	126,120	28,250
June 2000	122,550	29,620
July 2000	121,980	31,250
August 2000	119,350	32,010
September 2000	111,400	31,730
October 2000	106,430	31,460
November 2000	103,080	31,620
December 2000	103,810	32,740
January 2001	105,820	34,010
February 2001	104,670	34,280
March 2001	103,550	34,290
April 2001	102,950	34,880
May 2001	102,310	35,350
June 2001	99,550	35,160
July 2001	100,220	35,910
August 2001	97,940	35,690
September 2001	94,730	35,240
October 2001	91,600	34,470
November2001	89,410	34,000
December 2001	90,550	34,390
January 2002	92,450	35,080
February 2002	94,370	35,870
March 2002	96,170	36,250
April 2002	97,180	36,570
May 2002	98,110	37,180
June 2002	96,400	36,700
July 2002	97,730	37,160
August 2002	96,110	36,740
September 2002	92,510	35,680
October 2002	89,930	34,770
November 2002	87,530	34,050
December 2002	88,860	34,440
January 2003	92,460	35,340
February 2003	92,870	35,220
March 2003	94,440	35,260
April 2003	94,430	35,420
May 2003	95,150	35,930
June 2003	94,360	35,780
July 2003	96,410	36,600
August 2003	95,690	36,540
September 2003	92,640	35,640
October 2003	88,960	34,580
November 2003	87,320	33,970
December 2003	88,190	34,050
January 2004	90,470	34,480
February 2004	90,300	34,200

Month of participation	Total number of participants	Number participating for second or subsequent time
March 2004	90,680	34,120
April 2004	90,310	33,870
May 2004	89,940	33,540
June 2004	87,760	32,670
July 2004	87,820	32,620
August 2004	86,460	32,000
September 2004	82,770	31,090
October 2004	78,810	29,670
November 2004	77,610	29,290
December 2004	78,720	29,430
January 2005	80,500	29,560
February 2005	81,400	29,820
March 2005	82,490	29,860
April 2005	83,840	30,260
May 2005	84,670	30,550
June 2005	83,360	30,330
July 2005	85,970	31,250
August 2005	86,480	31,380
September 2005	83,840	30,990
October 2005	82,060	30,600
November 2005	81,310	30,510
December 2005	83,440	31,230
January 2006	86,770	31,920
February 2006	88,390	32,310
March 2006	91,840	33,000
April 2006	93,660	33,500
May 2006	95,930	34,140
June 2006	95,340	34,080
July 2006	97,780	34,760
August 2006	97,790	34,910
September 2006	93,320	33,880
October 2006	90,360	33,340
November 2006	88,380	33,180

Notes:
1. Latest data are to November 2006.
2. All data have been rounded to nearest 10.
3. A person participating on the programme for more than one month will be included in the table for each month that they are participating.

Source:
Information Directorate, DWP

New Deal for Young People: Standards

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the interim results of the outcome-related funding pilots currently running in the New Deal for Young People contracts in *(a)* Kent, *(b)* the Black Country and *(c)* Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [150854]

Caroline Flint: The requested information is not available.

New Deal Schemes

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of people leaving *(a)* the new deal scheme, *(b)* the new deal for lone parents scheme and *(c)* the new deal 25 plus scheme claimed benefits within a year of leaving the scheme in each year since 1998. [150062]

Caroline Flint: The information is in the following table.

Percentage of new deal leavers who recommenced claiming benefits within 12 months of leaving the programme

	All new deals	New deal for lone parents	Percentage New deal 25 plus
1998	35	19	30
1999	39	19	33
2000	40	19	35
2001	39	19	35
2002	38	21	37
2003	36	20	37
2004	34	19	38
2005	32	19	36

Notes:
1. Latest data are to November 2006, therefore, allowing for a 12-month gap, only new deal leavers to November 2005 are included.
2. The benefits included are bereavement benefit, incapacity benefit, invalid care allowance, income support, jobseeker's allowance, severe disablement allowance and widow's benefit.
3. A benefit claim has only been included if it is a new claim after leaving the new deal spell. People can leave new deal and continue a benefit claim; these people are not included as recommencing a claim to benefit.

Source:
Information Directorate, DWP

New Deal Schemes: Standards

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has compared the relative performances in returning numbers of people to work of the New Deal self-employment programme and other employment programmes; whether there are any plans to expand the New Deal programme; and if he will make a statement. [153706]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer my hon. Friend to the written answer given to my hon. Friends the Members for City of Durham (Dr. Blackman-Woods) and for Carlisle (Mr. Martlew) on 23 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1184-86W.

We have laid out our plans for the future of new deal in our Green Paper "In Work, better off: next steps to full employment" which was published on 18 July and which is available in the Library.

New Deal Schemes: Training

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people participated in new deal training in each of the last 36 months. [152619]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is only available for training undertaken through new deal for young people and new deal 25 plus.

The available information is in the following table.

New deal training participants

Month of participation	New deal for young people	New deal 25 plus	Total
December 2003	9,660	6,490	16,150
January 2004	9,600	6,620	16,220
February 2004	9,690	6,670	16,360

New deal training participants

Month of participation	*New deal for young people*	*New deal 25 plus*	*Total*
March 2004	9,550	6,630	16,180
April 2004	9,270	6,390	15,660
May 2004	9,230	6,320	15,550
June 2004	9,170	6,350	15,520
July 2004	8,990	6,300	15,290
August 2004	8,690	6,270	14,960
September 2004	8,910	6,350	15,260
October 2004	8,970	6,550	15,520
November 2004	9,000	6,620	15,620
December 2004	8,660	6,330	14,990
January 2005	8,830	6,430	15,260
February 2005	9,150	6,760	15,910
March 2005	9,100	6,760	15,860
April 2005	8,720	6,500	15,220
May 2005	8,490	6,040	14,530
June 2005	8,120	5,800	13,920
July 2005	7,620	5,370	12,990
August 2005	7,130	4,990	12,120
September 2005	6,740	4,610	11,350
October 2005	6,300	4,460	10,760
November 2005	6,280	4,390	10,670
December 2005	6,270	4,230	10,500
January 2006	6,310	4,290	10,600
February 2006	6,640	4,480	11,120
March 2006	6,780	4,660	11,440
April 2006	6,850	4,610	11,460
May 2006	6,800	4,350	11,150
June 2006	7,170	4,310	11,480
July 2006	6,940	3,840	10,780
August 2006	7,670	4,010	11,680
September 2006	8,340	4,240	12,580
October 2006	8,800	4,940	13,740
November 2006	9,090	5,410	14,500

Notes:
1. New deal for young people figures include all those participating in the full-time education and training option.
2. New deal 25 plus figures include all those participating in the intensive activity period (IAP) basic employability training/basic skills, IAP education and training opportunity or IAP training.
3. A person participating for more than one month will be included in the table for each month that they are participating.
4. Latest data are to November 2006.
5. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions

New Deal Schemes: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in City of York constituency have found work through each of the Government's new deal programmes since their introduction. [151630]

Caroline Flint: The available information is in the following table.

New deal in the City of York

Programme	*Individuals into jobs*
New deal for young people	1,080
New deal 25 plus	500
New deal for lone parents	1,050
New deal 50 plus	280
New deal for partners	
Total	2,910

Notes:
1. New deal for disabled people data are not available at constituency level.
2. New deal for partners data are five or less.
3. Data are rounded to the nearest 10.
4. Latest data are to the end of November 2006.
5. New deal 50 plus data include all employment credit starts up to March 2003, and all individuals into employment from April 2003. Some individuals may be counted more than once in these figures.
6. Programme start dates are: new deal for young people: January 1998; new deal 25 plus: July 1998; new deal for lone parents: October 1998; new deal 50 plus: April 2000; new deal for partners: May 1999.

Source:
Information Directorate, DWP, 2007

Occupational Pensions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many adults were members of occupational pension schemes in each year from 1997 to 2007. [150046]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information is not available in the form requested because the Occupational Pension Scheme Survey was carried out at four to five-year intervals until 2004 when it became annual.

Pathways to Work: Interviews

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of work-focused interviews in the Pathways to Work programme have been given by *(a)* private sector providers and *(b)* voluntary sector providers since the programme's inception. [151483]

Caroline Flint: Jobcentre Plus currently delivers Pathways to work in 40 per cent. of the country. Private, voluntary and public sector providers have been invited to bid for contracts in the remaining 60 per cent. of the country, but provision in these areas has not yet commenced. Therefore, since Pathways to Work pilots began in 2003, Jobcentre Plus has delivered all work focused interviews.

Pathways to Work: Psychiatry

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the demand for *(a)* cognitive behavioural therapists and *(b)* other appropriate therapists in the implementation of the Pathways to Work programme; and what steps he has taken to meet the requirement. [150852]

Caroline Flint: No specific assessment has been made. The number of cognitive behavioural therapy-trained staff in each area varies according to local needs and how the condition management programme (CMPs) are delivered. Referral to the CMP will not be necessary for all incapacity benefit customers, nor will it be the first option to consider. Referral will only be appropriate if the customer feels that they cannot return to work yet because of their condition. The incapacity benefit personal adviser will discuss the

range of other appropriate therapies and support available to the customer at work focused-interviews. Regular contact between the CMP Manager and the Pathways to Work manager is designed to improve the delivery of the programme and enhance the customer experience.

This Department does not directly recruit practitioners of cognitive behavioural therapy or any other therapists.

Pension Centres

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the overall cost is of the 24 new pension centres. [150042]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Pension Service currently has a network of 18 pension centres.

The latest available figure for the overall cost of The Pension Service pension centres is £263 million, which covers the period April 2006 to March 2007. This is made up of £208 million for staff and £55 million for other costs.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are employed in the 24 new regional pension centres. [150043]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Pension Service currently has a network of 18 pension centres.

The latest available figure for the total number of staff employed in these pension centres at the end of May 2007 was 9,145. Due to various working patterns such as part-year contracts and reduced hours, this figure equates to 8,327 whole time equivalent staff.

Pension Credit

Dan Norris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department plans to take further to encourage eligible pensioners to claim the pension credit to which they are entitled. [149904]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Pension Service is undertaking a wide range of steps to encourage eligible pensioners to claim pension credit.

In our 2007-08 direct mailing programme, we plan to issue over 1 million letters to encourage and remind potential eligible pensioners to apply for pension credit. This will coincide with press advertising and leaflet inserts in newspapers and magazines, which will be aimed at securing the support of friends and family to encourage take-up of pension credit in areas with relatively high numbers of potentially eligible non-recipients.

To provide a better insight into our customer base, the Pension Service is making use of advanced data analysis techniques to target eligible pensioners to pension credit. The Department sourced data from Experian, a private company who are the UK's largest originators and owners of geo-demographic consumer data, and linked 15 million older peoples' accounts to provide better insight into our customer base. This tool will help us reach customer groups with low pension credit take up.

We are continuing to expand our partnership working through Joint Working Partnerships between the Pension Service local service, local authorities and the voluntary sector. The Pension Service currently has 180 operational Joint Working Partnerships with primary tier local authorities with a further 22 agreed or in the implementation stages. These partnerships help us to identify harder-to-reach customers and deliver a full and joined up services to older people.

We are also working in partnership with local authorities and the voluntary sector on our alternative office network. Alternative offices operate through partnership agreements between the Pension Service, local authorities and the voluntary sector. These offices accept applications from people aged 60 or over for social security benefits.

In addition, our local service plan to carry out around 680,000 face to face visits during 2007-08, offering a full entitlement check to the poorest and most needy older people. We will also carry out an extensive outbound telephone campaign to those who fail to respond to written invitations to apply, or who drop-out part way through the pension credit application process.

All of this activity will be supported by information on the Pension Service, DWP and DirectGov (the UK Government's digital service for all public service information and services) websites about our products and services, and continued close working with national and regional press officers to make the most of publicity and media opportunities.

Finally, as part of the transformation of the Pension Service, people can now claim state pension and pension credit over the phone. If a customer is eligible for pension credit we can also take an application for housing benefit, council tax benefit and carer's allowance during the same phone call. As part of the future programme of transformation, state pension customers will be encouraged to claim pension credit, if appropriate, when they call to notify key changes of circumstances.

Pensioners: Council Tax Benefits

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to raise the council tax benefit savings limit for pensioners. [153735]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright) on 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1735W.

Pensioners: Income

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average income of adults over the age of 65 was in each region in each year since 1997 in real terms. [150059]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information that is available is shown in the following table.

Average gross income of all pensioner units where the head is aged 65 or over by region (£ per week, 2005-06 prices)

	1997-98 to 1999-2000	*1998-99 to 2000-01*	*1999-2000 to 2001-02*	*2000-01 to 2002-03*	*2001-02 to 2003-04*	*2002-03 to 2004-05*	*2003-04 to 2005-06*
North East	223	225	234	252	264	279	272
North West	244	256	261	270	276	284	288
Yorkshire and Humber	247	259	263	268	280	289	296
East Midlands	228	234	241	256	264	277	278
West Midlands	247	259	266	273	270	277	292
Eastern	280	288	304	306	312	317	333
London	295	317	332	325	323	325	339
South East	300	314	339	357	355	359	373
South West	269	286	289	299	299	314	321
Wales	238	241	250	259	275	285	293
Scotland	258	258	265	266	274	288	293
England	264	277	288	296	299	307	316
Great Britain	262	273	284	291	296	304	313

Notes:
1. Gross income is income from all sources received by the pensioner unit including income from social security benefits, earnings from employment, any private pension, and tax credits.
2. Based on survey data and as such subject to a degree of sampling and non sampling error. Figures are based on the average of three years' data as single year estimates do not provide a robust guide to year-on-year changes. Users should not read too much into small differences between regions.
3. Figures are for Great Britain.
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £.
5. Pensioner units are either pensioner couples or single pensioners.
6. The head of the benefit unit in most cases will be the same as the head of household. Head of household is classified as the highest income householder (person in whose name the property is owned or rented) without regard to gender. For households where the pensioner benefit unit does not include the head of household, the head of benefit unit will be the first person interviewed in the benefit unit.

Source:
Pensioners' Income Series 2005-06 (Revised)

Pensions Regulator

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the powers of the Pensions Regulator; and if he will make a statement. [151383]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Judging by the recent high profile successes, the regulator has not so far found its powers a barrier to achieving its statutory objectives. The threat of the potential use of its powers has been effective in enabling the regulator to achieve successful outcomes—an approach that is in line with its risk-based regulatory approach.

The regulator approach is to use its powers where it judges it is appropriate to do so—and it has already made significant use of the wide range of powers available to it. We do, however, keep the regulator's powers under review to ensure that it is able to fully discharge its statutory objectives.

The regulator places a great deal of emphasis on its educative role and this also has proved to be a powerful tool in influencing behaviours and outcomes within the pensions and business community.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* financial support direction and *(b)* contribution notices the Pensions Regulator has imposed. [151384]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Regulator's Determinations Panel has recently determined to issue a Financial Support Direction (FSD). An appeal has subsequently been made to the Pensions Regulator Tribunal. If the appeal is unsuccessful, the FSD will come into effect from the date of determination of that appeal.

As at 20 July 2007, the regulator has yet to issue a contribution notice.

Pensions: Council Tax

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what account he takes of changes in the level of council tax in setting pension rates. [155419]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Secretary of State is required by law to review the levels of state pension and to increase those levels at least in line with prices. It has been the practice for many years to increase state pension in line with the September Retail Prices Index although for some years in the recent past it has increased by more.

In calculating the Retail Prices Index, account is taken of variations in a wide range of goods and services to reflect the typical change in costs, both increases and decreases, that people face from year to year. This includes average council tax bills for households in Great Britain.

Pensions: Lil-Lets UK Ltd

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received on the pensions funds situation of Lil-Lets UK Ltd, following the closure of the production facilities by the parent company Electra. [152673]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have received no representations on this matter.

Pensions: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average value of benefits in kind provided by the state was to *(a)* single pensioners and *(b)* pensioner couples in York in 1996-97 and each year since then in respect of (i) NHS services, (ii) social services, (iii) travel concessions, (iv) television licences, (v) insulation and home repairs and improvements and (vi) other services. [151531]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A wide range of services and benefits in kind are available to older people and these are administered both centrally and locally. As a result, the information is not available in the format requested: some information is not collected and some could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The information which is available is given as follows.

(i) *NHS services*

People aged 60 and over are able to claim free prescriptions and eye tests on the grounds of age.

Information on the value of medicines provided by the national health service (NHS) to pensioners in York cannot be provided as the information is only available at primary care trust level and there has never been an NHS organisation serving simply the York area. However, information is available for York and Selby Primary Care Trust which existed from October 2000 to September 2006.

The following table shows the estimated net ingredient cost (NIC) of medicines dispensed by the NHS in the community, to patients aged 60 and over, in the York and Selby PCT.

Financial year	*NIC (£)*[1]
2000-01 (October 2000 to March 2001)	7,113,267
2001-02	16,031,265
2002-03	18,234,442
2003-04	20,141,851
2004-05	21,771,804
2005-06	21,842,267

[1] These figures have been taken from the Prescription Cost Analysis database and are estimates based on a sample of prescriptions.

Free NHS sight tests were made available to people aged 60 and over from 1 April 1999. Information on the average value of NHS sight tests provided to people aged 60 and over within the area of the former York and Selby PCT is only available on a consistent basis for the three years 2003-04 to 2005-06 and is set out in the following table:

Financial year	*Number of free NHS sight tests given to people aged 60 and over*	*Estimated cost of NHS sight tests to people aged 60 and over (£)*
2003-04	26,254	453,144
2004-05	26,619	474,351
2005-06	25,057	460,798

Information on the age of adults who qualify for help with other NHS services or the value of such services, such as optical vouchers or relief from dental charges, is not collected centrally.

(ii) *Social services*

Social services information is not available broken down into single pensioners and pensioner couples. The following table shows the gross current expenditure by York council on social services for people aged 65 or over from 1996-97 to 2005-06.

Gross current expenditure[1] by York council on older people (aged 65 or over)

Year (1 April to 31 March)	*Gross current expenditure (£ thousand)*
1996-97	15,200
1997-98	16,300
1998-99	17,400
1999-2000	18,700
2000-01	19,100
2001-02	19,400
2002-03[2]	23,500
2003-04[3]	21,900
2004-05	25,600
2005-06	27,500

[1] Gross expenditure includes income from client contributions, but excludes capital charges and certain income items which count as expenditure elsewhere in the public sector, such as contributions from primary care trusts. This is to avoid double counting within the aggregate public sector accounts of the money involved.
[2] From 2002-03 onwards, the data include clients who transferred to council with social services responsibilities (CSSR) support on 8 April 2002, who were formally in receipt of higher rates of income support under the Department for Work and Pensions preserved rights scheme.
[3] From 2003-04, additional funding was made available to CSSRs via the Supporting People grant.
Source:
RO3 and PSS EX1 returns

(iii) *Travel concessions*

Travel concessions are provided through local authorities and information is not held centrally. Funding is through Formula Grant, a block grant, which local authorities are free to spend on any service. Local authorities have flexibility to enhance their schemes beyond the statutory minimum, so there are local variations in what is offered and take-up of concessionary travel schemes varies from one area to another.

As announced in the 2006 Budget, the national bus concession will be introduced in April 2008. The Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007 improves the geographic coverage to give those who are eligible free off-peak local bus travel in any part of England. Eligibility on age or disability remains unchanged.

(iv) *Television licences*

Free television licences for people aged 75 or over were introduced in November 2000. TV Licensing, who administer free licences as agents for the BBC, are not able to provide geographical breakdowns of licences issued. However, figures, shown in the following table, are available for the number of households with at least one person aged 75 or over claiming winter fuel payments in York local authority. These people would be eligible for a free television licence.

York local authority area

	Number of households with someone aged 75 or over
2004-05	11,685
2005-06	11,930
2006-07[1]	12,070

[1] Main payment run only

Television licence fees for each year since the concession was introduced are shown in the table as follows:

	TV licence fees (£)	
	Colour	Black and white
2000-01	104.00	34.50
2001-02	109.00	36.50
2002-03	112.00	37.50
2003-04	116.00	38.50
2004-05	121.00	40.50
2005-06	126.50	42.00
2006-07	131.50	44.00
2007-08	135.50	45.50

(v) *Insulation*

The Warm Front Scheme is the Government's main programme for tackling fuel poverty in vulnerable households in the private sector in England. Warm Front provides grants for heating, insulation and energy efficiency measures. The following table displays the number of pensioner households that have received Warm Front assistance in the York local authority area since the Scheme's inception in 2000, and the average spend on each of those households.

	Number of single pensioner households assisted in York	Average spend per single pensioner household assisted (£)	Number of two pensioners households assisted in York	Average spend per 2 pensioner household assisted (£)
2000-01	63	345.50	16	791.74
2001-02	170	502.44	43	1,156.06
2002-03	184	611.81	46	1,424.28
2003-04	82	748.75	21	1,701.55
2004-05	87	693.71	22	1,596.59
2005-06	199	778.45	102	765.08
2006-07	364	753.92	252	657.25

Personal Income

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the percentage change in net income of each income decile has been in the UK since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [151913]

Caroline Flint: Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994/95-2005/06 (Revised)".

The available information is shown in the following table.

Percentage change in income decile medians between 1996-97 and 2005-06, in 2005-06 prices

	Increase (percentage) 1996-97 to 2005-06	
Decile	Income before housing costs	Income after housing costs
1	12	15
2	24	35
3	24	38
4	22	32
5	20	28
6	19	27
7	18	26
8	18	26
9	18	26
10	23	30

Source:
Family Resources Survey

Sick Leave

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* national average rate of absence from work, *(b)* public sector average rate of absence from work through sickness and *(c)* average rate of absence from work through sickness for the Department for Work and Pensions was in each of the last 10 years. [152156]

Mr. Plaskitt: Varying information on sickness absence performance is available.

The following table is based on information from the Chartered Institute for Personnel Development's (CIPD) annual survey on absence management and represents the average number of days sickness absence per employee per year:

	National Average	Public Sector
1998	n/a	n/a
1999	9.4	n/a
2000	8.7	n/a
2001	10	n/a
2002	8.9	10.6
2003	9.1	10.7
2004	8.4	10.3
2005	8.0	9.9
2006	8.4	10.3

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). DWP was created in June 2001. The information provided before 2001 relates only to the former Department for Social Security (the main predecessor to the DWP). Information relating to the old Employment Department is unavailable.

	Department for Work and Pensions
1998	10.8
1999	10.9
2000	11.0
2001	11.1
2002	10.8
2003	11.6
2004	9.6
2005	10.1
2006	n/a

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of long-term sick leave which is due to arthritis and other musculoskeletal problems. [153303]

Mrs. McGuire: In 2005-06, an estimated 9.5 million working days were lost to musculoskeletal disorders.

This averages out at an estimated 17 days lost in each case, and is nearly a third of the estimated 30.5 million working days that were lost, in total, to work-related ill heath and injury in 2005-06.

We do not have estimates separately available for days lost specifically to arthritis.

Sick Pay: General Practitioners

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made in the provision of employment advisers in GP surgeries to advise on sick notes for statutory sick pay; and what evaluation he has made of pilot studies on such provision. [151482]

Caroline Flint: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 13 September 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what progress has been made on the provision of employment advisers in GP surgeries to advise on sick notes for statutory sick pay and what evaluation has been made of the pilot. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

We are currently piloting a Pathways Advisory Service (PAS) in GP surgeries within some Pathways to Work districts. The intention of this pilot is to test a gateway service where the personal adviser based within the surgery will provide advice on a range of work-related issues which patients may raise, and signpost them to appropriate Jobcentre Plus or external provision. Access to the PAS is voluntary, by self-referral or recommendation from a health professional and is open to any patient, although it is focused primarily on those claiming incapacity benefit or statutory sick pay. The PAS is being piloted in eight locations.

While Jobcentre Plus advisers will support customers on statutory sick pay, they do not give advice on sick notes. They do not become involved with the individual's health situation or discussions around sickness certification, other than that which the individual is happy to divulge.

The PAS is being evaluated by an independent research partnership, the University of York's Social Policy Research Unit and the National Centre for Social Research. The evaluation is due to report early in 2008.

I hope this is helpful.

Social Fund

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking in liaison with the Social Fund Commissioner to improve the accuracy of decision-making with regard to the Social Fund. [154832]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* Jobcentre Plus and the Independent Review Service are currently developing a quality framework with the aim of improving the accuracy of Social Fund decision-making.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the amount of customer error underpayments was for *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* jobseeker's allowance and *(c)* income support due to incorrect declaration of (i) full-time earnings, (ii) part-time earnings, (iii) partner earnings, (iv) capital, (v) dependants, (vi) income, (vii) a partner, (viii) identification, (ix) address, (x) housing costs, (xi) other benefits, (xii) college, (xiii) hospitalisation, (xiv) maintenance payments, (xv) non-dependants, (xvi) a prison stay and (xvii) other in each year since 1997. [147684]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available prior to 2003-04. The available information is in the following tables.

Estimated customer error underpayments in 2003-04

£ million

Reason	*Income support working age*	*Jobseeker's allowance*	*Pension credit and minimum income guarantee*
Full-time earnings	0	0	0
Part-time earnings	2	0	0
Partner earnings	0	0	2
Capital	1	1	4
Dependants	14	4	2
Income	0	0	1
Partner	0	2	0
Identification	0	0	0
Address	0	0	0
Housing Costs	0	0	1
Other benefits	21	3	14
College	0	0	0
Hospitalisation	0	0	0
Maintenance Payments	3	0	0
Non-dependants	0	1	0
Prison stay	0	0	0
Other	4	0	5

Estimated customer error underpayments in 2004-05

£ million

Reason	*Income support working age*	*Jobseeker's allowance*	*Pension credit*
Full-time earnings	0	0	0
Part-time earnings	1	0	0
Partner earnings	0	0	0
Capital	1	1	2
Dependants	8	1	1
Income	3	0	3
Partner	1	0	0
Identification	0	0	0
Address	0	0	0
Housing Costs	0	0	0
Other benefits	20	0	19
College	0	0	0
Hospitalisation	0	0	0
Maintenance Payments	3	0	0
Non-dependants	0	0	0
Prison stay	0	0	0
Other	3	0	5

Estimated customer error underpayments in 2005-06

£ million

Reason	Income support working age	Jobseeker's allowance	Pension credit
Earnings	2	0	1
Partner earnings	0	0	0
Capital	1	1	1
Dependants	1	0	0
Income	2	0	2
Partner	1	1	0
Identification	0	0	0
Address	0	0	0
Housing Costs	0	0	0
Other benefits	26	0	14
College	0	0	0
Hospitalisation	0	0	0
Maintenance Payments	3	0	0
Non-dependants	0	0	0
Prison stay	0	0	0
Other	11	0	1

Notes:
1. All the figures are estimates, derived from a random sample of benefit claims and are subject to sampling and other uncertainties.
2. All estimates have been rounded to the nearest £1 million.
3. Pension credit was introduced in October 2003 as a replacement for the minimum income guarantee (MIG). Estimates for 2003-04 are for MIG and pension credit combined.
4. The estimates presented for 2005-06 do not distinguish between full-time and part-time earnings.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the amount of customer error and fraud overpayments were for *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* jobseeker's allowance and *(c)* income support due to incorrect declaration of (i) full-time earnings, (ii) part-time earnings, (iii) partner earnings, (iv) capital, (v) dependants, (vi) income, (vii) a partner, (viii) identification, (ix) address, (x) housing costs, (xi) other benefits, (xii) college, (xiii) hospitalisation, (xiv) maintenance payments, (xv) non-dependants, (xvi) a prison stay and (xvii) other in each year since 1997. [147685]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available for 1997-98 and 1999-2000. The available information is in the following tables.

Estimated fraud and customer error overpayments in 1998-99

£ million

Estimated overpayments (reason)	Income support working age	Jobseeker's allowance	Income support pensioners
Full-time earnings	123	179	3
Part-time earnings	19	6	1
Partner earnings	10	13	2
Capital	23	10	54
Dependants	31	4	1
Income	32	7	27

Estimated fraud and customer error overpayments in 1998-99

£ million

Estimated overpayments (reason)	Income support working age	Jobseeker's allowance	Income support pensioners
Partner	196	16	2
Address and identification	47	20	19
Housing costs and other benefits	22	3	7
Other	50	12	14

Estimated fraud and customer error overpayments in 2000-01

£ million

Estimated overpayments (reason)	Income support working age	Jobseeker's allowance	Income support pensioners
Full-time earnings	108	107	4
Part-time earnings	18	10	1
Partner earnings	10	10	3
Capital	19	11	55
Dependants	37	3	2
Income	44	5	19
Partner	164	18	1
Identification	2	1	0
Address	51	18	10
Housing costs	4	1	2
Other benefits	32	3	22
College	3	11	0
Other	50	21	43

Estimated fraud and customer error overpayments in 2001-02

£ million

Estimated overpayments (reason)	Income support working age	Jobseeker's allowance	Minimum income guarantee
Full-time earnings	86	78	8
Part-time earnings	21	5	1
Partner earnings	16	6	5
Capital	34	9	46
Dependants	40	5	2
Income	32	13	26
Partner	160	21	8
Identification	1	0	0
Address	41	23	8
Housing costs	1	0	2
Other benefits	31	4	13
College	2	1	0
Other	74	21	50

Estimated fraud and customer error overpayments in 2002-03

£ million

Estimated overpayments (reason)	Income support working age	Jobseeker's allowance	Minimum income guarantee
Full-time earnings	71	68	0

Estimated fraud and customer error overpayments in 2002-03

£ million

Estimated overpayments (reason)	*Income support working age*	*Jobseeker's allowance*	*Minimum income guarantee*
Part-time earnings	25	3	1
Partner earnings	16	3	1
Capital	31	13	41
Dependants	56	6	2
Income	27	6	32
Partner	174	13	8
Identification	0	1	0
Address	49	16	5
Housing costs	0	1	1
Other benefits	26	3	9
College	4	1	0
Hospitalisation	0	0	3
Maintenance payments	16	1	0
Non-dependants	2	0	0
Prison stay	3	0	0
Other	33	8	25

Estimated fraud and customer error overpayments in 2003-04

£ million

Estimated overpayments (reason)	*Income support working age*	*Jobseeker's allowance*	*Pension credit and minimum income guarantee*
Full-time earnings	52	39	6
Part-time earnings	16	4	7
Partner earnings	10	2	2
Capital	37	15	40
Dependants	43	8	1
Income	20	9	35
Partner	138	15	4
Identification	0	1	0
Address	26	18	8
Housing costs	0	0	0
Other benefits	16	5	18
College	5	1	0
Hospitalisation	0	0	3
Maintenance payments	13	3	0
Non-dependants	0	1	2
Prison stay	4	0	0
Other	37	15	38

Estimated fraud and customer error overpayments in 2004-05

£ million

Estimated overpayments (reason)	*Income support working age*	*Jobseeker's allowance*	*Pension credit*
Full-time earnings	34	16	2
Part-time earnings	12	3	2
Partner earnings	10	4	6

Estimated fraud and customer error overpayments in 2004-05

£ million

Estimated overpayments (reason)	*Income support working age*	*Jobseeker's allowance*	*Pension credit*
Capital	42	8	34
Dependants	37	6	2
Income	33	11	33
Partner	92	9	5
Identification	0	0	0
Address	19	11	11
Housing costs	2	0	1
Other benefits	17	2	23
College	3	1	0
Hospitalisation	1	0	1
Maintenance payments	15	1	1
Non-dependants	0	0	1
Prison stay	6	1	0
Other	23	7	31

Estimated fraud and customer error overpayments in 2005-06

£ million

Estimated overpayments (reason)	*Income support working age*	*Jobseeker's allowance*	*Pension credit*
Earnings	36	18	8
Partner earnings	10	5	3
Capital	50	8	33
Dependants	27	1	0
Income	24	3	36
Partner	66	5	4
Identification	0	0	0
Address	12	1	3
Housing costs	0	0	0
Other benefits	38	1	19
College	0	1	0
Hospitalisation	2	0	0
Maintenance payments	17	0	0
Non-dependants	0	0	0
Prison stay	3	0	0
Other	46	15	32

Notes:

1. All the figures are estimates, derived from a random sample of benefit claims and are subject to sampling and other uncertainties.
2. All estimates have been rounded to the nearest £1 million.
3. Estimates are not available in this form for 1997-98 and 1999-2000.
4. Pension credit was introduced in October 2003 as a replacement for the minimum income guarantee (MIG). Estimates for 2003-04 are for MIG and pension credit combined.
5. All income support pensioners estimates have been presented separately from income support working age, for comparison with the minimum income guarantee and pension credit.
6. Prior to 2002-03, separate estimates for hospitalisation, maintenance payments, non-dependants and prison stays have been included in the 'other' category, as was 'college' for 1998-99.
7. The estimates presented for 2005-06 do not distinguish between full-time and part-time earnings.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received *(a)* housing benefit, *(b)* incapacity benefit, *(c)* jobseeker's allowance, *(d)* carer's allowance and *(e)* disability living allowance in each of the last 10 years, broken down by region. [150064]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of those in receipt of *(a)* income support, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* jobseeker's allowance in each year since 1997 had been on benefit for more than 12 months; and what proportion of claimants those figures represent in each year. [152041]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following tables.

Income support (IS) claimants with duration of more than 12 months

Quarter ending November	Number	Percentage
1997	1,701,600	74.6
1998	1,678,400	75.4
1999	1,688,240	74.9
2000	1,732,340	76.7
2001	1,767,800	78.3
2002	1,763,670	78.6
2003	1,754,780	79.1
2004	1,740,100	80.3
2005	1,712,620	80.5
2006	1,702,540	79.9

Notes:
1. November 1997 and November 1998 figures are produced from 5 per cent. data, uprated to WPLS totals and rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Figures after November 1999 are produced from WPLS and rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Percentages are rounded to 1 decimal place.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. WPLS and 5 per cent sample.

Incapacity benefit (IB)/Severe disablement allowance (SDA) claimants with claim durations of more than 12 months

Quarter ending November	Number	Percentage
1997	2,264,200	79.8
1998	2,279,500	82.4
1999	2,229,340	81.4
2000	2,269,640	82.1
2001	2,312,960	83.0
2002	2,327,100	82.6
2003	2,362,260	83.7
2004	2,367,820	84.1

Incapacity benefit (IB)/Severe disablement allowance (SDA) claimants with claim durations of more than 12 months

Quarter ending November	Number	Percentage
2005	2,352,650	85.5
2006	2,314,110	85.2

Notes:
1. November 1997 and November 1998 figures are produced from 5 per cent. data, uprated to WPLS totals and rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Figures after November 1999 are produced from WPLS and rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Percentages are rounded to 1 decimal place.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent WPLS and 5 per cent sample.

Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants with claim durations of more than 12 months

Quarter ending November	Number	Percentage
1997	385,620	29.2
1998	317,780	26.1
1999	260,635	23.8
2000	204,475	21.4
2001	161,130	18.3
2002	135,750	15.8
2003	130,435	15.5
2004	119,135	15.5
2005	120,060	14.3
2006	152,770	17.1

Notes:
1. Caseload figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.
2. Percentages are rounded to 1 decimal place.
Source:
100 per cent. count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus Computer Systems.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of disabled people receiving *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* severe disablement allowance, *(c)* housing benefit, *(d)* independent living fund, *(e)* incapacity benefit, *(f)* community care grant, *(g)* disabled facilities grant, *(h)* industrial injuries disablement benefit, *(i)* carers' allowance and *(j)* income support. [153589]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Numbers of disabled people in receipt of benefits: GB

	Date	Claimants
Disability Living Allowance (DLA)	November 2006	2,845,750
Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA)	November 2006	273,190
Housing Benefit (HB) with Disability Premium	May 2004	946,000
Independent Living Fund (ILF)	July 2007	20,003
Incapacity Benefit (IB)	November 2006	2,441,030
Community Care Grant (CCG)	2005-06	95,910
Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB)	September 2006	336,020
Carers' Allowance (CA)	November 2006	458,930

Numbers of disabled people in receipt of benefits: GB

	Date	Claimants
Income Support (IS) with Disability Premium	November 2006	1,114,020

Notes:
1. IS figures exclude residual MIG claimants.
2. IS, SDA, IB, DLA, CA and IIDB figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and HB figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.
3. HB figures are based on one per cent samples and are subject to sampling variation while IS, SDA, IB, DLA, CA are based on 100 per cent. data.
4. HB data excludes any Extended Payment cases.
5. For HB and IS, disabled claimants have been defined as those in receipt of a disability premium.
6. Totals for DLA, CA and IIDB show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
7. Community Care Grants are not on-going benefits but one-off payments. Some applicants may make more than one successful application during one year.
8. The initial decision on a Community Care Grant application may, at the applicant's request, be reviewed by Jobcentre Plus and then possibly also by the Independent Review Service for the Social Fund.
9. Community Care Grant applications included those where:
The applicant was disabled.
The final decision was in 2005-06. (The final decision on an application is the initial decision if the application was not reviewed or the final review decision if the application went to review.)
The application was successful (that is, an award was made either initially and/or on review).
From these applications, the number of successful disabled applicants has been counted.
10. The figure for Community Care Grants has been rounded to the nearest 10.
Sources:
1. 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.
2. Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System, Annual 1 per cent. sample.
3. Information Directorate 100 per cent. QSE data.
4. Independent Living Funds.
5. Scan of the Community Care Grant final decisions taken in 2005-06 and held on the Social Fund Computer System on 30 September 2006.

The Disabled Facilities Grant is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people of working age were *(a)* claiming out-of-work benefits, *(b)* claiming unemployment benefit, *(c)* lone parents claiming income support, *(d)* claiming incapacity benefit and *(e)* claiming any other out-of-work benefit in (i) May 1992, (ii) May 1997 and (iii) May 1999. [155082]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 10 September 2007]*: The available information is in the following table.

Number of claimants of out-of-work benefits in Great Britain

	Quarter ending		
	May 1992	May 1997	May 1999
Total claiming out of work benefits	n/a	5,442,700	5,033,100
Unemployed	2,592,600	1,556,000	1,220,300
Incapacity benefits	1,891,200	2,616,300	2,653,900
Income support lone parents	956,700	1,014,200	936,600
Other income support	n/a	256,200	222,300

n/a=figures not available
Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Figures constructed using NOMIS claimant count data, 5 per cent. and 1 per cent. sample data.
3. Incapacity benefit (IB) replaced invalidity benefit (IVB) and sickness benefit (SB) in April 1995.
4. All figures are GB (not seasonally adjusted), except jobseeker's allowance (JSA) which is seasonally adjusted.
5. Incapacity benefits category is made up of IVB, SB and severe disability allowance (SDA) claimants for May 1992, and IB/SDA claimants thereafter.
6. Unemployed category is taken from the seasonally adjusted JSA claimant count for GB published by ONS. Time series data are available from www.nomisweb.co.uk. This 100 per cent. series is the most reliable and up-to-date source for claimant unemployment.
7. This table includes the main out-of-work client group categories, with the exception of carers who are not subject to activation policies in the same way as other groups.
8. This series consists of an earlier consistent series for caseload created by combining older information, available from the previously published 5 per cent. sample data, with the WPLS data. The series are published by DWP at http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/tabtools/timeseriesIBSDA.xls and http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/tabtools/timeseriesIS.xls.
9. Figures contain a small number of overlap cases of Lone parents on income support who are also receiving incapacity benefits.
10. Figures exclude around 86,000 claimants in receipt of income support and carers allowance.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample scans of IS, IB, SDA, and seasonally adjusted count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems.

Social Security Benefits: EC Nationals

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will break down by nationality the number of national insurance numbers issued to EU citizens since 1st January 2004. [151635]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table.

National insurance number registrations to EU citizens between 1 January 2004 and 5 April 2007.

	Number
Austria	4,640
Belgium	5,730
Bulgaria	12,440
Cyprus	3,070
Czech Rep	32,730
Denmark	7,230
Finland	4,330
France	55,130
Germany	42,200
Greece	10,720
Hungary	23,730
Italy	34,940
Luxembourg	220
Malta	1,810
Netherlands	24,060
Poland	460,780
Portugal	39,640
Rep of Estonia	6,900
Rep of Ireland	32,210
Rep of Latvia	32,230
Rep of Lithuania	72,230
Rep of Slovenia	1,880
Romania	11,730
Slovak Rep	68,220
All EU	1,038,470

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Numbers are based on 100 per cent. data from the national insurance recording system (NIRS).

Source:
100 per cent. sample at 14 May 2007 from the national insurance recording system (NIRS).

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was lost due to *(a)* benefit fraud and *(b)* error in the granting of benefits in each year since 1997. [150050]

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of *(a)* fraud and *(b)* error in benefit payments administered by his Department in each year since 1997. [151634]

Mr. Plaskitt: Reliable estimates are not available from 1997-98 to 1999-2000. The available information is in the following table.

Fraud and error in benefit payments

	Fraud	*£ billion Error*
2000-01	2.2	1.1
2001-02	2.2	1.2
2002-03	1.8	1.3
2003-04	1.0	1.6
2004-05	0.8	1.7
2005-06	0.7	1.9

Notes:
1. The 2005-06 results in the table were first published as National Statistics in February 2007. However, the forthcoming DWP Resource Account will include a restatement of a previous estimate of 2005-06 overpayments, which will differ slightly from this estimate. The 2005-06 results are also being rebaselined, and an updated version will be published as National Statistics later in 2007.
2. From 2003-04 the methodology for estimating fraud and error changed, and pre 2003-04 estimates are not directly comparable with those since.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of fraudulent claims for *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* winter fuel payment, *(c)* attendance allowance, *(d)* disability living allowance, *(e)* carer's allowance, *(f)* housing benefit, *(g)* statutory sick pay, *(h)* incapacity benefit, *(i)* income support and *(j)* jobseeker's allowance in each year from 1997 to 2007. [152742]

Mr. Plaskitt: Estimates of fraud and error in income support, jobseeker's allowance, pension credit and housing benefit can be found in National Statistics reports, and additional tables on the Department's website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd2/fraud_error.asp.

No estimates are available for attendance allowance, winter fuel payments or statutory sick pay. The available estimates for other benefits are in the following tables. These estimates are consistent with the methodology used for those presented for 2003-04 onwards in the Department's resource accounts. For some benefits, estimates before 2003-04 will differ from figures published earlier due to improved assumptions and methodology.

Estimates of fraud in carer's allowance

	Percentage of overspend	*Overpaid (£ million)*
1996-97	3.9	30
1997-98	3.9	30
1998-99	3.9	30
1999-2000	3.9	30
2000-01	3.9	30
2001-02	3.9	40
2002-03	3.9	40
2003-04	3.9	40
2004-05	3.9	40
2005-06	3.9	40

Notes:
1. Carer's allowance is not reviewed regularly. These estimates are based on the assumption that the percentage of expenditure overpaid has remained constant since it was last reviewed in 1996.
2. Estimates are rounded to the nearest £10 million. The totals may appear different from the sum of the components due to this rounding.

Estimates of fraud in incapacity benefit

	Percentage of overspend	Overpaid (£ million)
2000-01	0.1	10
2001-02	0.1	10
2002-03	0.1	10
2003-04	0.1	10
2004-05	0.1	10
2005-06	0.1	10

Notes
1. Fraud and error in incapacity benefit is not measured every year. The last full review was in 2000-01. As there has been no measurement in other years, it is assumed that the percentage level of fraud and customer error have remained constant. All of the fraud and customer error estimates are calculated by applying the percentage overpaid in 2000-01 to the annual expenditure on incapacity benefit.
2. As the measurement system is based on the examination of a sample of the incapacity benefit caseload, the estimates are subject to a degree of statistical uncertainty.
3. Estimates rounded to the nearest 0.1 per cent. or £10 million. The totals may appear different from the sum of the components due to this rounding.

Estimates of fraud in disability living allowance

	Percentage of overspend	Overpaid (£ million)
2001-02	0.5	30
2002-03	0.5	30
2003-04	0.5	40
2004-05	0.5	40
2005-06	0.5	40

Notes
1. DLA was last reviewed in 2005. Estimates for 2003-04 onwards, as presented in the Department's Resource Accounts are based on the assumption that the proportion of expenditure overpaid has not changed.
2. The 2004-05 DLA National Benefit Review identified cases where the change in customer's needs have been so gradual that it would be unreasonable to expect them to know at which point their entitlement to DLA might have changed. These cases do not result in a recoverable overpayment as we cannot quantify or define when the customer's change occurred.
3. Because legislation requires the Secretary of State to prove that entitlement to DLA is incorrect, rather than requiring the customer to inform us that their needs have changed, cases in this subcategory are legally correct. The difference between what claimants in these cases are receiving in DLA and what they would receive if their benefit was reassessed is estimated to be around £600 million a year.
4. Estimates rounded to the nearest 0.1 per cent. or £10 million. The totals may appear different from the sum of the components due to this rounding.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list the initiatives taken by the Government since 1997 to tackle benefit fraud; and what the *(a)* cost of the initiative, *(b)* value of the fraud discovered and *(c)* number of prosecutions resulting from the initiative was in each case. [153052]

Mr. Plaskitt: It is not possible to separate the total cost of the fraud reduction elements of the Department's work. The Department's overall aim is to have a benefit system which is accurate from first claim to final payment. This means safeguarding the benefit system from loss due to fraud is integral to the work of staff in benefits administration as well as those working specifically on fraud.

Since 1997, the Department has developed and implemented a comprehensive strategy for reducing fraud. On 13 October 2005, the Government published their strategy paper "Reducing Fraud in the Benefit System - Achievements and Ambitions". Fraud is now at its lowest ever recorded; figures for 2005-06 show fraud estimated to be £0.7 billion (0.6 per cent. of benefit spend) around two thirds lower than estimated for 2000-01 (£2 billion, 2 per cent. of benefit spend).

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people who were investigated for benefit fraud were subsequently *(a)* cautioned and *(b)* prosecuted and convicted in each year since 1997; and how many of those convicted received (i) a custodial sentence, (ii) a community sentence and (iii) a discharge in each year. [153054]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available before 1999-2000. The available information is in the following tables.

Number of people investigated for benefit fraud who were subsequently cautioned or convicted

	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Cautions	5,548	7,841	7,029	7,084	8,131	9,995	10,543	11,976
Convictions	8,768	11,136	10,911	9,044	8,724	8,097	8,103	6,332

Number of DWP fraud convictions that led to custodial sentences, community sentences and discharges

	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Imprisonment	445	523	501	345	381	344	411	262
Imprisonment Suspended	99	125	158	93	111	133	250	481
Community Service	2,178	2,667	3,017	2,762	2,524	2,423	2,833	2,353
Conditional Discharge	2,492	3,283	3,113	2,622	2,864	2,589	2,374	1,704
Absolute Discharge	126	114	155	99	80	70	71	67

Notes:
1. Figures include general matching service and instrument of payment cases.
2. Figures exclude organised fraud cases.
Source
DWP Fraud Information by Sector computer system.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total value of benefit fraud was in respect of cases investigated resulting in *(a)* cautions and *(b)* prosecutions in each year since 1997; and what those values were broken down by benefit. [153055]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases of *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* council tax benefit fraud were detected

in each year since 1997; and how many successful prosecutions were brought in each year. [153056]

Mr. Plaskitt: Figures for detected fraud by local authorities are not available. The available information is in the following table:

Successful Prosecutions by Local Authorities for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Fraud

	Number
1997-98	700
1998-99	800
1999-2000	860
2000-01	1,100
2001-02	1,732
2002-03	2,503
2003-04	3,747
2004-05	4,688
2005-06	6,234
2006-07	5,727

Source:
From 2001-02 onwards the numbers of prosecutions are taken from subsidy claim forms. Prior to this the numbers are taken from management information returns.

Social Security Benefits: ICT

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what changes *(a)* have been made and *(b)* are planned to IT systems in order to enable the delivery of the employment and support allowance. [150851]

Caroline Flint: No changes have made to IT systems to enable the Delivery of employment and support allowance at this stage.

The Employment and Support Allowance IS/IT Feasibility Study recommended a technical solution for the employment and support allowance which builds on existing successful IS/IT developments within DWP. This is mainly made up of a:

Siebel front-end based on the re-use of Pensions Transformation Project Customer Account Management.

New legacy mainframe-based service built on an extension of jobseeker's allowance payment system for payment and award functionality.

This is the bulk of the IS/IT change required for employment and support allowance (ESA) introduction.

However, like any major welfare reform the ESA programme will have wide-ranging impacts throughout DWP, other Government Departments and local authorities. To date, the programme has identified and engaged a range of internal and external stakeholders and have IS/IT plans at various stages of maturity.

Social Security Benefits: Lone Parents

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many single *(a)* women and *(b)* men with children had their benefits withdrawn in each of the last five years. [148304]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

State Retirement Pensions: Overseas Residence

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many UK state pensions were paid to people residing in each country outside the European Economic Area with which the UK does not have a reciprocal social security arrangement covering uprating of UK state pensions in each year since 1997, broken down by country. [152709]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is lengthy and detailed and therefore has been placed in the Library.

Unemployment Benefits

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research his Department has undertaken into the merits of time-limited unemployment benefits. [149483]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department has not carried out any recent research into the merits of time-limiting unemployment benefits.

Unemployment Benefits: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on benefits for unemployed people in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in (i) April 1997 and (ii) in the most recent month for which figures are available, broken down by type of benefit. [151412]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information available is in the following table.

Spend on benefits for unemployed people in (a) Eastbourne and (b) East Sussex in (i) 1997-98 and (ii) 2006-07

	£ million (2007-08 prices)	
	1997-98	*2006-07*
Eastbourne Local Authority District		
Jobseeker's Allowance (Income-based)	5.2	3.8
Jobseeker's Allowance (Contribution-based)	0.9	0.3
East Sussex County		
Jobseeker's Allowance (Income-based)	27.6	15.5
Jobseeker's Allowance (Contribution-based)	4.1	2.3

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest £100,000.
2. Figures are consistent with Budget 2007 published expenditure.
3. Figures cover the financial years 1997-98, and 2006-07; monthly figures are not comparable due to seasonality of unemployment.
4. Figures for 2006-07 are estimates, including partially forecast information.
5. Expenditure at this level is estimated using 5 per cent. samples and figures are therefore subject to sampling variation.
6. Jobseeker's allowance (income-based) figures include claimants in receipt of income-based jobseeker's allowance who would also be entitled to the contributory element.
7. Jobseeker's allowance (contribution-based) figures include claimants in receipt of income-based jobseeker's allowance who would also be entitled to the contributory element. Only the amount of income-based award above the level of contribution-based award is included in this.
8. A significant proportion of jobseeker's allowance recipients also receive housing benefit and council tax benefit. Information on expenditure on these benefits is not available at this level.
9. East Sussex county does not include Brighton and Hove unitary authority.

Source:
DWP Expenditure tables and Information Directorate, 5 per cent. samples.

Unemployment Benefits: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the cost of benefits paid to people who were unemployed and seeking work in the City of York in *(a)* 1996 and *(b)* 2006-07, at 2006-07 prices. [155276]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* The cost of benefits paid to people who were unemployed and seeking work in the City of York constituency was £9.9 million in 1996-97 in 2006-07 prices, and is estimated to be £4.3 million in 2006-07.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate 5 per cent. and 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study data and Department for Work and Pensions Benefit Expenditure Forecasts.

Unemployment: Social Rented Housing

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the incidence of unemployment and economic inactivity in social housing tenants. [152593]

Mr. Plaskitt: DWP provided a significant amount of analysis for Professor John Hills, who carried out an assessment of the role of social housing in the 21 century.

The Department has commissioned the Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research at Sheffield Hallam university to undertake research into the links between social housing and worklessness. The research is expected to report towards the end of this year.

The Department is also currently carrying out analysis to quantify how much worklessness in the social rented sector is explained by characteristics of social tenants.

Vacancies: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many unfilled job vacancies there were at York Jobcentre at *(a)* 1 January and *(b)* 1 July in each year since 2000. [152209]

Caroline Flint: The available information is in the following table.

	Number of unfilled vacancies at York Jobcentre
July 2004	4,510
January 2005	3,650
July 2005	3,180
January 2006	2,650
July 2006	1,580
January 2007	1,190

Notes:

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Information is only available at parliamentary constituency level and below from April 2004.
3. Figures are not fully comparable over time and may not indicate developments in the labour market.

There are two Jobcentres in York; Stonebow House and Monkgate. Figures are for York vacancies which are registered at Stonebow House but available to the public at both offices.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Charter of Fundamental Rights (EU)

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) if he will list the representations made to him on the justiciability of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the United Kingdom, under the auspices of the draft EU treaty on constitutional arrangements; [155583]

(2) what *(a)* political and *(b)* legal agreements were made at the EU Foreign Ministers meeting of 7 and 8 September in relation to the draft EU treaty on constitutional arrangements; and if he will make a statement; [155584]

(3) whether the Government requested changes to the wording of the draft EU treaty on constitutional arrangements in relation to the Charter of Fundamental Rights at the EU Foreign Ministers meeting of 7 and 8 September; [155585]

(4) whether he has had any discussions with representatives of the trade unions on the justiciability of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the UK under the auspices of the draft EU treaty on constitutional arrangements; [155586]

(5) whether the United Kingdom has an opt out from the Charter of Fundamental Rights appended to the draft EU treaty on constitutional arrangements. [155587]

Mr. Jim Murphy: There has never been a draft EU Treaty on constitutional arrangements. The Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, on which the Government proposed a referendum, is now defunct. The mandate for a Reform Treaty agreed by the European Council states clearly:

> "The constitutional concept, which consisted in repealing all existing Treaties and replacing them by a single text called "Constitution", is abandoned".

China: Hacking

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information the Government have collected on the hacking into of *(a)* Government, *(b)* Parliament and *(c)* UK commerce and industry computers and databases from China; and what action he has taken with the Chinese Government to halt such activity. [155536]

Mr. Jim Murphy: It is the long-standing policy of the Government not to comment on national security issues.

Attacks on computer systems are an increasing worldwide phenomenon, and the need to manage the consequent risks to information held on these systems is taken very seriously by the Government. Both the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure and Communications Electronic Security Group (part of Government Communications Headquarters) play a key role in providing IT security advice to UK Government and industry, and a framework of measures is in place to protect vital systems from attacks.

Departments: Minister for Women

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* ministerial committees and *(b)* permanent groups involving senior civil servants have been set up by his Department to liaise with the Ministers for Women. [155433]

Mr. Jim Murphy: No ministerial committees or permanent groups involving senior civil servants have been set up by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) for liaison with the Ministers for Women. As with all cross-cutting issues, FCO Ministers and officials liaise with the Ministers for Women when relevant.

Iraq: Entry Clearances

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in reviewing the applications of Iraqi interpreters who have worked for British forces in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [155059]

David Miliband: *[holding answer 10 September 2007]*: As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said on 8 August, we are extremely grateful for the service of locally employed staff in Iraq and recognise that there are concerns about their safety. Interested Departments, including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Ministry of Defence, the Department for International Development and the Home Office are reviewing, as a matter of urgency, the assistance we provide to Iraqis who work, or have worked, for the Government.

Kosovo

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* action the UK Government has taken and *(b)* discussions it has had since 1 July on the future status of Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [155535]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK has been working with our partners in the Contact Group and with other members of the Security Council to resolve Kosovo's final status. Following Russian opposition to a Security Council resolution implementing UN Special Envoy Ahtisaari's proposals, the Contact Group agreed to establish a further period of discussions between Belgrade and Pristina, facilitated by an EU-US-Russia Troika. The Contact Group will report back to the UN Secretary-General on those discussions by 10 December.

The UK has engaged extensively on the Kosovo issue. The UK has participated in numerous Contact Group discussions with the Troika. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has also discussed Kosovo with EU Troika representative Ambassador Ischinger, with UN Special Envoy Ahtisaari, in EU Foreign Ministers' meetings and in bilateral discussions with EU colleagues. We have also remained in close touch with Belgrade and Pristina, encouraging them to engage constructively in the process. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will be chairing a ministerial meeting of the Contact Group, along with the Troika, in New York on 27 September.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the implementation of the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement; whether the deadlines in Appendix A of the agreement have been met; and if he will make a statement. [151031]

Meg Munn: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1587-88W.

Turkey: Kurds

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the killing of Kurdish civilians in Turkey by Turkish armed forces and law enforcement agencies over the last three months; and if he will make a statement. [155534]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We are aware of a number of Kurds having been killed in Turkey over the last three months. The Turkish authorities report that all those killed by the armed forces were terrorists directly involved in combat operations in the ongoing Kurdish separatist struggle in the south-east. We are also aware of a number of Turkish army personnel having been killed in the region, both in security operations and in periodic attacks by separatists on Turkish army targets.

The overall socio-economic situation in the south-east remains difficult and we continue to press the Turkish government to pursue a comprehensive strategy of reforms to resolve outstanding issues.

Zimbabwe: Diplomatic Relations

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions British ambassadors, high commissioners or other diplomatic staff have met *(a)* Robert Mugabe and *(b)* other members of the Zimbabwean Government in the last three years, broken down by (i) date and (ii) place of meeting. [155567]

Mr. Jim Murphy: In the last three years, there have been two formal meetings with President Mugabe, when our former and current ambassadors presented credentials at State House. These were in July 2004 and February 2006. Over the same period, a broad range of contacts have taken place between British diplomats and members of the Government of Zimbabwe as well as other Zimbabweans. These have included both formal meetings on issues of interest/concern and

informal encounters at various events where views have been exchanged. A fully comprehensive record of all such meetings and encounters is not maintained.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 284-85W, on asylum seekers, (1) whether the working group on asylum seekers and failed asylum seekers will include representatives of local authorities with the highest number of failed asylum seekers awaiting deportation; [154988]

(2) what *(a)* resources and *(b)* information the working group on asylum seekers and failed asylum seekers will have available to them; [154989]

(3) what commitment she has made to implement the recommendations of the working group on asylum seekers and failed asylum seekers; and if she will make a statement; [154990]

(4) what powers the working group on asylum seekers and failed asylum seekers will have to obtain information on the costs of supporting failed asylum seekers not funded by her Department from local authorities; [154991]

(5) when the working group on asylum seekers and failed asylum seekers will be established; and on the basis of which criteria its members will be selected. [154992]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 10 September 2007]*: Since the original proposal for the establishment of a working group, we have concluded that this would not be the best way to move forward the specific concerns raised by local authorities and other steps have therefore been taken. The Border and Immigration Agency has carried out a formal public consultation on the arrangements for unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) which includes specific proposals addressing local authority concerns about arrangements for leaving care support for former UASC. On concerns relating to local authority support for people with no recourse to public funds, the Agency has been working closely with the No Recourse to Public Funds National Network (NN NRPF) which was established to address the challenges faced by local authorities in dealing with the NRPF issue. In 2006-07 the Border and Immigration Agency provided the network with a funding grant towards the cost of setting up and co-ordinating network activities and work is in progress to further enhance our relationship and partnership working with the network.

The Border and Immigration Agency liaises with authorities locally through the offices of its new Regional Directors. At the national level, the Border and Immigration Agency has established a Local Authority Taskforce, working in partnership with a number of individual local authorities focussing on issues related to people subject to immigration control, and also engages with local authorities through the National Asylum Support Forum and the LGA (Local Government Association) Asylum and Refugee Task Group.

Border and Immigration Agency: Higher Civil Servants

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many assistant directors of immigration services are in post; and where they are based. [155141]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 September 2007]*: The number of Border and Immigration Agency permanent staff who would normally be described as assistant director, is recorded in the Home Office computerised personnel system ADELPHI as 357 on a full-time equivalency basis.

Border and Immigration Agency: Standards

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what performance indicators are used for the immigration services. [155140]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 September 2007]*: The Border and Immigration Agency published its business plan on 14 June. This includes the key measures of performance that have been set in 2007-08 as it transitions from the Immigration and Nationality Directorate to a fully operational agency. A copy of the Business plan has been placed in the House Library.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 670W, on Departments: Manpower, what the estimated yearly cost is of employing the 99 staff referred to. [146884]

Mr. Byrne: Based on the grades of the 99 members of staff, and the average yearly cost to the Department of employing persons at each grade, we estimate that the yearly cost of employing the 99 members of staff to be in the region of £3,288,600. These staff have either found new posts or are undertaking work for the Department.

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by her Department on staff away days in the last 12 months. [153138]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office accounting system does not separately identify expenditure on staff away days. To provide the detail requested would incur disproportionate cost.

EU Law: Human Trafficking

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer given on 12 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1635W, on EU Law: Human Trafficking, what changes to domestic legislation processes and guidance are required before the UK will ratify the treaty; what progress has been made to date on each of those changes; and what the anticipated date is by which all such changes will be complete. [155307]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* A dedicated project team within the Border and Immigration Agency has been set up to lead implementation of the convention and is reporting to a cross-Government project board and ministerial group. The UK is already largely compliant with the provisions of the convention but part of the ongoing work is to establish exactly what legislation, guidance and training is required to make us fully compliant. As we develop implementation options we will consult with stakeholders within and outside Government, including via our established non-governmental organisation (NGO) stakeholder group, chaired by myself and the Solicitor-General. It is recognised that it will take some time to move from signature to ratification of the convention as the Government are committed to implementing the convention fully and in accordance with our ongoing strategy on trafficking outlined in the UK's Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking.

Genetics: Databases

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of those imprisoned since 1997 have their records on the national DNA database. [155257]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the right hon. Member for Haltemprice and Howden (David Davis) on 9 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 541W.

Illegal Immigrants

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many injuries were caused to lorry drivers by attempted illegal immigrants at the Channel ports in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2004; how many have been caused in 2007; and if she will make a statement. [155256]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* The Border and Immigration Agency is not advised of the incidents of injuries sustained by lorry drivers from illegal immigrants attempting to enter the United Kingdom and consequently does not compile statistics. Such incidents should be reported to the police authorities in the appropriate country.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many attempted illegal immigrants were detected in lorries passing through the Channel ports in *(a)* the first six months of 2007, *(b)* the final six months of 2006, *(c)* the first six months of 2006, *(d)* the final six months of 2005 and *(e)* the first six months of 2005. [155260]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* These statistics are not published.

National statistics were published in the Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2006 Command Paper on 21 August. Copies of this publication will be available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Locally collated management information shows the number of illegal immigrants who were detected in lorries entering the UK through our channel ports as follows:

	Number
January-June 2005	105
July-December 2005	87
January-June 2006	99
July-December 2006	122
January-June 2007	114

Locally collated management information also shows the following attempts to reach the UK by departure through continental channel ports. These individuals were prevented from reaching the UK by UK Immigration staff at our juxtaposed controls as well as by French security.

	Number
January-June 2005	6,085
July-December 2005	7,172
January-June 2006	7,198
July-December 2006	8,099
January-June 2007	5,871

The statistical information provided is based on locally collated management information and as such is subject to change.

Immigrants: Criminal Records

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many entry refusals there were of *(a)* EU and *(b)* non-EU nationals on the basis of their criminal records in each of the last three years; and what the estimated cost was to public funds of those refusals. [154949]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* Published statistics are not broken down to the same level of detail. National refusal statistics were published in the Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2006 Command Paper on 21 August. Copies of this publication will be available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

The following information is based on locally collated management information and as such is subject to change.

Port refusal made under the given refusal codes, all ports, 2004-06

	Nationality group	*Port refusal—Convicted of a criminal offence in the UK/abroad*
2004	EU nationals	6
	Non-EU nationals	79
2005	EU nationals	2
	Non-EU nationals	203
2006	EU nationals	2
	Non-EU nationals	146

The information requested in relation to the estimated costs to public funds could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Immigration: Skilled Workers

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate her Department has made of the number of people resident in the United Kingdom who will be affected by the retrospective changes to the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme; and if she will make a statement. [155538]

Mr. Byrne: The November 2006 changes to the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme affect all those making applications for initial leave or extensions of leave under the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme from the date the new rules came into effect. They are not retrospective.

Immigration Officers: Corruption

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigration officers were prosecuted for corruption in each of the last five years. [155138]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* No immigration officers have been prosecuted for corruption in the last five years.

Immigration: Ministers of Religion

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will break down the Ministers of Religion in Table 2.2 of Control of Immigration Statistics UK 2006, by faith group. [155259]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* The requested breakdown is not available.

Police Custody: Death

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many deaths there were in police custody in each of the last five years. [155346]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* Responsibility for the collation and publication of statistics relating to deaths in police custody rests with the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

Police: Manpower

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers, *(b)* police community support officers and *(c)* civilians staff were employed per capita of general population in each police authority in (i) 1997, (ii) 2002 and (iii) 2007. [155289]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* The requested information is shown in the following tables.

Police officers per 100,000 population[1] (FTE)[2] by police force as at 31 March 1997, 2002 and 2007[3, 4]

	As at 31 March each year		
Police force	*1997*	*2002*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	202	209	224
Bedfordshire	198	189	207
Cambridgeshire	183	192	187
Cheshire	208	209	225
Cleveland	263	270	315
Cumbria	232	226	255
Derbyshire	185	193	209
Devon and Cornwall	185	193	216
Dorset	187	199	217
Durham	240	273	285
Essex	194	182	203
Gloucestershire	203	209	229
Greater Manchester	269	291	314
Hampshire	196	196	215
Hertfordshire	202	176	210
Humberside	231	237	251
Kent	208	212	229
Lancashire	228	233	252
Leicestershire	210	227	237
Lincolnshire	193	185	183
London, City of[5]	—	—	—
Merseyside	299	303	325
Metropolitan Police	361	376	426
Norfolk	183	184	191
Northamptonshire	193	193	200
Northumbria	257	284	283
North Yorkshire	181	189	217
Nottinghamshire	225	229	235
South Yorkshire	242	253	256
Staffordshire	209	204	219
Suffolk	176	180	196
Surrey	206	188	183
Sussex	207	193	205
Thames Valley	177	180	199
Warwickshire	184	191	199
West Mercia	181	174	205
West Midlands	270	301	318
West Yorkshire	247	235	270
Wiltshire	193	189	192
Dyfed-Powys	210	232	236
Gwent	223	241	268
North Wales	209	227	238
South Wales	241	269	273

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] Full-time equivalent excludes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[3] Boundary changes on 1 April 1996 transferred resources for the policing of the Rhmney Valley from South Wales police to Gwent police.
4 Boundary changes on 1 April 2000 transferred some resources from the Metropolitan police to Essex, Hertfordshire and Surrey police forces.
[5] Officers per 100,000 population for City of London and Metropolitan police are combined.

Police community support officers per 100,000 population[1] (FTE)[2] by police force as at 31 March 2007[3]

Police force	Number
Avon and Somerset	20
Bedfordshire	14
Cambridgeshire	25
Cheshire	18
Cleveland	21
Cumbria	17
Derbyshire	18
Devon and Cornwall	19
Dorset	17
Durham	24
Essex	24
Gloucestershire	29
Greater Manchester	30
Hampshire	16
Hertfordshire	21
Humberside	22
Kent	12
Lancashire	26
Leicestershire	23
Lincolnshire	22
London, City of[4]	—
Merseyside	24
Metropolitan Police	50
Norfolk	21
Northamptonshire	20
Northumbria	18
North Yorkshire	19
Nottinghamshire	21
South Yorkshire	23
Staffordshire	19
Suffolk	18
Surrey	19
Sussex	23
Thames Valley	10
Warwickshire	24
West Mercia	18
West Midlands	25
West Yorkshire	33
Wiltshire	19
Dyfed-Powys	15
Gwent	19
North Wales	21
South Wales	26

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] Full-time equivalent excludes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[3] Police community support officers were introduced in statute in 2002, therefore data is not available prior to 2002-03.
[4] Officers per 100,000 population for City of London and Metropolitan police are combined.

Police staff per 100,000 population[1] (FTE)[2] by police force as at 31 March 1997, 2002 and 2007[3, 4]

	As at 31 March each year		
Police force	1997	2002	2007
Avon and Somerset	97	109	144
Bedfordshire	88	93	128
Cambridgeshire	85	103	123
Cheshire	75	90	127
Cleveland	110	116	129
Cumbria	92	129	149
Derbyshire	75	100	123
Devon and Cornwall	75	104	126
Dorset	89	107	139
Durham	96	112	127
Essex	79	97	117
Gloucestershire	78	96	125
Greater Manchester	102	126	132
Hampshire	75	90	130
Hertfordshire	94	108	143
Humberside	81	94	136
Kent	88	124	141
Lancashire	79	102	125
Leicestershire	81	88	120
Lincolnshire	84	93	106
London, City of[5]	—	—	—
Merseyside	95	112	159
Metropolitan Police	182	146	191
Norfolk	77	103	129
Northamptonshire	91	118	155
Northumbria	95	101	122
North Yorkshire	70	99	147
Nottinghamshire	97	107	132
South Yorkshire	99	107	154
Staffordshire	72	98	122
Suffolk	78	103	122
Surrey	93	98	156
Sussex	77	101	131
Thames Valley	87	98	129
Warwickshire	75	91	117
West Mercia	84	96	136
West Midlands	104	118	129
West Yorkshire	106	114	145
Wiltshire	79	106	136
Dyfed-Powys	67	94	120
Gwent	81	103	145
North Wales	72	97	112
South Wales	98	120	128

[1] Civilian staff have been referred to as police staff since March 2003. Figures exclude traffic wardens, police community support officers and designated officers (s.38)
[2] Total strength is based on full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number, because of rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between these totals and the totals in other tables. Figures exclude those staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity unless otherwise stated.
[3] Boundary changes on 1 April 1996 transferred resources for the policing of the Rhmney Valley from South Wales police to Gwent police.
[4] Boundary changes on 1 April 2000 transferred some resources from the Metropolitan police to Essex, Hertfordshire and Surrey police forces.
[5] Officers per 100,000 population for City of London and Metropolitan police are combined.

Police: Personal Records

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officer profiles were removed from the database on retirement or resignation in each year since 2000. [155341]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* There is no Home Office managed national database on officers that have retired or resigned.

Most forces are party to the Emergency Services Collaborative Framework Agreement for the provision of Temporary Staffing Services which is operated on behalf of the emergency services by two employment agencies (Adecco and Reed).

Proof of Identity: Genetics

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 694W, on genetics, what the average length of time taken by her Department's agencies to identify an individual through analysis of DNA was in each of the last five years. [155420]

Meg Hillier: The process for matching DNA from individuals with that from crime scenes is as follows. When someone is arrested for a recordable offence a sample is taken, usually by means of a cheek swab, which is sent to a laboratory. The sample is analysed to produce a numerical code which represents a number of areas of the individual's DNA. This code is sent to the National DNA Database. If it passes quality assurance checks it is loaded onto the database, together with demographic information such as the person's name and date of birth. Crime scene investigation leads to discovery of traces of biological material such as semen, blood or saliva, which will in some cases allow a numerical code representing DNA from an individual who has left that trace at the crime scene to be produced. A match may occur either when a profile from a crime scene is loaded onto the database and is found to match a profile from an individual, or vice versa. Matching may also occur between profiles from different crime scenes, indicating that the same person was present at more than one crime scene, even if that person cannot yet be identified. The database operates continuously and matches are automatically notified to police forces electronically or by fax as soon as they are made. The question is understood to refer to the length of time a crime scene profile or a profile from an individual remains on the database before a match occurs. Data on this are not recorded.

Written Answers to Questions

The following answers were received between Tuesday 18 September and Monday 1 October 2007

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Public Service

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether his Department has carried out any studies into Public Service Entitlement since 2004. [154974]

Edward Miliband *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* In 2004, the Office of Public Services Reform undertook a review of understanding and enforcement among public service providers and business of rules on eligibility for public services. Since then, the Cabinet Office has supported interdepartmental ministerial consideration of related issues, including during the development of "Enforcing the rules: A new strategy to ensure and enforce compliance with our immigration laws", which was published by the Home Office in March 2007.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departments: Departmental Coordination

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* ministerial committees and *(b)* permanent groups involving senior civil servants have been set up by his Department to liaise with the Ministers for Women. [155244]

Mr. Douglas Alexander *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* No committees or groups have been set up specifically to liaise with the Ministers for Women. As with all cross-cutting issues, Ministers and officials in DFID liaise with the Ministers for Women as necessary.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Baggage

Mr. Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints she has received from airline passengers in relation to delayed and lost baggage in each of the last six months; and if she will make a statement. [155528]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* The Department receives few direct complaints from airline passengers. This is because the Air Transport Users' Council (AUC) is the passenger complaints body in the UK for airline services.

Figures from the AUC show that in the last six months it received some 3361 written complaints. Of these 234 related to lost or delayed baggage.

Passenger rights in respect of the loss, damage or delay to baggage are protected by international legislation. Under the 1999 Montreal Convention which came into force for the UK in June 2004 the carrier is prima facie liable for luggage that has been delayed, damaged or lost (unless the carrier can establish a defence under the Convention). The liability for delay, loss or damage to baggage is limited to 1,000 Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) - approximately £820. These are maximum limits. Claims are assessed individually.

Bus Services

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average *(a)* number of trips and *(b)* trip length taken each year (i) by bus and (ii) in total was for people in each income decile and in each region in each year in which a national travel survey has been published. [152143]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Data available from the National Travel Survey are given in the tables which have been placed in the Libraries of the House. The National Travel Survey provides detailed information on personal travel in Great Britain. The sample size was increased in 2002; since 2002 the survey has been based on a random sample of around 8,000 responding private households each year.

Due to small sample sizes at the level of disaggregation requested, data from several survey years have been combined to produce more reliable estimates.

In 2006 a weighting strategy was introduced to the NTS to improve the reliability of the data. This weighting methodology has been applied to data back to 1995 so figures for earlier years are not directly comparable with data for 1995 onwards.

Departments: Redundancy Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by her Department on redundancy payments in the last 12 months. [153204]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department and its agencies had no compulsory redundancies in the 12 months ending March 2007.

For the cost of the voluntary exit scheme for the 12 months ending March 2007, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, the hon. Member for Lincoln (Gillian Merron), on 2 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1571-2W to the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening).

Departments: Tribunals

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by her Department on industrial tribunals in the last 12 months. [153207]

Jim Fitzpatrick: During 2006-07, the Department has identified incurred costs at industrial tribunals amounting to £176,456.

Figures for DSA and MCGA are not available.

Heathrow Airport: Complaints

Mr. Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints she has received from passengers about Heathrow Airport in each of the last three months; and if she will make a statement. [155520]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* The Department for Transport received three complaints from passengers about Heathrow Airport in June, four complaints in July, and six complaints in August. These related largely to the management of outbound security.

M25

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the projected cost is of each of the sections of the project to widen the M25. [155155]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* The latest Ministerially approved estimate for each of the sections of the M25 widening is as follows:

M25 Widening	*£ million Ministerially approved estimate*
Section 1 - Junctions 16 -23	697
Section 2 - Junctions 5 -7	214
Section 3 - Junctions 1b - 3	62
Section 4 - Junction 27 - 30	402
Section 5 - Junction 23 - 27	419

The ministerially approved estimate for M25 Junction 27-30 (Section 4) referred to in the table, has recently been revised and will be included in the Environmental Statement for publication next month.

Railways

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has held following the report of the Office of Rail Regulation on the increase in rail defects caused by heavier trains introduced over the last two years. [155158]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* Department for Transport officials are engaged with Network Rail, train operators and the train manufacturers on the impact trains have on track.

Looking to the future the Department is taking a lead in specifying lighter trains that have been assessed using the latest industry models to optimise the train design.

HEALTH

General Practitioners: Telephone Services

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list by primary care trust the medical GP practices which use 0844 revenue-shaving telephone numbers; and what guidance he has issued on the use of such numbers. [155523]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect information on telephone numbers in use by general practitioners practices.

Lord Warner wrote to primary care trust chief executives on 19 December 2006 about the use of non-geographical (084) telephone numbers by NHS services. The letter has been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_064287

JUSTICE

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many individuals convicted of benefit fraud in the last 12 months had *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three or more previous convictions. [153053]

Mr. Plaskitt: I have been asked to reply

DWP only keeps records of benefit fraud convictions. These records commenced in April 2002 to support the Loss of Benefit Provisions legislation (Two Strikes) introduced by the Social Security Fraud Act 2001, and information is kept for five years in line with the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

Our records show that of 6,061 benefit fraud convictions recorded between 1 September 2006 and 31 August 2007, there were 66 convictions for a second benefit fraud offence and one conviction for a third benefit fraud offence.

TREASURY

Departments: Early Retirement

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of his staff took early retirement in the last five years; at what cost; what grades of staff took early retirement; and what percentage of each grade took early retirement. [148809]

Angela Eagle: The number and grades of Treasury staff for whom early retirement or early severance was agreed in the last five years and the associated costs are as follows. An analysis of percentage of each grade could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Financial year	*Cost (£000)*	*Grade of staff*	*Number*
2002-03	1,221	AO	1
		EO	1
		Grade 6/7	1
		Grade 5	1
		Grade 3	2
2003-04	2,926	AO	3
		EO	1
		HEO/SEO	13
		Grade 6/7	1
		Grade 5	1
		Perm Sec	1

Financial year	Cost (£000)	Grade of staff	Number
2004-05	2,178	AA	3
		AO	4
		EO	5
		HEO/SEO	8
		Grade 6/7	5
2005-06	766	AA	1
		AO	1
		EO	4
		HEO/SEO	4
		Grade 6/7	2
		Grade 5	2
2006-07	483	EO	2
		HEO/SEO	2
		Grade 6/7	2
		Grade 5	4

Health Spending Team

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1183W, on the Health Spending Team, whether this team has its own specific list of objectives that contribute to his Department's overall objectives. [153649]

Andy Burnham: The health team works in close collaboration with the Department of Health in seeking to ensure the best possible use of the resources allocated to health and social services.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Climate Change

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the Government's policy towards the Sydney Declaration on Climate Change. [155574]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* The Secretary of State for the Environment welcomes the Sydney Declaration and is pleased that climate change was on the agenda for the leaders' summit for the first time.

The UK fully supports the view set out in the Sydney Declaration that a post-2012 framework must be based on UNFCCC principles. A concerted action involving all countries should be equitable, effective and follow the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities—and be underpinned by a shared vision of a long-term goal. The UK remains committed to negotiations under the UNFCCC process and hopes Bali will begin the process of full and comprehensive negotiations on a post-2012 framework which will take place over the next two years.

Energy: Yorkshire and Humberside

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Government spent on energy conservation in *(a)* York and *(b)* Yorkshire in each year since 2004-05. [151561]

Joan Ruddock: Energy conservation is a broad term that could refer to many activities implemented by a wide number of Government institutions. As such, it is not possible to accurately estimate total Government spend in these regions.

DEFRA's main programme for improving the energy efficiency of vulnerable households is the Warm Front Scheme, which provides grants for heating and insulation measures. Warm Front spend on measures in York and Yorkshire is set out in the following table:

£

Financial year	York	Yorkshire (excluding York)	Yorkshire (including York)
2004-05	165,043	22,431,840	22,596,883
2005-06	414,539	17,291,683	17,706,222
2006-07	763,107	35,603,594	36,366,701
Year to date	227,219	16,174,594	16,401,813
Total	1,569,908	91,501,711	93,071,619

Flood Control: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to review *(a)* flood defences and *(b)* sea defences in the Bournemouth area following the summer 2007 flooding. [155460]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* The recently commenced review of the Shoreline Management Plan, which is being led by Bournemouth borough council in conjunction with the Environment Agency, will consider long term management of flood and coastal erosion risk along this length of coast.

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for Bournemouth borough council, Christchurch borough council, East Dorset district council, North Dorset district council and Salisbury district council is also underway. This will investigate and identify the extent and severity of flood risk to Bournemouth to enable the council to steer development away from those areas at highest risk; supplement current policy guidelines and provide a clear risk based approach to development control; and, contribute to the evidence base for the Local Development Framework and Sustainability Appraisal work.

Floods

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* properties and *(b)* businesses were affected by the summer 2007 floods, broken down by county. [155564]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* Since the initial flooding in June, local authorities have been providing information about the number of residential

properties and businesses affected by the summer floods. The information is held by local authority and region, rather than by county.

The figures for properties include only those residential properties where the habitable accommodation has been affected (that is, it excludes those where, for example, only garages and/or outbuildings were flooded).

The tables have been placed in the Library of the House.

Fluoridation

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the environmental impact of the fluoridation of public water supplies. [155451]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* In 2000 the Environment Agency published a non-statutory environmental quality standard (EQS) for fluoride in water. The standard was informed by a review, carried out for the Agency, on the effect of fluoride on a range of aquatic life. This review drew on available research from recognised scientific laboratories and indicated that fluoride affects aquatic life at concentrations at 9.0-350.0mg/l depending on the hardness of the water and the sensitivity of the species tested.

Where public water supplies are fluoridated the concentration of fluoride is maintained at 1.0mg/l, and any discharges of these supplies into the aquatic environment would be further diluted through the process of collection and treatment of waste water. Therefore the environmental impact would not be expected to be significant.

Housing: Energy

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to which organisations and projects the £20 million announced in the Budget 2006 to help local authorities and other to promote energy efficiency and incentivise energy efficiency measures in households has been allocated; and how much has been allocated to each. [155237]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* Of the £20 million announced in Budget 2006, £4.75 million was allocated to the energy demand research project, bringing total funding to £9.75 million for trials of household smart meters and displays and a broader range of behavioural measures. Around 40,000 households will be taking part in the trials, together with energy suppliers, metering/feedback device companies, specialist companies, charities and universities.

A further £10 million (£5 million in 2007-08 and £5 million in 2008-09) has been awarded to the Carbon Trust's Partnership for Renewables to create private-public partnerships to develop renewable projects on public sector land. It aims to develop 500 megawatts of capacity, and the programme is currently working with over 200 public sector bodies, including local authorities, the national health service and higher education authorities.

As part of a broader reprioritisation related to wider budget pressures, the remaining funds have been cut to £0.5 million. We are considering options for their best use.

Institute for Animal Health: Waste Disposal

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration was given to prioritising the repair and maintenance of the effluent pipes at Pirbright in the context of the current refurbishment of the site; what the estimated cost is of replacing the effluent pipes; and when his Department first obtained an estimate for such costs. [155573]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Pirbright Site Redevelopment Programme (PSRP) Board, comprising senior officials from BBSRC, DEFRA, DIUS, the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) and the Institute for Animal Health (IAH), is responsible for overseeing the redevelopment of the site including the drainage.

Tenders for the drainage system of around £220,000 were received in October 2006. DEFRA provided regulatory approval in early 2007. This scheme was approved by the PSRP Board in May 2007 and work began as planned in July 2007.

Institute for Animal Health

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what central Government funding to the Institute of Animal Health estate was in each year since 1997. [155476]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

Central Government funding for the Institute for Animal Health since 1997 was as follows:

IAH funding

£ million

	BBSRC[1]	*DEFRA*	*Other Government Departments*	*Total*
1997-98	11.2	7.6	0.9	19.7
1998-99	9.7	7.9	1.2	19.8
1999-2000	9.0	8.1	1.7	18.8
2000-01	9.4	8.0	1.8	19.2
2001-02	9.5	9.3	1.5	20.3
2002-03	11.8	9.0	0.9	21.7
2003-04	14.6	9.0	0.8	24.4
2004-05	17.3	9.6	1.8	28.7
2005-06	20.2	8.0	2.0	30.2
2006-07[1]	33.6	8.5	2.0	44.1
Total	146.3	85.0	14.6	245.9

[1] BBSRC total includes core strategic grant, competitive grants and capital investment environment

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to answer the letters to him dated 17 July from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. S. Chislett. [154979]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* A reply has been sent to my right hon. Friend today. I apologise for the delay in replying which is due to recent high volumes of correspondence.

Recycling

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many reports and publications the Department published in 2006-07; and how many of these were printed on 100 per cent. recycled paper. [155481]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 September 2007]*: The Government have a duty to explain its policies, decisions and actions; to inform the public about their rights and liabilities; and to provide the public with advice and warnings. DEFRA publishes regularly reports and consultations in accordance with these principles, but to establish the combinations of such publications could be collated only at disproportionate cost. Print procurement policy is to produce the lowest quantity of publications to meet the specific needs of each case, thereby minimising waste. In the case of consultations most are handled on-line and stakeholders may download a copy for local printing. Copies will be supplied to order—printed digitally—on a limited basis, if requested, as will large print and Braille versions.

All the paper used to print reports and publications is based on a material that contains a minimum of 100 per cent. recycled fibre for uncoated papers, and 75 per cent. recycled fibre for coated papers. Print procurement policy is to use uncoated stock except where design, marketing and production requirements require coated stock.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many compensation claims were made under the *(a)* War Pensions Scheme in each year from 1997 to 2006 and *(b)* the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme in each year since 2006; [155145]

(2) how many outstanding claims there were from the *(a)* War Pensions Scheme in each year from 1997 to 2006 and *(b)* the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme in each year since 2006. [155146]

Des Browne *[holding answer 12 September 2007]*: Figures on the number of compensation claims made under the War Pensions Scheme and the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme in each financial year and the total number of claims outstanding as at 31 March each year, including those that may have been registered in previous years, are set out in the following table. Information is not available for the number of claims made prior to 1 April 2000 or on the total number of claims outstanding before 31 March 2001.

	War Pensions Scheme[1,2]		*Armed Forces Compensation Scheme*[1,3]	
Financial year	*Claims made during the year*	*Total number of claims outstanding*[4]	*Claims made during the year*	*Total number of claims outstanding*[4]
2000-01	47,845	12,575	—	—
2001-02	45,965	10,580	—	—
2002-03	43,560	10,000	—	—
2003-04	41,495	9,540	—	—
2004-05	37,250	7,515	—	—
2005-06	39,300	6,925	540	230
2006-07	36,955	6,590	1,910	545

[1] Data have been rounded to the nearest five.
[2] Includes all disablement claims, widows claims, supplementary allowance claims, supplementary allowance reviews, medical expense claims and appeals.
[3] Includes all injury claims, survivors' claims, reconsiderations and appeals.
[4] For the purposes of this table, a claim is recorded outstanding if it has been registered but does not have an outcome.

Claims under both schemes require medical and other evidence to be gathered and assessed before a decision can be taken. The average clearance times for the two schemes in 2006-07 were 49 days for the War Pension Scheme and 34 days for the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme.

Army: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military vehicles for use by the Army were purchased by his Department in 2006-07, broken down by country of manufacture. [155390]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 17 September 2007]*: This information is not held in the format requested. The total number of vehicles purchased for use by the Army between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2007 was 6,911. This figure includes some vehicles purchased for use on a tri-service basis. For the purposes of this question, purchased has been defined as 'placed on contract'.

Military vehicle acquisition, however, is complex and, in most cases, no single country is responsible for the delivery of a vehicle. Components are often manufactured by different companies in different countries and then assembled by a systems integrator, who may be based in yet another country.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fatalities each unit that has served in Iraq has experienced; and how many of those *(a)* died in Iraq and *(b)* subsequently died of wounds elsewhere. [155268]

Des Browne *[holding answer 12 September 2007]*: The Ministry of Defence publishes data on battle and non-battle fatalities, including their unit, that have resulted from our operations in Iraq since March 2003: details can be found on the Ministry of Defence website:

(http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInIraqBritishFatalities.htm).

This information is updated after each incident.

The following table breaks down the number of military fatalities, by unit, in line with the information published on the website. In addition, one Defence Fire Service contractor has died on operations in Iraq.

Number of fatalities for UK armed forces personnel, Iraq, by Unit as at 6 September 2007

Unit	Total
Total	167
1 (UK) Armoured Division HQ and Signal Regiment	1
1 Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders	1
1 Assault Group	1
1 Black Watch	7
1 Coldstream Guards	2
1 Devonshire and Dorset Light Infantry	1
1 Highlanders (Seaforth, Gordons and Camerons)	1
1 Irish Guards	4
1 Light Infantry	1
1 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	2
1 Queen's Dragoon Guards	2
1 Queen's Lancashire Regiment	1
1 Royal Highland Fusiliers	1
1 Royal Horse Artillery	1
1 Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	1
1 Royal Regiment of Wales	1
1 Royal Welch Fusiliers	1
1 Squadron RAF Regiment	3
1 Staffordshire Regiment	4
1 Yorkshire Regiment	1
12 Regiment Royal Artillery	4
148 Commando Battery Royal Artillery	1
16 Squadron	1
2 Duke of Lancaster's Regiment	8
2 Light Infantry	2
2 Parachute Regiment	2
2 Rifles	3
2 Royal Anglian Regiment	2
2 Royal Green Jackets	1
2 Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	2
2 Royal Tank Regiment	3
2 Royal Welsh	3
217 Transport Squadron	1
21st Signal Regiment (Air Support)	1
230 Squadron	1
28 Army Co-operation Squadron	2
29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery	2
3 Commando Brigade	6
3 Parachute Regiment	1
3 Royal Military Police	1
3 Royal Regiment of Scotland	2
33 Engineer Regiment (EOD)	2
33 Squadron	1
35 Engineer Regiment	1
4 Rifles	5
45 Commando	1
47 Squadron	5
504 Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force	1
52nd Lowland Regiment	2
539 Assault Squadron	1
847 Naval Air Squadron	2
849 Squadron	6
9 Assault Squadron	1
9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's)	1
Army Air Corps	1
Blues and Royals, Household Cavalry Regiment	3
Cheshire Regiment	1
Engineering Wing, RAF Lyneham	3
HQ STC Air Staff	1
Intelligence Corps	2
IX (B) Squadron	2
King's Royal Hussars	1
Parachute Regiment	2
Queen's Royal Lancers	5
RAF Police	1
Royal Army Medical Corps	3
Royal Artillery	1
Royal Corps of Signals	3
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	5
Royal Logistic Corps	2
Royal Military Police	11
Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	1
Royal Scots Dragoon Guards	2
Tyne-Tees Regiment	1
Welsh Guards	1

Number of fatalities for UK armed forces personnel, who died as a result of their wounds (DOW) after being aeromeded from Iraq[1], by Unit, as at 4 September 2007

Unit	Total
Total	3
1 Staffordshire Regiment	1
12 Regiment Royal Artillery	1
Royal Logistic Corps	1

[1] Two armed forces personnel died as a result of injuries sustained in operational accidents (DOP) and are not included in the above table

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the crew *(a)* requirement and *(b)* strength is for each helicopter type in the (i) Army Air Corps, (ii) Navy and (iii) RAF. [153319]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The current *(a)* requirement and *(b)* strength for crew personnel, for each relevant Unit/Squadron, for each helicopter type in the (i) Army Air Corps, (ii) Navy and (iii) RAF are shown in the following tables.

Army Air Corp

Army Air Corp Unit	Helicopter type	Establishment (requirement)	Actual strength
HQ DAAvn	Lynx/Gazelle/ Squirrel/Apache AH1	15	W
SAAvn	Lynx/Gazelle/ Squirrel/Apache AH1	46	44
DHFS (Army)	Squirrel	14	10
1 Regt AAC	Lynx	40	41
3 Regt AAC	Apache AH1	61	31
4 Regt AAC	Apache AH1	61	43
5 Regt AAC	Gazelle	18	16
7 Regt AAC (V)	Gazelle (Regular)	4	4
	Gazelle (Non-Regular Permanent Staff)	12	12
	Gazelle (TA)	51	45
9 Regt AAC	Lynx	60	58
AMTAT	Apache AH1	12	12
HQ JSFAW (Army)	Lynx/Gazelle	3	3

Army Air Corps

Army Air Corps Unit	*Helicopter type*	*Establishment (requirement)*	*Actual strength*
657 Sqn AAC	Lynx	18	17
Det Brunei	Bell 212	8	10
8 Flt Hereford	Augusta 109/Gazelle	4	5
12 Flt Elmpt	Gazelle	4	4
25 Flt Belize	Bell 212	8	8
29 Flt BATUS	Gazelle	4	4

Navy

Naval Air Squadron MAS	*Helicopter type*	*Establishment (requirement)*	*Actual strength*
845 NAS	Sea King Mk 4/6CR	47	43
846 NAS	Sea King Mk 4/6CR	47	42
848 NAS	Sea King Mk 4	37	36
849 NAS	Sea King ASaC Mk 7	15	14
854 NAS	Sea King ASaC Mk 7	15	14
857 NAS	Sea King ASaC Mk 7	15	15
771 NAS	Sea King Mk 5 (Search and Rescue)	42	37
HMS GANNET	Sea King Mk 5 (Search and Rescue)	20	18
700 NAS	Merlin Mk 1	11	9
814 NAS	Merlin Mk 1	33	29
820 NAS	Merlin Mk 1	33	26
824 NAS	Merlin Mk 1	63	48
829 NAS	Merlin Mk 1	28	19
702 NAS	Lynx Mk 3/8	24	22
815 NAS	Lynx Mk 3/8	70	60
847 NAS	Lynx AH7	21	17

RAF

Royal Air Force Squadron	*Helicopter type*	*Establishment (requirement)*	*Actual strength*
33Sqn	Puma HC 1	66	65
230 Sqn	Puma HC 1	64	64
7 Sqn	Chinook HC 2	46	44
18 Sqn	Chinook HC 2	94	86
27 Sqn	Chinook HC 2	68	72
28 Sqn	Merlin Mk HC 3	88	84
22 Sqn	Sea King Mk 3	60	60
202 Sqn	Sea King Mk 3	60	60
203 (R) Sqn	Sea King Mk 3	26	25
SARTU	Griffin HAR 2	19	18
60 (R) Sqn	Griffin HT 1	24	24
84 Sqn	Griffin HAR 2	12	12
DHFS	Squirrell HT 1	18	18
32 Sqn	Augusta 109	3	3

The actual strength of the two Apache Units (three and four Regiment Army Air Corps) reflects the fact that these helicopters are relatively new to service and as such these newly formed units will not achieve 'steady state'[1] until 2010; we are in the process of manning these units and have a number of pilots in the training pipeline. Apache pilot availability is sufficient to meet operational requirements.

[1] Steady state is defined as the point at which the training pipeline is providing sufficient pilots to replace those lost through natural wastage.

Military Bases: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to locate further units of 16 Air Assault Brigade at Colchester Garrison; and if he will make a statement. [155480]

Des Browne *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* There are no plans to locate further units of 16 Air Assault Brigade at Colchester Garrison.

Territorial Army: Manpower

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current establishment of each *(a)* regiment, *(b)* corps and *(c)* sub-unit of the Territorial Army is. [152639]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I have written to the hon. Member today and will place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Children

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded in respect of retailers selling alcohol to those aged under 18 years in each year since 1997; how many police cautions were issued; and what the average fine levied was. [154984]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* Information on the number of recorded offences of retailers selling alcohol to those aged under 18 years are summary and are not included in the police recorded crime statistics.

Statistics for the number of police cautions issued and the average fine have been provided by the Ministry of Justice and are given in the table for 1997-2005. Data for 2006 will be available in the autumn of 2007.

Retailers selling alcohol to those aged under 18

	Number of police cautions issued[1,2]	*Average fine (£)*
1997	171	227
1998	76	212
1999	69	194
2000	53	206
2001	48	208
2002	59	249
2003	63	253
2004	101	238
2005	98	246

[1] These data are on a principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative databases generated by the police. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Asylum: Social Security Benefits

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what studies have been undertaken into the effect of appellant asylum seekers who have been denied benefits on social services departments. [155332]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* Asylum seekers are not eligible to receive income support, jobseekers allowance or other similar benefits. As such, no such studies have been undertaken by the Home Office.

Burglary: Surrey

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many burglaries were *(a)* reported and *(b)* successfully detected in Surrey in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [155326]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* The information requested is given in the following table:

Burglary offences recorded in Surrey

Financial year	*Number of offences*	*Number of detections*
2002-03	9,727	844
2003-04	9,200	1,000
2004-05	8,870	959
2005-06	8,410	872
2006-07	8,141	1,001

Cars: Theft

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in England and Wales were charged for the recovery of their stolen vehicle from police, and police approved, car pounds in each of the last five years, broken down by police force; and how much was received by such car pounds in each such year. [155540]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* This information is not collected centrally. When the police use their powers to remove and store any vehicle, including a stolen vehicle, that is illegally, dangerously or obstructively parked or broken down or abandoned, they may levy prescribed charges to cover the costs incurred. The charges are currently £105 for the removal and £12 per day for storage.

CCTV: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much central government funding has been spent on closed-circuit television in York since 1997. [155494]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* Since 1997, the Home Office has specifically provided the City of York with £268,000 for closed circuit television.

Other years' crime reduction funding has been allocated directly to the local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and Basic Command Unit in York to finance a variety of interventions, including CCTV. Information about the allocation of that funding is not held centrally.

Departments: Pay

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on public pay since her appointment; and if she will make a statement. [155135]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* Since my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary's appointment, Home Office Ministers have received correspondence from right hon. and hon. Members, police officers and others on the subject of police pay. The subject has also been raised at some meetings attended by Home Office Ministers. The 2007 police officer pay award has been addressed through the Police Negotiating Board in the usual way. Following the PNB's failure to reach agreement, the issue will now proceed to the Police Arbitration Tribunal, before my right hon. Friend makes her decision. In doing so she will consider very carefully the recommendations that result from this process.

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many overseas visits were made by *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers within her responsibility, and at what cost, in each year since 1997. [151646]

Mr. Byrne: Prior to the machinery of Government changes, the Home Office employed approximately 78,000 people. The Department's expenditure on foreign travel and accommodation in each year since 1997 is shown in the following table . Figures for 1997-98 to 2002-03 are for overseas travel only. Details of overseas accommodation for these years could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

	£ million
1997-98	1.18
1998-99	0.89
1999-00	1.43
2000-01	1.38
2001-02	2.07
2002-03	2.35
2003-04	4.45
2004-05	12.06
2005-06	10.66
2006-07	14.60

The difference in costs over the period reflects the changing nature of the Home Office's business, in particular the growth of international terrorism, migration and international travel. Collaboration and information exchange with other countries on counter-terrorism activities and border control have become increasingly critical to the effective discharge of the Department's responsibilities for asylum, immigration and national security. This has involved higher levels of overseas travel.

Details on the number of visits could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis, a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2006-07 is currently being compiled and will be published before the summer recess. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Deportation: Democratic Republic of Congo

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were removed under immigration law to: *(a)* Democratic Republic of Congo and *(b)* Congo (Brazzaville) in each of the last six months; and what plans he has to remove people to either country in future. [155330]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* The table shows the number of failed asylum applicants removed to Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) between January and June 2007 inclusive. This is the latest six-month period for which figures are available.

Information on the total number of persons removed between January and June 2007 (including non-asylum cases) is not available for release under National Statistics protocols.

On 23 August 2007, Justice Collins ordered that the removal of all unsuccessful asylum seekers to DRC must be deferred until the Country Guidance case is determined. In line with the High Court's decision of 23 August 2007, the Border and Immigration Agency will not enforce the removal of Congolese asylum seekers to DRC until the Asylum Immigration Tribunal (AIT) has substantively considered the pending Country Guidance case. The High Court's decision, however, applies only to unsuccessful asylum seekers and we shall continue to remove immigration offenders who are Congolese nationals and have no legal right to remain in the UK. There are currently no legal impediments stopping us from removing to Congo those Congolese nationals with no right to remain in the UK.

The Government are committed to providing protection to those individuals who are found to be in fear of persecution. It is only right that we provide that protection, but equally, it is only right that we enforce the return of those who have no right to remain here: this is a key part to upholding a robust and fair asylum system.

Copies of statistics publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Removals, voluntary departures and assisted returns[1] of asylum applicants[2], including dependants, to Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo, January – June 2007[3,4]

Destination	*January*	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*	*Number of removals January-June total*
Congo	5	*	5	5	5	5	25
Democratic Republic of Congo	10	40	10	15	5	10	90

[1] Includes enforced removals, persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them, persons leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration and those who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.
[2] Persons who had sought asylum at some stage, including dependants.
[3] Figures are rounded to the nearest five, (* = 1 or 2), and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.
[4] Provisional figures.

Entry Clearances

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-EU citizens who reside in the UK gained entry to the UK through applying for a UK visa from another European member state. [140545]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office does not collect the information requested.

Extradition: Russia

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will list the steps which must be taken, and the requirements which must be met, for the relevant authorities of the Russian Federation successfully to obtain extradition of a person from the UK; and if she will make a statement. [155546]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* The outcome of individual cases is determined by the provisions of the Extradition Act 2003 (as amended). Within what the law permits, the United Kingdom stands ready to render maximum assistance to all of its extradition partners. It is also open to those partners to consult the Crown Prosecution Service directly about the requirements of UK extradition law.

Fines: Cinemas

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded in respect of cinemas allowing underage children into age-rated films in each year since 1997; how many police cautions were issued; and what the average fine levied was. [154986]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The information requested is not collected centrally.

Fines: Retail Trade

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded in respect of retailers selling video games or DVDs to under-age customers in each year since 1997; how many police cautions were issued; and what the average fine levied was. [154985]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* Information on the number of recorded offences of retailers selling video games or DVDs to under-age customers is not collected centrally. This is a summary offence and is not included in the police recorded crime statistics.

Statistics for the number of police cautions issued and the average fine have been provided by the Ministry of Justice and are given in the table for 1997-2005. Data for 2006 will be available in the autumn of 2007.

Retailers selling video games and DVDs to underage customers[1]

	Number of police cautions issued[2, 3]	*Average fine (£)*
1997	1	519
1998	—	440
1999	—	798
2000	—	1,028
2001	—	1,378
2002	—	1,079
2003	1	921
2004	—	775
2005		489

[1] Video Recording Act 1984 S.11 as amended by the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 S. 88 (4).4 [2] These data are on a principal offence basis.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative databases generated by the police. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Foreign Workers: Work Permits

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits were issued to overseas nationals in each of the last 10 years. [152969]

Mr. Byrne: Work Permit information is published in the 'Foreign labour in the United Kingdom: current patterns and trends' report authored by John Salt and Jane Millar from the 'Migration Research Unit, University College London' and is available at the following link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/labour_market_trends/foreign_labour.pdf

Genetics: Databases

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of individuals on the DNA database are under 16; and if she will make a statement. [155258]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* On 10 September 2007, 3.38 per cent. of persons on the National DNA Database were currently aged under 16. This figure represents persons sampled by police forces in England and Wales only, and includes some persons who provided a DNA profile voluntarily.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the annual cost was of *(a)* storing and *(b)* processing (i) DNA samples and (ii) DNA profiles taken for the National DNA Database in each year since 2000. [155342]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* Cost figures for the storage of DNA samples are not centrally available. The costs for retaining DNA samples fall to individual police forces and are dependent on the contractual agreement between the force and the forensic supplier. This information is commercially confidential. The costs of retaining DNA profiles on the National DNA Database are essentially the costs of running and operating the database. These are set out in the National DNA Database Annual Reports for the years 2002-03 to 2005-06, copies of which are available in the House of Commons Library. The Annual Report for 2002-03 was the first annual report produced; and no information is available for the years 2000-01 and 2001-02. The costs of processing DNA samples for the DNA Database are available for the years 2000-01 to 2005-06 and are set out in the following table. In 2006-07, the Home Office ceased the payment of a separate specific grant for funding DNA activity.

	DNA sample processing costs (£m)
2000-01	32.6
2001-02	45.4
2002-03	51.5
2003-04	47.0
2004-05	46.3
2005-06	[1]48.6

[1] The data for 2005-06 is DNA Expansion Programme funding only. It covers the processing costs of suspect offender samples and crime scene samples; and also includes force expenditure on additional forensic staff, vehicles and equipment. A separate figure for processing costs alone is not currently available.

Note:

The data for years 2000-01 to 2004-05 includes DNA Expansion Programme expenditure and expenditure from force budgets. It covers the processing costs of suspect offender samples and crime scene samples.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests have been made by *(a)* the Paladin team, *(b)* the Maxim team and *(c)* the Human Smuggling Unit since their inception; and how many of those arrests have resulted in (i) prosecutions and (ii) convictions. [154948]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The Paladin team was formed in October 2005 and became fully operational in February 2006. Since its inception they have arrested 25 people for trafficking-related incidents. They have had six convictions; all of these convictions are for facilitation. They have cautioned 11 persons—all for "facilitation" or "harbouring"—through their work at the Asylum Screening Unit.

Operation Maxim has been operational since March 2003 and has achieved the following arrests since its inception:

March 2003 to April 2004: 178 arrests

April 2004 to April 2005: 194 arrests

April 2005 to April 2006: 125 arrests

April 2006 to April 2007: 123 arrests

April 2007 to August 2007: 50 arrests.

Maxim prosecution data only cover the last two years and these are:

April 2005 to 2006: 46 persons prosecuted and convicted. Sentenced collectively 121 years and 5 months.

April 2006 to 2007: 37 persons prosecuted and convicted. Sentenced collectively to76 years and 9.5 months.

April 2007 to August 2007: 30 persons prosecuted and convicted. Sentenced collectively to 51 years and 2 months.

Currently the Maxim Organised Immigration Team has a 100 per cent. conviction rate.

The Human Trafficking Unit was launched on 7 March and is part of the Maxim team. Since its inception the unit has made 12 arrests for human trafficking. There are four cases currently on-going within the judicial system. There have been no convictions yet as all these cases are awaiting trial.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the establishment is of the Serious Organised Crime Agency; how many staff are dealing with human trafficking issues; and if she will make a statement. [155139]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* As at 31 July 2007 the SOCA budgeted headcount was 4,164 staff.

The Home Secretary's priorities for SOCA in its first year included that SOCA should devote a higher proportion of its resources and activity to intelligence work than the agencies that it replaced and that Class A drugs and organised immigration crime, in that order, should be its top priorities. Organised immigration crime covers both the organised facilitation of immigrants to the UK (people smuggling) and trafficking of people for criminal exploitation, for example prostitutes or forced labour (human trafficking).

As published in its 2006-07 Annual Report SOCA deployed 11 per cent. of its operational resource against organised immigration crime.

The UK Serious Organised Crime Control Strategy, developed by SOCA on behalf of UK Law Enforcement, has four programmes of activity directly focussing on organised immigration crime. This includes a programme on "Trafficking of people", in particular women and children for the UK vice trade.

Human Trafficking: Children

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what extra resources have been given to local authorities to provide safe housing and special support to child victims of trafficking discovered as a result of Operation Pentameter 2. [155456]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* Under section 20 of the Children Act 1989, local authorities have a legal duty of care to safeguard any child in need of protection and to provide accommodation.

Special arrangements have been made between local authority children's services and the police to ensure that any children discovered as being sexually exploited during Operation Pentameter 2 will be referred to the appropriate local authority's children's services as a child in need of protection. A letter from the Department of Children, Schools and Families to all directors of children's services alerts them to Operation Pentameter 2 and requests that a designated officer be in place to liaise with the police about child victim referrals.

Identity Cards: Biometrics

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which and how many locations in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland will be used for the capture of UK citizens' biometric data as part of the identity card scheme. [155466]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* No decision has been made yet on the number or location of biometric enrolment centres for identity cards. However, it is likely that they could be sited in the same location (but not necessarily the same offices) as the 69 local offices being opened throughout the UK for passport interviews.

Where the network of enrolment centres needs to be further expanded, we will first seek to use high street offices that are already used by central and local government.

Kidnapping

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the rate of incidents of gang-related kidnappings has been since April 2005, broken down by police area. [155365]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* The information is not held centrally.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of gang-related kidnappings *(a)* which were unreported and *(b)* where no charges were forthcoming during the financial year 2006-07; and how many gang-related kidnappings occurred during each month of (i) 2005, (ii) 2006 and (iii) 2007, broken down by police area. [155570]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* The information is not held centrally.

Minister for Women

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* ministerial committees and *(b)* permanent groups involving senior civil servants have been set up by her Department to liaise with the Ministers for Women. [155435]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* My right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister announced the new Cabinet Committee structure on 23 July 2007. The Domestic Affairs (Communities and Equalities) Committee, chaired by the Minister for the Cabinet Office, was one of the new Committees. The terms of reference for DA(CE) are:

"To consider policy relating to community issues, including community cohesion, equalities, wellbeing and public health; and report as necessary to the Committee on Domestic Affairs and the Committee on National Security, International Relations and Development".

In addition to this and as with all cross cutting issues, Ministers and officials in the Home Office liaise with the Ministers for Women as necessary.

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convicted criminals were deported to their own country in each of the last five years. [155487]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* On 14 June the Director General of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate wrote to the Home Affairs Committee to provide the most recent information available on the deportation of foreign national prisoners. In this letter the Director reported that 2,784 foreign national prisoners were deported or removed in the financial year 2006-07. A copy of this letter is available from the Library of the House.

Statistics on the deportation of foreign nationals were last published in 2002. The data are available through the Home Office's Research Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.archive2.official-documents.co.uk/document/cm60/6053/6053.htm.

Published information on persons removed as a result of deportation action has not been available from 2003 onwards due to data quality issues. The Immigration and Nationality Directorate is putting in place new systems to improve its data collection systems for the future in this area.

Offensive Weapons: Greater London

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people under the age of 18 years were murdered as a result of *(a)* gun crime and *(b)* knife crime in each London borough in each of the last 10 years. [155142]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* Available information relates to offences currently recorded as homicide that were caused by *(a)* shooting, which includes crossbows as well as guns and *(b)* a sharp instrument, which includes other sharp instruments as well as knives.

The number of homicides recorded by the City of London and Metropolitan Police Services between 1995 and 2005-06, where the victim is aged under 18, is given in the following table. Centrally-collected data cannot be broken down by London borough. Police force area breakdowns for homicides recorded during 2006-07 are scheduled to be published in January 2008.

Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide where victim is aged under 18: City of London and Metropolitan Police 1995 to 2005-06[2]

	Year offence initially recorded as homicide[3]											
Police force area/apparent method	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
City of London:												
Shooting[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sharp instrument[5]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All methods	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan:												
Shooting[4]	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	3	—	2	—	—
Sharp instrument[5]	5	5	5	6	3	5	9	6	5	2	1	6
All methods	18	15	22	22	18	12	19	16	23	17	13	17

[1] As at 9 October 2006; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
[2] 2006-07 data will be published in January 2008.
[3] Offences are shown according to the year in which police initially recorded them as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.
[4] Includes shooting by crossbows as well as firearms.
[5] Includes other sharp instruments as well as knives.

Passports

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Government expects to pay Equifax for the contract to provide reference information on passport applicants in *(a)* financial year 2007-08 and *(b)* in each of the next three financial years. [155347]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* It is expected that spend on reference data provision in 2007-08 would be in the region of £392,000. The amount is variable depending upon the passport demand. This does not include software development and software/hardware development changes.

Spend in the following three years will be determined by the business model applied, which will drive the volume of checks, and negotiations with the reference information supplier.

Passports: Fraud

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many forged or false passports were seized at Heathrow and Gatwick airports in each of the last three years; and how many of those were from children. [154950]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The activity of Airline Liaison Officers (ALOs) based overseas together with other border control initiatives, has resulted in a fall in Inadequately Documented Arrivals (IDAs) reaching the UK from 11,233 in 2004 to 6,915 in 2006. Over the last five years the ALO Network has assisted in preventing nearly 180,000 IDAs from boarding aircraft.

Under carriers liability legislation, air and sea carriers may be liable for a charge of £2,000 for each person they carry to the UK who is subject to immigration control and who fails to produce either a valid immigration document satisfactorily establishing his identity and nationality or a valid visa, if required. Carriers' liability is now an important complement to our immigration control. Over 60 other countries, including most of Europe, have carrier liability legislation.

Figures for forged and false travel documents detected at Heathrow and Gatwick airports for the past three years are as follows:

Heathrow Airport and Gatwick Airport

	Number
2004	3,305
2005	2,164
2006	1,695

The information provided is based on locally collated management information and as such may be subject to change.

Data relating to the age of those presenting such documentation are not available.

Prisoners: Deportation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners in England and Wales from *(a)* outside and *(b)* within the EU, other than the UK and Ireland, have been identified as liable for deportation. [155429]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* The Chief Executive of the Border and Immigration Agency provided the most accurate and robust information available on the issue of foreign national prisoners in her letter to the Home Affairs Committee of 14 June, a copy of which is available in the House Library. The automatic deportation provisions contained within the UK Borders Bill increase certainty by placing a duty on the Secretary of State to make a deportation order for foreign criminals who have been sentenced to either a period of imprisonment of at least 12 months, or a period of imprisonment of any length for a particularly serious crime.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the earliest stage is at which a foreign prisoner becomes liable for deportation during his sentence. [155501]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* Foreign nationals are liable for consideration for deportation if they receive a custodial sentence and have either been recommended for deportation by a court or meet the interim criteria as outlined in my written statement to the House of 19 July 2006.

The provisions of the UK Borders Bill increase certainty by placing a duty on the Secretary of State to make a deportation order for foreign criminals who have been sentenced to either a period of imprisonment of at least 12 months, or a period of imprisonment of any length for a particularly serious crime.

Special Branch

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she expects to complete the review of Special Branch; and if she will make a statement; [155249]

(2) if she will make a statement on the progress of the review of Special Branch; [155467]

(3) whether Special Branch officers serving at ports and airports will continue to be part of the local constabulary. [155468]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 September and 17 September 2007]:* The review of Special Branch is a matter for the Association of Chief Police Officers, whose Terrorism and Allied Matters Committee is examining the work undertaken by the police service in support of national security intelligence, particularly the role and function of Special Branch. This review will involve wide consultation with experts and practitioners. I understand that it will be completed by the end of the year, and the Association of Chief Police Officers has undertaken to keep me informed.

Separately from this review, and following the announcement by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 25 July that the Government would integrate the vital work of the Border and Immigration Agency, Customs and UK Visas overseas and at the main points of entry to the UK, the Cabinet Secretary is conducting a review on the stages ahead in implementation and whether there is a case for going further, while ensuring value for money. Special Branch will continue to play its full role, based on intelligence, at ports and airports.

Stop and Search: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals were the subject of stop forms used by police officers in the Cambridgeshire Constabulary area in each year since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [155320]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* Available information held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on the number of stops and searches within the Cambridgeshire police force area is given in the table from 2001-02 to 2004-05 (latest available). Statistics for 2005-06 are due to be published later this year.

From 1 April 2005 police forces are required to ensure that a record is made by police officers of all stops. It is hoped to publish statistics on all Stops and Stop and Searches in 2008.

Stops and searches of persons within the Cambridgeshire police force area under section 1 of the Police and Criminal evidence Act 1984 and other legislation[1], from 2001-02 to 2004-05

	Total
2001-02	3,896
2002-03	3,331

Stops and searches of persons within the Cambridgeshire police force area under section 1 of the Police and Criminal evidence Act 1984 and other legislation[1], from 2001-02 to 2004-05

	Total
2003-04	4,079
2004-05	5,647

[1] Other legislation includes stops and searches under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and the Firearms Act 1968; Terrorism Act s43 & s44(1) and s44(2); Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 s60; various poaching and wildlife conservation legislation; s27(1) of the Aviation Security Act 1982; s163 & s164 of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979; and the Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc.) Act 1985.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

WORK AND PENSIONS

UK Commission for Employment and Skills

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* annual budget and *(b)* number of staff for the UK Commission for Employment and Skills will be when it is established in 2008. [152911]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 26 July 2007]:* I have been asked to respond to your query as it falls within my area of responsibility.

To strengthen the employer voice at the heart of the employment and skills system the UK Commission implantation project are working with the devolved administrations to establish a new UK Commission for Employment and Skills. The UK Commission will be a UK-wide body with responsibilities across each of the four nations, and for skills at all levels, as set in the Leitch review of skills: 'Prosperity for all in the global economy—world class skills'

The UK Commission will be primarily advisory, shaping strategy to achieve the Government's world class ambitions and will not have significant executive or operational functions. Sir Michael Rake has been appointed as the chair and we are currently recruiting for a chief executive and commissioners.

The new UK Commission will open on 1 April 2008 and will incorporate those functions that the Sector Skills Development Agency (SSDA) and National Employment Panel (NEP) currently undertake that fall under the remit and responsibility of the new organisation.

At this early stage of developments we are not yet in a position to be able to give defined numbers of staff and therefore an agreed budget.

I am of course happy to provide you with figures and numbers once these have been established and agreed with Departments and senior officials within the new UK Commission.

Average Earnings

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households received less than *(a)* 20 per cent. and *(b)* 30 per cent. of median income in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2006. [152743]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not available.

Child Support Agency: Debt Collection

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many non-resident parents from whom the Child Support Agency is seeking to collect maintenance have arrears of over *(a)* £100,000, *(b)* £50,000, *(c)* £25,000, *(d)* £20,000, *(e)* £15,000, *(f)* £10,000, *(g)* £5,000 and *(h)* £1,000; and if he will make a statement. [146174]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 18 September 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many non-resident parents for whom the Child Support Agency is seeking to collect maintenance have arrears of over (a) £100,000 (b) £50,000 (c) £25,000 (d) £20,000 (e) £15,000 (f) £10,000 (g) £5,000 and (h) £1,000 and if he will make a statement [146174].

The information requested is provided in the attached table.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Number of non-resident parents (NRP's) with arrears: June 2007

Amount of arrears	Number of NRP's
Up to £1,000	480,390
£1,001 to £5,000	232,810
£5,001 to £10,001	76,660
£10,001 to £15,000	33,110
£15,001 to £20,000	18,790
£20,001 to £25,000	11,370
£25,001 to £50,000	22,760
£50,001 to £100,000	5,320
Over £100,000	120

Notes:

1. The information provided is for all individual non-resident parents (NRP's) at June 2007. Where a NRP is involved in more than one case, their total debt has been used.
2. The table above includes those old-scheme cases with either a full maintenance assessment or an interim maintenance assessment; plus those new-scheme cases with either a full maintenance calculation, or a default maintenance decision.
3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Children: Maintenance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of the information and support service on child maintenance to be established by his Department by October 2008. [155001]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* It will be up to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission to decide how best to deploy its resources to meet its statutory objectives. The overall level of resources allocated to the Commission will be negotiated in the usual way as part of the Department's planning processes.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consideration he has given to the possibility of contracting out the child maintenance information and support service to the private or voluntary sector; and if he will make a statement. [155004]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* It is the intention to contract out the information and support service. We expect that the service will be delivered by a combination of private and voluntary sector providers working in partnership.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate how many non-resident parents were required, having had their Child Support Agency maintenance payments deducted from their income by their employer, to pay a second time when the employer's business went into liquidation in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [155203]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* The information requested is currently not available.

Children: Poverty

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of children living in poverty. [152841]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is in "Households Below Average Income 1994-95—2005-06 (Revised)". The report is available in the Library. The report uses 60 per cent. of median income as the low income threshold. This threshold is the internationally recognised measure of poverty.

Departments: Departmental Co-ordination

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* ministerial committees and *(b)* permanent groups involving senior civil servants have been set up by his Department to liaise with the Ministers for Women. [155242]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions sits on numerous ministerial committees, including a number of committees with the Minister for Women. A list of committees and the ministerial membership is available on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/secretariats/committees/index.asp

Senior civil servants from DWP and the Government Equalities Office sit on the following permanent group:

The Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force Senior Officials Group.

Departments: Public Participation

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans his Department has for using citizens' juries as part of the policy making process. [155147]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* Citizens' juries represent one important way of engaging the public and democratic debate about policy decisions. We are examining ways of using them in future decision making in the department.

Employment

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the compatibility of the Welfare to Work proposals set out in In Work, Better Off: Next steps to full employment, Cm 7130, with the Human Rights Act 1998. [152285]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In developing policy proposals, we are always conscious of the obligations of the Human Rights Act. However, the Government are currently consulting on the proposals for change set out in "In work, Better off: next steps to full employment." These are still at an early stage and a full assessment of human rights considerations would normally be made as and when it was needed as part of final decisions made on the direction of policy following consultation.

Jobcentre Plus

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Jobcentre Plus districts there are; how many Jobcentre Plus districts reached their job outcome target point total in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will list the districts that did not reach the job outcome target points total in the same period. [148156]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the right hon. Gentleman with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 17 September 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about the number of Jobcentre Plus districts; how many reached their job outcome target points total in the last period for which figures are available; and to list the districts that did not reach the target points in that period. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

There are currently 50 Jobcentre Plus districts. The most recent JOT figures relate to customers who started work in December 2006. For that period two districts reached their JOT points profile—Derbyshire and Essex. A further 10 districts achieved more than 90 per cent. of their points target. Those districts that did not meet their points target in December were:

90-99 per cent.	*Below 90 per cent.*
Lancashire	Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire
Black Country	Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway and Inverclyde
Berks, Bucks and Oxfordshire	Glasgow
Surrey and Sussex	South West Wales
West of England	Coventry and Warwickshire
Hampshire	South Yorkshire
Norfolk	South Wales Valleys
The Marches	Forth Valley, Fife and Tayside

90-99 per cent.	Below 90 per cent.
Dorset and Somerset	Highlands, Islands, Clyde Coast and Grampian
Nottinghamshire	South East Wales
	North and Mid Wales
	South Tyne and Wear Valley
	Kent
	Central London
	Staffordshire
	Tees Valley
	Northumbria
	Greater Manchester Central
	West Yorkshire
	City and East London
	Edinburgh and Lothian and Borders
	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire
	Birmingham and Solihull
	North and North East London
	Liverpool and Wirral
	Cumbria
	Devon and Cornwall
	South London
	North and East Yorkshire and the Humber
	Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth
	Leicestershire and Northamptonshire
	Cheshire and Warrington
	West London
	Cambridgeshire and Suffolk
	Greater Manchester East and West
	Lincolnshire and Rutland
	Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Swindon
	Greater Mersey

It may be helpful if I provide some further context for our JOT performance figures. Since the 2006/07 JOT target was set, more recent historical performance information has become available, suggesting that the target involves a higher degree of challenge than was intended. Given this, the department recognises that the JOT points target was set 8.4% too high. A target level of around 12.4 million points would have been more representative of the degree of challenge intended, rather than the original 13.5 million-point target. However, it was agreed that Jobcentre Plus would continue to report against the original profile for 2006/07. Detailed JOT performance data is published on the Jobcentre Plus website and updated regularly.

I hope this is helpful.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Jobcentre Plus staff were employed in *(a)* call centres and *(b)* frontline offices in each of the last 10 years. [152057]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 26 July 2007]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 1 October 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many Jobcentre Plus staff were employed in *(a)* contact centres and *(b)* frontline offices, in each of the last 10 years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Unfortunately we are unable to provide a functional breakdown of Jobcentre Plus staff prior to March 2004.

The following tables provide the number of full-time equivalents (FTEs) employed in (a) Contact Centres and (b) Operational staff in Jobcentres, Jobcentres Plus offices, Social Security Offices and Benefit Delivery Centres and those who provide support for these services, for the period 2004 to 2007. Fraud investigation staff are included in table b. It is not possible to differentiate between those who deal directly with the public and those who perform other supporting functions in the second group of staff.

(a)

	FTE Employed in Customer Contact Directorate	*FTE employed directly in contact centres*
March 2004	2,207.1	2,118.39
March 2005	4,184.7	3,992.56
March 2006	6,227.5	6,075.73
March 2007	6,486.9	6,382.54

(b)

	FTE
March 2004	74,036.4
March 2005	66,808.6
March 2006	59,789.7
March 2007	57,939.5

I hope this is helpful.

Jobseekers Allowance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1868W, on jobseekers allowance, how many and what percentage of new deal leavers *(a)* moved on to other benefits and *(b)* returned to other benefits on leaving employment (i) between six and 12 months and (ii) more than 12 months after leaving the programme in each year since 1998. [146808]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information on people returning to other benefits on leaving employment is not available.

The available requested information is in the following table.

	New deal				
		Moved on to other benefits between 6 and 12 months from date of leaving new deal		*Moved on to other benefits more than 12 months from date of leaving new deal*	
	Number of leavers	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
1998	97,630	5,340	5	36,840	38
1999	386,580	26,900	7	150,170	39
2000	428,050	31,040	7	155,400	36
2001	403,500	28,170	7	132,790	33

	New deal				
		Moved on to other benefits between 6 and 12 months from date of leaving new deal		Moved on to other benefits more than 12 months from date of leaving new deal	
	Number of leavers	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
2002	401,160	28,830	7	109,860	27
2003	435,700	29,580	7	93,470	21
2004	480,330	31,870	7	68,430	14
2005	453,860	29,360	6	22,540	5

Notes:
1. Data are based on all leavers from all new deal programmes.
2. Data on 'other benefits' refers to income support and incapacity benefit only as these are the only benefits linked to an individual being out of work. The data show the number of leavers from new deal making new claims to either of those benefits in the periods concerned.
3. Latest complete year data is for 2005. The number and percentage of people moving to other benefits more than 12 months from the date of leaving new deal is based on benefit data to November 2006 (latest available). It would be expected that these numbers, particularly for later years, would rise as more up-to-date benefit data becomes available.
4. If a person has two separate periods on benefit, one between six and 12 months after leaving new deal, and one more than 12 months after leaving new deal, only the benefit period between six and 12 months is included in the table.

Source:
Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions

Lone Parents: Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average payment made to lone parents was in each of the in-work credit pilot areas; and what the average hourly pay was of the lone parents in work in each pilot area. [152807]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 26 July 2007]:* The in-work credit was introduced in 22 pilot areas in four staggered phases from April 2004. It is designed to help participants cope with the financial aspects of the transition from welfare to work. Participants are paid £40 per week over and above their total income when they start work for 16 hours or more a week. This is paid for a maximum of 52 weeks. From 1 July 2007 the payment in London was increased to £60 a week to address the higher costs of living in the capital.

In areas other than London it is available to eligible lone parents, and in London it is available to all eligible parents.

Information on the average hourly pay of lone parents in work in each pilot area is not available.

The available information on the average payment made to eligible parents in each of the pilot areas is in the following table.

	In-work credit			
In-work credit districts	*Phase*	*Total number of starts*	*Average total payment per participant (£)*	*Total payment per district (£)*
Leicestershire	2	1,800	1,580	1,971,880
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	4	1,810	1,330	1,157,640
Essex	4	2,360	1,320	1,507,640
Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire	4	2,170	1,380	1,469,600
Hampshire	4	2,120	1,380	1,401,520
Kent	4	2,040	1,380	1,217,720
Surrey and Sussex	4	2,710	1,460	1,876,680
City and East London	3	1,340	1,320	1,210,640
South East London	1	2,600	1,490	2,898,760
North London	1	2,170	1,510	2,503,320
South London	3	2,000	1,420	1,815,560
Central London	2	1,330	1,350	1,329,000
Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth	3	2,210	1,370	1,977,400
Brent, Harrow and Hillingdon	3	1,420	1,400	1,373,880
West London	2	1,320	1,500	1,386,440
Lancashire West	2	2,530	1,530	2,742,960
Dudley and Sandwell	2	1,470	1,590	1,615,600
Staffordshire	2	2,230	1,600	2,483,880
Bradford	1	1,880	1,600	2,289,480
Leeds	2	2,440	1,580	2,731,720
Cardiff and Vale	2	1,600	1,590	1,720,560
Edinburgh Lothian and Borders	2	2,410	1,510	2,510,720
Total	—	44,080	1,470	41,323,440

Notes:
1. The areas in the table are those where the in-work credit was originally introduced. Many are now part of larger areas as a result of Jobcentre Plus reorganisation.
2. Up to the end of April 2007, 44,080 people had claimed the in-work credit and 28,030 people had finished their claim for the in-work credit.
3. Calculations of average payments are based on those participants who had finished their claim for the in-work credit.
4. Totals in the final row may not sum to individual figures as they include a very small number of in-work credit claims recorded from other areas.

Data source:
Lone parent evaluation database.

New Deal Schemes

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have *(a)* participated in and *(b)* found permanent full-time employment following their participation in each New Deal programme; and what the (i) average duration and (ii) cost as a proportion of the cost of the relevant New Deal programme of each such employment was. [152706]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information is available on the number of people placed into work through new deal, but not on the average duration of jobs gained, or whether employment gained was full time and permanent. A proportionate cost calculation cannot therefore be provided.

Information on the number of people participating on each new deal is in the following table.

Participants on new deal

Programme	*People starting*
New Deal for Young People	1,175,100
New Deal 25 plus	684,600
New Deal for Lone Parents	748,000
New Deal for Disabled People	242,400
New Deal 50 plus	80,900
New Deal for Partners	14,800

Source:
New Deal Evaluation Database, DWP Information Directorate

The available information on job sustainability is as follows:

Information on job sustainability is not available for new deal 50 plus and new deal for partners.

A person is defined as leaving new deal for young people and new deal 25 plus to sustained employment if they do not return to claim jobseeker's allowance within 13 weeks.

A person is defined as leaving new deal for lone parents to sustained employment if they have gained a job that lasts at least 13 weeks, as measured within the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

A new deal for disabled people (NDDP) job is regarded as sustained when a person who has been placed into work through an NDDP job broker remains in work for 13 out of 39 weeks. Information on NDDP job sustainability has not been centrally collected since March 2006.

New deal for young people

	Number	*Percentage*
Individuals into jobs to November 2006	732,220	
Of which, into sustained employment	622,660	85

New deal 25 plus

	Number	*Percentage*
Individuals into jobs to November 2006	286,230	
Of which, into sustained employment	235,090	82

New deal for lone parents

	Number	*Percentage*
Individuals into jobs to November 2006	497,630	
Of which, into sustained employment	302,100	61

Notes:
1. Programme start dates are: new deal for young people: January 1998; new deal 25 plus: July 1998; new deal for lone parents: October 1998; new deal for partners: April 1999; new deal 50 plus: April 2000; new deal for disabled people: July 2001.
2. Information on starts to new deal 50 plus is only available from January 2004 onwards.
3. Latest data for all new deals relates to the end of February 2007.

Pension Credit: Eligibility

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make an estimate of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of pensioners who will be eligible for pension credit in each year up to 2050. [155384]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 17 September 2007]*: The numbers eligible to pension credit in the future are subject to a range of uncertainties. For example, in order to make projections, assumptions have to be made about how Governments will choose to uprate benefits in the future. The following table shows the number and proportion of all pensioner households eligible for pension credit every year to 2050-51.

Projected number and proportion of pensioner households eligible for pension credit from 2005-06 to 2050-51

	Number (millions)	*Proportion (percentage)*
2005-06	4.1	46
2006-07	4.0	46
2007-08	4.1	46
2008-09	4.2	46
2009-10	4.3	46
2010-11	4.3	46
2011-12	4.2	46
2012-13	4.2	46
2013-14	4.1	46
2014-15	4.1	46
2015-16	4.0	45
2016-17	3.9	44
2017-18	3.8	44
2018-19	3.8	43
2019-20	3.7	43
2020-21	3.7	43
2021-22	3.7	42
2022-23	3.7	41
2023-24	3.7	41
2024-25	3.6	40
2025-26	3.5	40
2026-27	3.5	39
2027-28	3.5	39
2028-29	3.6	38
2029-30	3.6	37
2030-31	3.6	37
2031-32	3.7	36
2032-33	3.7	36
2033-34	3.7	35
2034-35	3.7	35
2035-36	3.7	35

Projected number and proportion of pensioner households eligible for pension credit from 2005-06 to 2050-51

	Number (millions)	Proportion (percentage)
2036-37	3.7	35
2037-38	3.6	34
2038-39	3.6	33
2039-40	3.6	33
2040-41	3.5	32
2041-42	3.5	32
2042-43	3.4	32
2043-44	3.4	31
2044-45	3.3	31
2045-46	3.3	31
2046-47	3.2	31
2047-48	3.2	31
2048-49	3.2	30
2049-50	3.1	29
2050-51	3.0	29

Notes:

1. Estimates cover all those aged above women's state pension age (SPA) in the private household population of Great Britain. Pensioner households are defined here as single people aged over women's SPA and couples where at least one partner is over women's SPA.
2. Estimates of the number of pensioner households eligible are rounded to the nearest 0.1 million, and proportions to the nearest 1 per cent.
3. Proportions entitled are based on Pensim2, a dynamic micro-simulation model produced by the Department for Work and Pensions. This model is designed to estimate long-term trends; estimates for individual years are subject to random variation and should be treated with caution. The time series have been smoothed using a three-year moving average.
4. Numbers entitled have been estimated by applying the estimated proportion entitled to the projected household population above women's SPA, which is derived from Government Actuary's Department's 2004-based projections of individuals and trends in private households modelled in Pensim2.
5. Projections are calibrated to National Statistics estimates of eligibility to pension credit in 2005-06, which adjust Family Resources Survey data to take account of possible biases in reporting. The National Statistics are published as a range; the projections have been calibrated to the mid-point of that range.
6. Projections take account of policies introduced in the Pensions Act 2007, including changes in state pension age. They do not include any increase in private saving from the introduction of personal accounts, which would further reduce the numbers eligible for pension credit.

Pensioners: Overseas Residence

Mr. Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many UK pensioners resident abroad have their pensions *(a)* frozen and *(b)* uprated in line with those living in the UK. [155521]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* As at February 2007, there were 524,730 state pension recipients abroad whose pensions were frozen and there were 534,940 state pension recipients whose pensions were uprated in line with those living in the UK.

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Some additional disclosure control has also been applied.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to paragraph 14 of the report by the Comptroller and Auditor General on the National Insurance Fund account 2003-04 (HC 197 2004-05), how many deficiency notices were issued by his Department to individuals over state pension age; what proportion of recipients made an initial response; what proportion of respondents made additional contributions; what the value was of those contributions; what his latest estimate is of the resultant arrears of benefit expenditure; and if he will make a statement. [155044]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The Department for Work and Pensions issued 470,000 deficiency notices to customers.

The response rate to the initial enquiries was estimated to be 70 per cent. To date, the Department for Work and Pensions has received 290,000 enquiries; a 62 per cent. response rate. Customers have up to 2009 or 2010 to respond (depending on their year of birth) as these are the cut-off dates for the payment of the six years voluntary contributions under the provisions of the Deficiency Notice Exercise.

It was estimated that 25 per cent. of the individuals who responded would make additional contributions. The actual number of individuals who have made additional contributions to date is 69,249. This equates to 24 per cent. of the number of individuals who responded.

The value of the additional national insurance contributions which would be paid was estimated to be £32 million. The value of national insurance contributions collected to date is £46.9 million.

The arrears of benefit expenditure including interest on back-dated payments was estimated to be £103 million. The actual amount of benefit including interest paid out to customers under the provisions of the Deficiency Notice Exercise to date is £87.7 million.

Pensions: Compensation

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average cost of compensation to pensioners whose pension schemes were underfunded and who are eligible for either Financial Assistance Scheme or Pension Protection Fund compensation. [152649]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 26 July 2007]:* We estimate that the average assistance from the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) for those individuals whose pension scheme was underfunded and who are eligible for payments will be around £64,000 for the scheme as extended under the budget announcement.

Information in respect of the Pension Protection Fund (PPF) is not available in the requested format. However as at 25 July 2007 10 schemes have transferred into the PPF and average annual payments to members are: (i) to pensioner members £4,509; (ii) to deferred members £4,999; and (iii) for members receiving a mixture of pension and deferred payment £3,673.

Pensions: Females

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many married women aged *(a)* 60, *(b)* 61, *(c)* 62, *(d)* 63, *(e)* 64, *(f)* 65, *(g)* 66, *(h)* 67, *(i)* 68 and *(j)* 69 are currently receiving nil basic state pension on their own contribution records; and of these, how many have contribution records of (i) 20 to 24 per cent., (ii) 15 to 19 per cent., (iii) 10 to 14 per cent., (iv) 5 to 9 per cent. and (v) 0 to 4 per cent. [155043]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The information is not available for married women only. The information that is available is in the following table.

It shows the number of UK women aged between 60 and 69 in 2003-04 who did not satisfy the "25 per cent. rule" for entitlement to a basic state pension on their own contribution records. It also shows for each age group the proportion of the full rate of basic state pension that they accrued during their working life.

Some of these women may be eligible to receive a basic state pension based on their husband's contribution record.

Number of UK women not satisfying the 25 per cent. rule

Thousand

	BSP entitlement at state pension age					
Age in 2003-04	*0-4%*	*5-9%*	*10-14%*	*15-19%*	*20-24%*	*All*
60	3	3	8	10	188	212
61	5	4	10	12	174	205
62	6	5	10	17	148	186
63	7	5	13	19	141	184
64	6	7	15	24	145	196
65	6	8	16	31	131	191
66	6	7	20	31	127	191
67	8	6	20	33	108	174
68	7	9	17	33	107	173
69	7	8	19	37	91	162
All	59	60	148	247	1,360	1,873

Notes:

1. Figures refer to women living in the UK.
2. Figures refer to entitlement based on women's own contribution records.
3. Figures exclude women who satisfy the "25 per cent. Rule" but do not satisfy the "first contribution condition" for basic state pension entitlement, and so also receive nil basic state pension based on their own contribution record.
4. The information is based on the data held on the national insurance record up to and including the 2003-04 tax year at May 2005. It therefore excludes any national insurance contributions paid after that date.

Source:

Lifetime Labour Market Database 2, 2003-04.

Pensions: Postal Services

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) for what reasons his Department used a private sector company to deliver pension cheques to sub-post offices during the recent postal disruption due to industrial action; what cost-benefit analysis was made prior to the temporary arrangement to send pension cheques by courier service to sub-post offices; and what the total cost was of the exercise; [155056]

(2) what steps were taken to ensure that the sub-post offices which received pension cheques during the recent postal disruption were within easy access of the intended recipients; what criteria were used to determine which sub-post offices were used; what provisions were made for house-bound and frail pensioners to collect their cheques from sub-post offices; and what revisions he will make to his contingency plan to dispatch pension cheques during any future postal strike. [155057]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answers 10 September 2007]:* During the recent postal disruption, the Department used a company with whom it has an existing contract for providing courier services. In the absence of assurance from Royal Mail that deliveries to our customers could be maintained, we used our contingency arrangements to ensure customers (many among the most vulnerable in society) received their payments. A comprehensive cost-benefit analysis was conducted when the cheque contingency plan was developed. This established that the contracted courier could deliver cheques to our customers during local, regional or national postal disruptions, and that Post Office Ltd. could provide additional counter services during such disruptions.

The total cost of the exercise, including VAT, was approximately £2.6 million. This cost included discounts totalling £390,000 negotiated with the suppliers. A quantifiable saving of £250,000 was made by using our contingency arrangements, in not having to incur postal delivery charges. Further unquantifiable savings were made by substantially reducing the number of customer cheque payment queries received in local offices due to the industrial action.

Customer cheques, including those paid to pensioners, were delivered to each cheque customer's nearest post office, as determined by their postal code. Any customers who were unable to collect their cheques, could nominate a temporary agent to do so on their behalf.

The contingency plan was highly effective in ensuring our customers received their cheque payments throughout the disruption caused by the postal workers' dispute, and the contingency will be used again if required.

Poverty: Children

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what definition his Department uses of child poverty. [153584]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is available in Working for Children Cm7067, page 11, published on 27 March 2007. This is available in the Library.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the likely reductions in fraudulent benefit claims from the use of voice risk analysis technology. [152741]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: No such estimate has been made. The technology will be evaluated to assess its potential to identify risk in benefit claims following the completion of the pilot exercises.

Social Security Benefits: Internet

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what arrangements he has made for individuals with personal computers using *(a)* Microsoft Windows and *(b)* Apple Macintosh operating systems to make online applications for (i) attendance allowance and (ii) other social security benefits; and if he will make a statement. [155464]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 17 September 2007]*: The Department for Work and Pensions is able to accept online applications for income support, incapacity benefit, jobseeker's allowance, child maintenance, disability living allowance, attendance allowance and state pension. However, this service is not currently available to citizens using Macintosh computers. The service was introduced as a pilot and is currently being reviewed and the suitability of the technical platform will then be considered. Applications for carer's allowance can also be made online using an interface that can be accessed by a computer with either Windows or Macintosh systems.

Claim forms for the majority of social security benefits can be downloaded from the DWP website, irrespective of system, for subsequent postal applications. The Department also offers a telephone application service for a number of benefits.

Access to all online Government services is moving to Directgov, the cross-government portal that will provide the single citizen access point for Government services, which supports both the Windows and Macintosh systems.

Social Security Benefits: New Deals Schemes

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions of those people who had left each New Deal for Work, how many and what proportion were claiming benefit for the second or more time in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2004 and *(c)* 2007 where claimants had not claimed benefit for (i) up to three months, (ii) between three and six months, (iii) between six and 12 months, (iv) over 12 months and (v) over 24 months, broken down by each New Deal group. [155083]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 10 September 2007]*: The available information has been placed in the Library.

State Retirement Pensions: Males

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate how many men aged *(a)* 65, *(b)* 66, *(c)* 67, *(d)* 68, *(e)* 69, *(f)* 70, *(g)* 71, *(h)* 72, *(i)* 73 and *(j)* 74 are currently receiving state pensions of 98 per cent. or less of the full rate. [155465]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 17 September 2007]*: The information is in the following table.

Age	*Number of males*
65	49,600
66	61,500
67	63,400
68	62,200
69	60,000
70	57,700
71	49,800
72	45,600
73	44,100
74	40,700

Notes:
1. Data are taken from 5 per cent. extract of the Pension Service computer system, therefore figures are subject to a degree of sampling variation. They are also adjusted to be consistent with the overall case load from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
3. Figures are based on 98 per cent. or less of the full rate of state pension as at September 2006 which was £84.25 per week and exclude cases with no basic state pension in payment.
4. Figures include cases residing abroad where the rate of pension would be frozen and not uprated each year.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate

Tax Credit

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 17 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 895W, on tax credit, how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* households were beneficiaries of (i) both means-tested assistance and tax credits, (ii) means-tested assistance or tax credits, (iii) means-tested assistance and or tax credits, (iv) tax credits and (v) means-tested assistance in (A) 1979, (B) 1992, (C) 1997 and (D) 2007. [155094]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 10 September 2007]*: The information is not available in the format requested.

Because of the changes to income-related benefits since 1979, and the different types of data and methods of collection employed over the years, it is not possible to provide directly comparable figures for each of the years sought.

The information provided in the previous reply of 17 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 895W, was derived from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). FRS information is not available for 1979 and 1992. Tax credits were introduced in 1999 and replaced family credit. The available information for family credit in 1997-98 and tax credits in 2005-06—the most recent year for which information is available—is in the following tables.

Households and individuals in Great Britain who are in receipt of various combinations of income-related benefits and family credit, 1997-98

	Individuals	*Households*
Both income-related benefits and Family Credit	310,000	320,000
Income-related benefits or Family Credit	6,360,000	6,130,000
Income-related benefits and/or Family Credit	6,670,000	6,450,000
Family Credit	580,000	580,000
Income-related benefits	6,390,000	6,180,000

Households and individuals in Great Britain who are in receipt of various combinations of income-related benefits and tax credits, 2005-06

	Individuals	Households
Both income-related benefits and tax credits	790,000	850,000
Income-related benefits or tax credits	8,420,600	8,030,000
Income-related benefits and/or tax credits	9,216,900	8,880,000
Tax credits	4,180,000	4,170,000
Income-related benefits	5,820,000	5,560,000

Notes
1. The Family Resources Survey is a nationally representative sample of approximately 26,000 households in 2005-06 and 23,000 households in 1997-98.
2. Data are shown for Great Britain only for both 1997-98 and 2005-06. (Northern Ireland joined the survey in 2002-03, so UK data is not available for 1997-98.)
3. Data for 2005-06 were collected between April 2005 and March 2006; 1997-98 were collected between April 1997 and March 1998.
4. The estimates are based on sample counts that have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the FRS to Government office region populations by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-response error.
5. Tax credit and income-related benefits receipt is under-reported on the FRS. This will mean that the FRS estimates are likely to be under-estimates. However, there is no other reliable source for this information at a household level.
6. Figures for the number of households and persons have been rounded to the nearest 10,000.
7. Individuals and households in receipt of either tax credit, working tax credit or child tax credit have been counted.
8. There are more households than persons because different individuals within the household might receive the benefits and tax credits.
9. 'Income-related benefits' includes income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, council tax benefit, housing benefit, and for 2005-06 only, pension credit.

Source
Family Resources Surveys 1997-98 and 2005-06.

Information on the number of claimants of the various income-related benefits for each of the four years is available from DWP Information. However, similar figures are not available for households. Supplementary benefit was the only income-related benefit availabie in 1979. Income support replaced supplementary benefit in 1988. Income-based jobseeker's allowance replaced income support for the unemployed in 1996. Pension credit replaced income support, and expanded the availability of income-related benefits, for pensioners in 2003. Housing benefit, in its current form, was introduced in 1988. Community charge benefit was introduced in 1990 and was replaced by council tax benefit in 1993.

The available information is in the following table

Claimants of income-related benefits in Great Britain

	SB	IS	JSA (IB)	HB/CCB	HB/CTB	PC
1979	2,855,000	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
1992	[1]	5,088,000	[1]	3,080,000	[1]	[1]
May 1997	[1]	3,977,100	1,219,000	[1]	2,330,000	[1]
February 2007	[1]	2,134,170	707,700	[1]	[1]	2,730,940

[1] Figures are not available.

Notes
1. 'SB' is supplemeptary benefit; 'IS' is income support; 'JSA (IB)' is income-based jobseeker's allowance; 'HB' is housing benefit; 'CCB' is community charge benefit; 'CTB' is council tax benefit; and 'PC' is pension credit.
2. Overlaps between benefits have been removed.
3. Due to the estimation procedure used to remove the overlaps between housing benefit and council tax benefit, HB/CTB figures have been rounded to the nearest 10,000.
4. JSA 5 per cent. figures have been uprated using 5 per cent. proportions against 100 per cent. totals of WPLS data.
5. HB data excludes any extended payment cases.
6. CTB data excludes second adult rebate cases.
7. Some income-based JSA claimants may also have entitlement to benefit via the contributory route.

Source:
Information Directorate, 5 per cent. and 1 per cent. samples; 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study; Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System, Annual 1 per cent. sample.

HMRC's snapshot publication estimates the number of out of work claimants who receive either child tax credit or the equivalent through benefits. It shows that as at April 2007, there were 1,398,000 out of work families with children of which 927,000 received child tax credit and the remaining 471,000 received the equivalent in benefits. The full HMRC publication is available online at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/ctc-wtc-snapshot-apr07.pdf

Welfare to Work

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what Government welfare to work programmes have been instituted since 1997; what the *(a)* duration and *(b)* cost of each programme has been; how many people were placed in full-time permanent employment as a result of each programme; and what the average duration of such employment was. [152705]

Caroline Flint: Information is available on the number of people placed into work through welfare to work programmes, but not on the average duration of jobs gained, or whether employment gained was full-time and permanent.

The available information is in the following table.

Cost and duration of welfare to work programmers instituted since 1997

	Cost (£ million)	Duration
New Deal for Young people	[1]1,895	1998-present
New Deal 25 Plus	[2]939	1998-present
New Deal for Young People and New Deal 25 Plus	[3]322	
New Deal for Lone Parents	166	1998-present
New Deal for Partners	6	1999-present
New Deal 50 Plus	255	2000-present
New Deal for Disabled People	276	2001 -present
Pathways (IB Reforms)	81	2003-present
Work Based Learning for Adults	811	2001-06
Short Intensive Basic Skills	16	2001-06
Action Teams	162	2000-06
Employment Zones	623	2000-present
Progress2work	89	2002-present
Link-Up	—	2002-present
Ethnic Minority Outreach	23	2002-06

[1] Represents costs for New Deal for Young People (NDYP) up to March 2006.
[2] Represents costs for New Deal 25 (ND25+) plus up to March 2006.
[3] Represents combined costs for NDYP and ND25 plus for 2006-07. There is no split currently available between NDYP and ND25+ for 2006-07. The expenditure has been presented as a combined figure until an apportionment is made

Notes:
1. All others costs are to March 2007 and include start-up costs.
2. New Deal costs exclude admin expenditure as this is only available by individual programme up to 2002-03.
3. Cost figures are from published accounts and working papers and are rounded to the nearest £ million.
4. Progress2work and Link-Up costs cannot be separated. The total of £89 million is for both programmes.
5. Table excludes pilot programmes.

Source:
DWP Departmental Report 2005-06; Jobcentre Plus Accounts 2006-07

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what legislative provisions introduced by his Department since 1997 have not yet been brought into force. [149566]

Margaret Hodge: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Bath (Mr. Foster) on 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1596W.

Flags

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library a copy of the direction issued on behalf of the Prime Minister on the flying of the Union Flag from Government buildings. [153345]

Margaret Hodge: Organisations and individuals may fly the Union Flag when they wish. However, guidance on the protocol of flying the flag from UK Government buildings is published on the Department's website at http://www.culture.gov.uk/flagflying, and restricted to various appointed days. The Green Paper "The Governance of Britain", which was announced by the Prime Minister in his Constitutional Reform statement to the House on 3 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 816, proposed consultation on whether the guidance should be altered to give Departments more flexibility over when they fly the Union Flag. The Department's consultation document, "Altering the current guidance on flying the Union Flag from UK Government buildings", was published on 25 July and is on the Department's website at http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Consultations. In the meantime on 5 July the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport relaxed the restrictions while the Department carries out the consultation so that all UK Government Departments have the option to fly the Union Flag when they wish. Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Football

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with football authorities on the number of overseas players registered to play with English clubs; and if he will make a statement. [155479]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State met recently with representatives of The Football Association to discuss, among other issues, the development of national talent and the recently published Review of Young Player Development in Professional Football. We look forward to seeing The FA's response in the near future.

While overseas players continue to make a valuable contribution to the English game and have helped the Premier League to become one of the best domestic leagues in the world, we recognise concerns that an over reliance on overseas players may impact upon the quality of players available for the national team. It is right that The FA should be considering this issue.

Gaming: Internet

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many prosecutions have been brought against online gaming companies for breaking existing legislation on advertising internet gambling. [155441]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* There have been no prosecutions brought against online gaming companies for breaching existing legislation on advertising internet gambling. The new gambling legislation came into effect on 1 September 2007.

Public Libraries: Closures

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many libraries were closed in the last 12 months in *(a)* each Government region and *(b)* each parliamentary constituency; and whether he (i) has used or (ii) plans to use the provisions of section 10 of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964. [155085]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* DCMS officials wrote to library authorities in April 2007 requesting information about public library closures, openings and refurbishments. The returns established the following figures for the Government regions in 2006-07:

Government region	*Closures*	*Openings*	*Net position*
London	5	5	0
South East	9	3	-6
South West	7	0	-7
East Midlands	7	3	-4
West Midlands[1]	7	5	-2
East of England	1	0	-1
Yorkshire	8	5	-3
North East	10	3	-7
North West	17	7	-10
Total	71	31	-40

[1] Please note that a return was not received from Herefordshire county council.

These figures indicate 40 net public library closures in England in 2006-07 which represents around 1.1 per cent. of the total of 3,573 libraries. In addition almost 200 significant refurbishments took place last year. Library reorganisations can result in better and wider access—for example to take account of where population shifts from one area to another, or where two small, part-time libraries are closed and strategically replaced with a larger new library open for longer hours.

Data on the number of closures per parliamentary constituency are not collected centrally.

The formal powers of intervention established under section 10 of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 have only been used on one occasion, when Ministers initiated a review of the public library provision in Derbyshire in 1991. This review did not result in the then Secretary of State making use of his full powers of intervention.

There are currently no plans to use the powers established in the 1964 Act to intervene in the management of any English library authority: such decisions are taken on a case-by-case basis as issues arise.

Tourism

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will list the overseas offices of regional development agencies which deal with tourism. [155440]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* Of the eight Regional Development Agencies outside London, only Advantage West Midlands (AWM) has offices which deal with tourism. The Benelux Inward Investment Office in Belgium and the Chicago office have had peripheral involvement in tourism. AWM wishes, in general, to establish greater synergies between its tourism promotion and more general marketing and inward investment activities, including through its overseas offices.

In London, the Mayor's Office has offices in Shanghai, Beijing, Mumbai and Delhi that include representation from the London Development Agency (LDA). The offices are multi-purpose, promoting cultural links, the sharing of best practice in city governance, inward investment, business liaison and educational promotion for London universities. These offices have only been peripherally involved in tourism, but the Mayor's Office is working with VisitLondon to consider an increase in such activity in the future.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what responsibility Mr. Neil McDonald in her Department *(a)* has and *(b)* had for home information packs. [153688]

Yvette Cooper: Neil McDonald held the role of the Home Information Packs Programme Director from July 2006 to May 2007. He is currently Director, Planning Policy.

Non-domestic Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the consultation on supplementary business rates. [153718]

John Healey: The review of sub-national economic development and regeneration published on 17 July 2007 explained that the Government had begun to consider options for a supplementary business rate, working with local government, business and other stakeholders, and that we will report back later this year.

Planning: Public Participation

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward proposals to ensure that local communities are involved in decisions about the spending of section 106 monies for developments affecting their area. [155518]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* Planning obligations (s06 agreements) are private agreements negotiated between local planning authorities and persons with an interest in a piece of land, usually in the context of planning applications. They are intended to make acceptable development which would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms. They may be used to prescribe the nature of the development, or to secure a contribution from a developer to compensate for loss or damage created by a development or to mitigate a developments impact. Planning obligations should never be used purely as a means of securing for the local community a share in the profits of a development.

Local planning authorities should include in their development plan documents, policies about use of planning obligations. The process of setting planning

obligation policies and negotiating planning obligations should be conducted as openly, fairly and reasonably as possible. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase act 2004 requires regional planning bodies and local planning authorities to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement, in which they set out their policy on involving their community in preparing regional spatial strategies, local development documents and consulting on planning applications.

Regional Planning and Development

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* funded on the (i) South West Regional Spatial Strategy and (ii) East of England Regional Spatial Strategy. [153694]

Hazel Blears: The regional planning body (RPB) is responsible for preparing draft regional spatial strategy (RSS) revisions; including gathering any evidence and undertaking any studies to support that process.

In both regions, the Government offices were involved, with the RPB and other key partners, in work on sub-regional and other studies to inform the preparation of the draft RSSs. In the East of England, this involved an element of joint funding of some of these pieces of work by the Government office. In the South West, work was commissioned by the Government office to update transport modelling for the West of England area to help inform the examination in public.

In addition, to meet statutory requirements Government office for the east of England has commissioned work on sustainability appraisal and the habitats regulations assessment (appropriate assessment) as part of developing the proposed changes to the draft RSS. Similar work is also anticipated by Government office for the south-west.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to outsource work undertaken by the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service. [151919]

Kevin Brennan: This is a matter for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS). Anthony Douglas, the chief executive, will write to the Hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Anthony Douglas, dated 25 July 2007:

I am writing to you in response to the Parliamentary Question that you tabled recently:

151919—To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, whether he plans to outsource work undertaken by CAFCASS.

Presently Cafcass outsources the following areas of work; IT, payroll and internal audit services, and approximately 15% of overall casework, which is allocated to self-employed contractors, all of whom are qualified and experienced social work practitioners.

Cafcass does not plan to outsource any further work, although the potential for shared services will continue to be considered with suitable partner organisations should the need and opportunity arise.

A copy of this reply will be placed in the House Library.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Somerset

Dan Norris: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many residents of Wansdyke constituency have been in receipt of educational maintenance allowance in each year since its introduction. [149899]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold the information about take-up and payments under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, has written to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 12 September 2007:

I am writing in response to your recent Parliamentary Question that asked: "How many residents of Wansdyke constituency were in receipt of educational maintenance allowance for each year since its introduction".

Information on the number of young people who have applied, enrolled and received education maintenance allowance (EMA) is available at local authority level, but not at constituency level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

The following table shows EMA take-up for Bath and North East Somerset local authority area and South Gloucestershire local authority area during each academic year since inception:

Take-up of EMA in each academic year

	2004/05	*2005/06*	*2006/07 to end June*
Bath and North East Somerset	561	1,060	1,356
South Gloucestershire	830	1,450	1,801

EMA Take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06 and to date in 2006/07 is now also available on the LSC website, at the following address:

http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/Data/statistics/learner/EMA_take_up.htm

I hope you find this information useful.

Dan Norris: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many residents of Wansdyke constituency are *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* in receipt of education maintenance allowance. [149900]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold the information about take-up and payments under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, has written to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 12 September 2007:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question 149900 that asked: "How many residents of Wansdyke constituency are *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* in receipt of the education maintenance allowance".

Information on the number of young people who have applied, enrolled and received education maintenance allowance (EMA) is available at local authority level, but not at constituency level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

We currently only have estimated number of 16 year olds expected to be eligible for EMA in 2006/07 (FE only). This figure is not available for 17 or 18 year olds.

The following table shows EMA take-up for Bath and North East Somerset Local Authority area and South Gloucestershire Local Authority area:

	Number of 16 year olds expected to be eligible for EMA in 2006/07	*EMA Take-up 16 year olds*	*EMA Take-up 17 year olds*	*EMA Take-up 18 year olds*	*Total Take-up to end June 07*
Bath and North East Somerset	720	687	523	146	1,356
South Gloucestershire	1,010	924	685	192	1,801

EMA Take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06 and to date in 2006/07 is now also available on the LSC website, at the following address:

http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/Data/statistics/learner/EMA_take_up.htm

I hope you find this information useful.

Education Maintenance Allowance: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students at education institutions in York are receiving education maintenance allowances; and what the total expenditure on the allowances in York was in the last year for which figures are available. [152194]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold the information about take-up and payments under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the Council's chief executive, has written to my hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Rob Wye, dated 20 September 2007:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question that asked - How many students at education institutions in York are receiving education maintenance allowances; and what the total expenditure on the allowances in York was in the last year for which figures are available.

Information on the number of young people who have applied, enrolled and received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available at Local Authority Level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

EMA take-up for York is 1,327.

Expenditure on EMA payments to learners are held at National level, but not broken down to local authority level. EMA payments to learners during academic year 2006/2007 totaled £483 million. The data is available at http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/Data/statistics/learner/EMA_take_up.htm.

I hope you find this information useful.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students at education institutions in York were receiving education maintenance allowances in 2006-07; and what the total expenditure on the allowances in York was in the 2006-07 academic year. [154940]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council, who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) on behalf of the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), and hold the information about take-up and payments under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the Council's chief executive, has written to my hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

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I hope you find this information useful.

Education: Gambling

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will commission a study on whether teaching children bridge in school can lead to the start of a gambling addiction. [147210]

Jim Knight: The Department has no plans to commission a study on the links between teaching Bridge in school and gambling addiction.

All children and young people are given the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills to avoid some of the potential pitfalls of gambling through Personal, Social and Health Education in schools.

Primary Education: Class Sizes

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average primary school class size in English schools was in each year since 1990-91; and if he will make a statement. [150692]

Jim Knight: Figures can be found in the following table.

Maintained primary schools: classes as taught[1, 2]

	Average primary class size
2007[3]	26.2
2006	26.3
2005	26.2
2004	26.2
2003	26.3
2002	26.3
2001	26.7
2000	27.1
1999	27.5
1998	27.7
1997	27.5
1996	27.5
1995	27.3
1994	27.2
1993	27.0
1992	26.8
1991	26.8

[1] One teacher classes as taught in a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.
[2] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[3] Provisional.

Private Finance Initiative: Finance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the value is of the unitary payments of each private finance initiative scheme overseen by his Department over the lifetime of the contract, expressed in constant 2007-08 prices; and discounted to present value. [155025]

Jim Knight: Information on all signed private finance initiative contracts, including balance sheet treatment and future unitary charges, is included in HM Treasury's PFI Signed Projects List, which is available through www.hm.treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats. The information covers the unitary charge payment projections up to 2033-34.

This is a working document containing information on current signed PFI projects. It is updated on a six-monthly basis to reflect the updates HM Treasury receives from Departments at Budget and pre-Budget report.

Pupils: Assessments

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median total point score was in England at Key Stage (i) 2 and (ii) 3 in each year since 1997; [155425]

(2) how many and what proportion of 11-year-olds with special educational needs achieved level 4 at Key Stage 2 in *(a)* reading, *(b)* writing, *(c)* mathematics and *(d)* reading, writing and mathematics, broken down by special educational need; [155426]

(3) what proportion of *(a)* children in receipt of free school meals, *(b)* pupils with special educational needs and *(c)* all children aged 11 years at the end of each academic year since 1997-98 achieved level (i) 4 and (ii) 5 at Key Stage 2 in (A) reading, (B) writing, (C) mathematics and (D) reading, writing and mathematics, broken down by type of school attended; [155461]

(4) what proportion of children *(a)* in receipt of free school meals, *(b)* with special educational needs and *(c)* aged 14 years at the end of each academic year since 1997 achieved level (i) 5 and (ii) 6 at Key Stage 3 in (A) reading, (B) writing, (C) mathematics and (D) reading, writing and mathematics, broken down by type of school attended; [155462]

(5) how many and what proportion of pupils who attained level 4 or below in the 2007 Key Stage 3 tests in *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics and *(c)* science in each year since 1997 had previously attained level 4 or above at Key Stage 2. [155463]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the percentage of children who did not improve their level of attainment between the end of Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 in education authorities that are *(a)* non-selective and *(b)* wholly or partially selective. [155442]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 17 September]:* I have not made such an estimate. Information on the progress made by pupils between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 national tests are available at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000711/index.shtml

Further breakdowns of this to local authority (LA) level by selection policy of LA are available only at disproportionate cost.

Pupils: Discipline

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of schools experienced persistent unsatisfactory behaviour in each reporting period from 1996-97 to 2007-08. [150685]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 25 July 2007:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

You asked what proportion of schools experienced unsatisfactory behaviour for each reporting period from 1996/97 to 2007/08.

The table enclosed gives the percentage of schools found to have unsatisfactory behaviour judgements during each academic year from 1996/97 to 2005/06 and the first two terms of 2006/07. These judgements are taken as a proportion of all inspections in that year.

You should be aware that from 1996/97 to 2004/05 the proportion includes schools judged to have unsatisfactory, poor and very poor behaviour. Categorisation changed in September 2005 with the introduction of the Section 5 school inspection framework. From 2005/06 to 2006/7 the proportion therefore contains schools judged to have inadequate behaviour.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Academic year	*Percentage of schools inspected with unsatisfactory behaviour*
2006/07[1]	0.7
2005/06	0.8
2004/05	2.0
2003/04	2.9
2002/03	2.3
2001/02	2.6
2000/01	2.9
1999/2000	3.0
1998/99	3.2
1997/98	3.1
1996/97	3.4

[1] Autumn and spring terms only.

Schools: Gloucestershire

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many spare school places in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools there are within (i) Cheltenham constituency and (ii) other Gloucestershire constituencies. [155496]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* At January 2006 there were:

(i) 1,252 spare primary school places and 692 spare secondary school places in the Cheltenham constituency;

(ii) 4,532 spare primary school places and 1,841 spare secondary school places in the remaining Gloucestershire constituencies.

This is the latest available data. The January 2007 surplus places data will be published early in 2008.

Schools: Playing Fields

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average area of playing fields per school in the state sector is in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* Ribble Valley. [149063]

Jim Knight: In the last 10 years the Secretary of State has approved 187 applications that involve the sale of an area of land capable of forming a sports pitch of at least 0.2 hectares at schools in England. Of these, 89 were in respect of closed schools. The number of these at schools in the North West is 34 (16 of these at closed schools). There have not been any applications approved that involve the sale of a sports pitch at a school in Ribble Valley.

Data on school playing fields were supplied to the Department by local authorities in 2001 and 2003. However, because the data were incomplete, it is not possible to assess accurately the number and area of school playing fields.

Schools: Poole

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in Poole use *(a)* streaming and *(b)* setting. [151578]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 27 July 2007:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

You asked how many schools in Poole use a) streaming and b) setting.

In total, 19 primary schools in Poole parliamentary constituency were inspected between 1996/97 and 2005/06 (some have been inspected more than once during this period). Setting or streaming was observed in at least one lesson in 13 of these schools. In total, 2,684 lessons were observed in primary schools in Poole during this period. Of these lessons, 8% were either setted or streamed.

In total, 3 secondary schools in Poole parliamentary constituency were inspected between 1996/97 and 2005/06 (some have been inspected more than once during this period). Setting or streaming was observed in at least one lesson in all of these schools. In total, 1,015 lessons were observed in secondary schools in Poole during this period. Of these lessons 38% were either setted or streamed.

Some explanation of these figures may be helpful. Before September 2005, inspectors were usually informed about how classes were organised by means of pre-inspection documentation, discussion with headteachers or teachers' schemes of work or lesson plans. Under the inspection arrangements at that time, all full-time teachers were observed by inspectors. Since September 2005, the recording of class organisation has been based either on discussions with the headteacher or teacher by reference to the lesson plan at the time of observation. A much smaller number of lessons are observed than would have been seen under the previous inspection framework. Lessons seen may therefore not represent pupil grouping in the school as a whole.

Prior to 2003/2004 lessons were recorded as being setted, streamed, mixed ability or otherwise organised. For clarity, setting is the term used to describe the organisation of pupils in classes on the basis of their prior attainment in the particular subject being taught. The term banding, which is very similar to streaming, is used when the decision as to which pupils are included or not in a class is based on the prior attainment in a range of subjects.

From 2003/04 the distinction between streaming and setting was removed and instead data recorded on whether the class was mixed ability or setted/streamed.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Primary schools inspected between 1996/97 and 2002/03

School name	*Streamed lessons observed*	*Setted lessons observed*	*No streamed or setted lessons observed*	*Inspection year*	*Open/closed*
Baden-Powell and St. Peter's Church of England Middle School	No	Yes	No	1997/98	Open
Baden-Powell and St. Peter's Church of England Middle School	Yes	Yes	No	2002/03	Open

Primary schools inspected between 1996/97 and 2002/03

School name	Streamed lessons observed	Setted lessons observed	No streamed or setted lessons observed	Inspection year	Open/closed
Branksome Heath Middle School	No	Yes	No	1999/2000	Open
Branksome Heath Middle School	No	Yes	No	2001/02	Open
Courthill First School	No	No	Yes	1998/99	Open
Hamworthy First School and Nursery	No	Yes	No	1996/97	Open
Hamworthy First School and Nursery	No	No	Yes	1999/2000	Open
Hamworthy Middle School	No	Yes	No	1999/2000	Open
Hamworthy Middle School	No	Yes	No	2002/03	Open
Heatherlands First School	No	Yes	No	1997/98	Open
Heatherlands First School	No	No	Yes	2002/03	Open
Lilliput Church of England Voluntary Controlled First School	No	No	Yes	1996/97	Open
Lilliput Church of England Voluntary Controlled First School	No	No	Yes	1999/2000	Open
Longfleet Church of England Voluntary Controlled Combined School	No	Yes	No	1996/97	Open
Longfleet Church of England Voluntary Controlled Combined School	No	Yes	No	2001/02	Open
Oakdale County Middle School	Yes	Yes	No	1997/98	Closed
Oakdale South Road Middle School	No	Yes	No	2001/02	Open
South Road Combined School	No	No	Yes	1997/98	Closed
St. Aldhelm's Church of England Voluntary Aided Combined School	No	Yes	No	1998/99	Open
St Mary's Catholic Combined School, Poole	No	Yes	No	1998/99	Open
Stanley Green First School	Yes	Yes	No	1996/97	Open
Stanley Green First School	No	Yes	No	2000/01	Open
Sylvan First School	No	No	Yes	1996/97	Open
Sylvan First School	No	Yes	No	2002/03	Open
Trinidad First School	No	No	Yes	1998/99	Closed
Turlin Moor Community First School	No	Yes	No	1996/97	Open
Turlin Moor Community First School	No	Yes	No	2000/01	Open
Turlin Moor Community Middle School	No	Yes	No	1996/97	Open
Turlin Moor Community Middle School	No	Yes	No	2000/01	Open

Primary schools inspected between 2003/04 and 2005/06

School name	Streamed or setted lessons observed	No streamed or setted lessons observed	Inspection year	Open/closed
Courthill First School	No	Yes	2004/05	Open
Hamworthy First School and Nursery	No	Yes	2005/06	Open
Lilliput Church of England Voluntary Controlled First School	No	Yes	2005/06	Open
Old Town First School and Nursery	No	Yes	2003/04	Open
St. Aldhelm's Church of England Voluntary Aided Combined School	Yes	No	2004/05	Open
St. Mary's Catholic Combined School, Poole	No	Yes	2004/05	Open
Sylvan First School	No	Yes	2004/05	Open
Turlin Moor Community First School	No	Yes	2005/06	Open
Turlin Moor Community Middle School	No	Yes	2005/06	Open

Secondary schools inspected between 1996/97 and 2002/03

School name	Streamed lessons observed	Setted lessons observed	No streamed or setted lessons observed	Inspection year	Open/closed
Carter Community College	Yes	Yes	No	1998/99	Open
Carter Community College	Yes	Yes	No	2001/02	Open
Poole High School	Yes	Yes	No	1997/98	Open
St. Edward's Roman Catholic/Church of England School, Poole	Yes	Yes	No	1996/97	Open
St. Edward's Roman Catholic/Church of England School, Poole	No	Yes	No	2002/03	Open

Secondary schools inspected between 2003/04 and 2005/06

School name	Streamed or setted lessons observed	No streamed or setted lessons observed	Inspection year	Open/closed
Poole High School	Yes	No	2003/04	Open

Specialist Diplomas: Engineering

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with representatives from universities on the content of the Level 3 Diploma in Engineering. [155069]

Jim Knight: Representatives from the higher education sector have been fully involved in the design and development of all 14-19 diplomas through the Diploma Development Partnerships, as well as through our Higher Education Engagement Project Board.

Students successfully completing a Level 3 Diploma in Engineering will be well prepared for entry into higher education. Representatives of HE, including the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Engineering Professors Council and Russell Group representatives have all been involved in developing Level 3 diploma content. In addition a group consisting of engineering and mathematics professors, higher education tutors and other education experts has developed an optional specialist module which will be appropriate for diploma students seeking entry onto undergraduate courses leading to Chartered Engineer status.

Teachers: Training

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what discussions he has had with the Minister for Women and Equality on the decision to require mature students born before 1 September 1979 to have a GCSE at grade C or above (or recognised equivalent) in science in order to begin initial teacher training; [148758]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of applicants for initial teacher training courses since 2006 who have had applications voided as a result of the decision to require mature students born before 1 September 1979 to have a GCSE at grade C or above (or recognised equivalent) in science in order to begin initial teacher training. [148757]

Jim Knight: Prior to October 2006, teacher training providers were required to ensure that all candidates entering primary teacher training had achieved a standard equivalent to a grade C in the GCSE examination in a science subject. This was because primary trainees were normally required to teach the whole curriculum, including maths, English and science and would be better prepared to train to teach these subjects if they have demonstrated the GCSE equivalent in them. However, an exemption had been applied for those born before 1 September 1979 as this coincided with the date at which science became compulsory at key stage 4 of the National Curriculum for people born after that date.

I have had no meetings with the Minister for Women and Equality. Last year the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) took advice from the DTI (the sponsors of the legislation) and from ACAS and both confirmed that the original requirement which referred to entrants born after 1 September 1979 would be discriminatory as defined by the new age discrimination legislation that came into force on 1 October 2006.

In order to comply with the new legislation, the TDA therefore removed the exemption for those born before 1 September 1979 and applied the requirement to all primary entrants recruited on or after 1 October 2006, and alerted training providers to the change in the entry requirement. Offers made prior to this date for places on courses beginning after it could stand as they were made prior to the legislation being introduced but any candidates offered places after 1 October 2007 would need to demonstrate the GCSE science standard.

The requirement is for a standard of science knowledge, rather than a requirement to hold a particular qualification, and applicants with no formal qualifications in science can demonstrate this standard via a variety of means. Some teacher training providers offer equivalency tests; others use subject knowledge audits to test this standard. Some providers have worked with further education colleges to offer extra GCSE science courses and the TDA has worked with both providers and their associations to ensure that effective practice in meeting the needs of applicants is shared.

No data are held on the number of unsuccessful applications to primary initial teacher training and it is not therefore possible to determine whether any applications have been voided as a result of removing the exemption for older applicants.

Teaching Methods: Gravesend

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in Gravesham use *(a)* streaming and *(b)* setting. [149304]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 27 July 2007:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

You asked how many schools in Gravesham use *(a)* streaming and *(b)* setting.

In total, 30 primary schools in Gravesham were inspected between 1 September 1996 and 31 August 2006 (some have been inspected more than once during this period). Setting or streaming was observed in at least one lesson in 11 of these schools. In total, 3,892 lessons were observed in primary schools in Gravesham during this period. Of these lessons, 7 per cent. were either setted or streamed.

In total, eight secondary schools in Gravesham were inspected between 1 September 1996 and 31 August 2006 (some have been inspected more than once during this period). Setting or streaming was observed in at least one lesson in all eight of these schools. In total, 2,221 lessons were observed in secondary schools in Gravesham during this period. Of these lessons 28 per cent. were either setted or streamed.

Some explanation of these figures may be helpful. Before September 2005, inspectors were usually informed about how classes were organised by means of pre-inspection documentation, discussion with headteachers or teachers' schemes of work or lesson plans. Under the inspection arrangements at that time, all full-time teachers were observed by inspectors. Since September 2005, the recording of class organisation has been based either on discussions with the

headteacher or teacher by reference to the lesson plan at the time of observation. A much smaller number of lessons are observed than would have been seen under the previous inspection framework. Lessons seen may therefore not represent pupil grouping in the school as a whole.

Prior to 2003-04 lessons were recorded as being setted, streamed, mixed ability or otherwise organised. For clarity, setting is the term used to describe the organisation of pupils in classes on the basis of their prior attainment in the particular subject being taught. The term banding, which is very similar to streaming, is used when the decision as to which pupils are included or not in a class is based on the prior attainment in a range of subjects.

From 2003-04 the distinction between streaming and setting was removed and instead data recorded on whether the class was mixed ability or setted/streamed.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Primary schools inspected between 1996-97 and 2002-03

School name	*Streamed lessons observed*	*Setted lessons observed*	*No streamed or setted lessons observed*	*Inspection year*	*Open/ closed*
Cecil Road Primary and Nursery School	No	No	Yes	2000	Open
Chantry Primary School	No	Yes	No	1996/97	Open
Chantry Primary School	No	No	Yes	2000/01	Open
Cobham Primary School	No	No	Yes	1998/99	Open
Culverstone Green Primary School	No	No	Yes	1997/98	Open
Culverstone Green Primary School	No	Yes	No	2001/02	Open
Dover Road Community Primary School	Yes	Yes	No	1997/98	Open
Dover Road Community Primary School	No	Yes	No	2003/03	Open
Higham Primary School	No	Yes	No	1997/98	Open
Higham Primary School	No	Yes	No	2003/03	Open
Holy Trinity Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	No	Yes	No	1998/99	Open
Istead Rise Primary School	No	No	Yes	1997/98	Open
Kings Farm Primary School	No	Yes	No	1997/98	Open
Kings Farm Primary School	No	Yes	No	2000/01	Open
Lawn Primary School	No	No	Yes	1996/97	Open
Lawn Primary School	No	No	Yes	2000	Open
Meopham Community Primary School	No	Yes	No	1998/99	Open
Northcourt Primary School	Yes	Yes	No	1996/97	Closed
Northcourt Primary School	No	No	Yes	2002/03	Closed
Painters Ash Primary School	No	No	Yes	1998/99	Open
Raynehurst Infant School and Nursery	No	No	Yes	1996/97	Closed
Raynehurst Infant School and Nursery	No	Yes	No	2000	Closed
Raynehurst Junior School	No	Yes	No	1998/99	Closed
Riverview Infant School	No	No	Yes	2000/01	Open
Riverview Junior School	No	Yes	No	1998/99	Open
Rosherville Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School	No	No	Yes	1996/97	Open
Rosherville Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School	Yes	Yes	No	2000	Open
Shears Green Infant School	No	No	Yes	1997/98	Open
Shears Green Infant School	No	No	Yes	2002/03	Open
Shears Green Junior School	No	Yes	No	1996/97	Open
Shears Green Junior School	No	Yes	No	2001/02	Open
Shorne Church of England Voluntary Controlled	No	No	Yes	1996/97	Open
Shorne Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	No	No	Yes	2000	Open
Singlewell Primary School	No	Yes	No	1997/98	Open
Singlewell Primary School	No	No	Yes	2003/03	Open
St Botolph's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	No	Yes	No	1996/97	Open
St Botolph's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	No	No	Yes	2000/01	Open
St John's Catholic Primary School, Gravesend	No	Yes	No	1996/97	Open
St John's Catholic Primary School, Gravesend	No	Yes	No	2001/02	Open
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Northfleet	No	No	Yes	1996/97	Open
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Northfleet	No	No	Yes	2000/01	Open
Vigo Village School	No	No	Yes	1996/97	Open
Vigo Village School	No	No	Yes	2000/01	Open
Vigo Village School	No	Yes	No	2002/03	Open
Westcourt Primary School	No	No	Yes	1996/97	Open
Westcourt Primary School	Yes	Yes	No	2000/01	Open
Whitehill Infants' and Nursery School	No	No	Yes	2001/02	Closed
Whitehill Junior School	Yes	Yes	No	1997/98	Closed
Wrotham Road Primary School	No	Yes	No	1997/98	Open

Primary schools inspected between 2003/04 and 2005/06

School name	Streamed or setted lessons observed	No streamed or setted lessons observed	Inspection year	Open/closed
Cecil Road Primary and Nursery School	Yes	No	2005/06	Open
Cobham Primary School	No	Yes	2003/04	Open
Dover Road Community Primary School	Yes	No	2004/05	Open
Higham Primary School	No	Yes	2004/05	Open
Holy Trinity Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	Yes	No	2004/05	Open
Istead Rise Primary School	No	Yes	2003/04	Open
Kings Farm Primary School	Yes	No	2005/06	Open
Lawn Primary School	No	Yes	2005/06	Open
Meopham Community Primary School	No	Yes	2004/05	Open
Painters Ash Primary School	No	Yes	2003/04	Open
Raynehurst Infant School and Nursery	No	Yes	2005/06	Closed
Raynehurst Junior School	Yes	No	2003/04	Closed
Riverview Junior School	Yes	No	2004/05	Open
Rosherville Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School	No	Yes	2005/06	Open
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Northfleet	No	Yes	2005/06	Open
Whitehill Junior School	Yes	No	2003/04	Closed
Wrotham Road Primary School	No	Yes	2003/04	Open

Secondary schools inspected between 1996/97 and 2002/03

School name	Streamed lessons observed	Setted lessons observed	No streamed or setted lessons observed	Inspection year	Open/closed
Gravesend Grammar School	Yes	Yes	No	1996/97	Open
Gravesend Grammar School	No	Yes	No	2002/03	Open
Gravesend Grammar School for Girls	Yes	Yes	No	1996/97	Open
Gravesend Grammar School for Girls	Yes	Yes	No	2002/03	Open
Meopham School	No	Yes	No	2000	Open
Northfleet School for Girls	No	Yes	No	2000/01	Open
Northfleet Technology College	Yes	Yes	No	Autumn 1999	Open
Saint George's Church of England School	Yes	Yes	No	2000/01	Open
St John's Catholic Comprehensive	Yes	Yes	No	1996/97	Open
St John's Catholic Comprehensive	Yes	Yes	No	2002/03	Open
Thamesview School	Yes	Yes	No	2000	Open

Secondary schools inspected between 2003/04 and 2005/06

School name	Streamed or setted lessons observed	No streamed or setted lessons observed	Inspection year	Open/closed
Meopham School	Yes	No	2005/06	Open
St John's Catholic Comprehensive	Yes	No	2004/05	Open
Thamesview School	Yes	No	2004/05	Open

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departments: European Union

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many officials in his Department are *(a)* involved in assisting European Council negotiations, *(b)* involved in assisting and advising the European Commission, *(c)* seconded to the European Commission, *(d)* involved in monitoring EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives, *(e)* involved in enforcing compliance with EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives and *(f)* involved in other work related to the European Council, Commission or Court of Justice. [146098]

Bill Rammell: Officials throughout the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) are involved in a full range of EU business. Those working specifically on EU business in the Joint International Unit total five; their time is split between DIUS and Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) EU business. Additionally, there are seven staff working specifically on EU business in the Office for Science and Innovation. A breakdown of the figures as requested would incur disproportionate cost.

Departments: Flowers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent by his Department on flowers in the last 12 months. [153238]

Mr. Lammy: The Department did not commit to any expenditure on flowers in the last 12 months.

Departments: Manpower

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether he plans to increase the number of civil servants employed in his Department. [147882]

Mr. Lammy: DIUS is a new Department and, consequently, we are considering carefully the optimum number of civil servants needed to deliver our strategic objectives.

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent by his Department on newspapers and magazines in the last 12 months. [153235]

Mr. Lammy: Newspaper and magazine purchase is recorded under the general heading of Books and Newspapers.

Details of expenditure on books, newspapers and magazines incurred by the Department over the last financial year are as follows:

2006-07—£166,000

The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) was established under Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007. This response only relates to those areas of responsibility held by its predecessor the Department for Education and Skills.

Graduates: Debts

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the average level of debt is of a university graduate on graduation. [151221]

Bill Rammell: For students who entered higher education in the 2006/07 academic year, we expect their average level of debt on graduation to be around £15,000.

Student loans have very different features to most commercial loans. Graduates only repay once they are in work and only when their annual income reaches £15,000. Interest is charged at the rate of inflation, so students only pay back in real terms the amount they originally borrowed.

In July we announced plans to introduce greater flexibility in the repayment of student loans by allowing borrowers to take repayment breaks of up to five years.

A generous package of support is available to students, particularly those from low incomes, who receive maintenance grants of up to £2,700 per annum. From 2008/09 onwards, around two-thirds of new full-time entrants to higher education will be eligible for a full or partial grant—compared to just over a half now.

Graduates: Employment

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the average time taken for a university graduate to find employment following graduation has been in each of the last 10 years; and what the average starting salary of a university graduate was in each such year. [155578]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* The latest available data are taken from the Destination of Leavers in Higher Education (DLHE) Survey which has been published annually by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) for the past four years.

The DLHE Survey captures the first destinations of graduates, six months after leaving university. The most recent information available is for those who graduated in 2005/06 who were surveyed in early 2007. Figures are given in the table.

UK and EU domiciled full time first degree graduates by first destination six months after qualifying, academic years 2002/03 to 2005/06

Academic year	*Percentage of leavers in employment*	*Percentage of leavers in employment and further study*	*Percentage of leavers in further study*	*Percentage of leavers assumed unemployed*	*Percentage of leaver in other[1] destinations*
2002/03	63	8	16	7	6
2003/04	63	9	16	7	5
2004/05	63	8	16	7	6
2005/06	63	8	16	6	7

[1] Includes those students who are not available for, or not looking for, employment.

Source:

HESA Destination of Leavers in Higher Education Survey

In the longer term, studies have shown that graduate unemployment decreases over time and that four years after graduating, unemployment rates have fallen to 2-3 per cent. (3 per cent. for men and 2 per cent. for women), and 90 per cent. are in employment.

The Labour Force Survey shows that holders of HE qualifications are more than half as likely to be unemployed as non-graduates, at 2.8 per cent. and 6.5 per cent. respectively.

The available information on average starting salaries, for those in employment six months after qualifying, are given in the table.

Average starting salaries of UK and EU domiciled first degree graduates[1] in full time employment, academic years 2002/03 to 2005/06

Academic year	*Average starting salary[2] (£)*
2002/03	17,000
2003/04	18,000
2004/05	19,000
2005/06	19,000

[1] from both full and part time modes of study

[2] figures rounded to the nearest thousand

Source:

HESA Destination of Leavers in Higher Education Survey

Higher Education

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills following the oral statement of 5 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1108-10, on Higher Education, what estimate his Department has made of the cost of providing more maintenance grants to students of higher education institutions. [155109]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* We estimated that the additional costs of providing more generous maintenance grants to students would be £330 million across the three years of the next spending review period. Our costs forecasts will be revised as we receive further data about numbers of students and the incomes of students and their parents.

Higher Education: Expenditure

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much funding was given to *(a)* higher education institutions, *(b)* further education colleges for higher education activity and *(c)* further education colleges for further education activity from each relevant public sector budget, including European Union funding, in the last year for which figures are available. [149031]

Bill Rammell: For *(a)* funding for higher education institutions, the data from the HESA finance record for 2005-06 are at (Annex A) as follows.

Annex A: public income received by HEFCE funded HEIs 2005-06

	£ million
Funding council grants	6,121
Home and EC fees paid by SLC, LEAs, SAAS, DEL MI, DH +full-time fees paid from other sources	1,410
Research income: Research councils	893
Research income: UK cent Government	441
Research income: EU Government	173
Other income: UK cent Government	329
Other income: Grants from local authorities	2
Other income: Income from health and hospital authorities	256
Total public income	9,626

Source:
HESA finance record, Table 5a and 5b

As part of *(b)*, the HEFCE recurrent funding that we allocated to directly-funded further education colleges (FECs) in 2005-06 was £147 million (source. HEFCE 2005/43 'Recurrent grants for 2005-06: final allocations'). In addition to this, special funding and capital allocations to directly-funded FECs in 2005-06 totalled £24 million.

Funding for FECs that are indirectly funded is within that of the HEI funding and is not separately identifiable.

As for (c), the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is responsible for funding of Further Education colleges. In 2006-07 financial year, total expenditure by the LSC on further education was £4,979 million; this figure excludes expenditure by LSC on further education colleges funded through the European Social Fund (ESF). Details of ESF expenditure is a matter for the LSC as they determine these matters. Mark Haysom, the Council's chief executive, will write to the hon. Gentleman with further information. A copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 18 September 2007:

I am responding to the second part of your question to the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on your question around funding for further education colleges for further education activity from each relevant public sector budget, including European Union funding, in the last year for which figures are available.

In addition to the £4,979m total expenditure by the LSC on further education in the 2006-07 financial year already provided in the written reply of 11th July, an additional £55m of European Social Fund was also spent in further education colleges.

Mature Students: Finance

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) which European legislation regulates the provision by local authorities of age-related subsidies for educational courses; and what assessment he has made of the effects of such legislation; [154843]

(2) whether local authorities may put in place age-related subsidies for educational courses at institutes of further and higher education; and if he will make a statement on lifelong learning. [154844]

Bill Rammell: The Government believe that learning should serve the needs of the whole community. That is why we are committed to reducing barriers to learning, sustaining equal opportunities and ensuring a wide range of suitable learning opportunities in every area, for learners of all ages, including older people within and outside the workforce.

The Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 implement the age strand of the EU Equal Treatment Directive 2000/78. Comprehensive information on the impact of the new regulations is not available.

As I said in my written statement to the House on 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 35WS, the age regulations do not bar providers from giving fee discounts, but they do require that such positive action can be objectively justified. Guidance on the regulations is available on the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform website. It makes it clear that age-related practices, such as age-related fee concessions, may be objectively justified where they are a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim. That judgment can only be made by the individual provider in the light of local circumstances, the courses they offer and their own legal advice.

Those learners receiving a means-tested benefit, including those in receipt of Pension (Guarantee) Credit, will continue to benefit from free tuition on publicly-funded courses. Learners of any age will continue to have access to literacy and numeracy courses, as well as free tuition to undertake a first full level 2 qualification (ESOL provision is free only to learners who can prove they are on income related benefits).

Student Wastage: Teachers

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the non-completion rates were for students enrolled in teacher training courses at UK universities in each year between 1997 and 2006. [154999]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

Information about failure to complete Initial Teacher Training (ITT) courses is only available for trainees in their final year of training. The Training

and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) only collect information relating to ITT courses in England. Prior to 1998/99 this data is not in a consistent format, so those gaining QTS in 1997/98 are not included in the response.

The tables show:

1. The number of final year Initial Teacher Training (ITT) trainees, who were completing their ITT courses in a university in England, for each academic year between 1998/99 and 2005/06 who did not gain Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) in their final year of training and of these the number who are known not to have completed their courses and the number where the outcome of QTS is unknown.

2. The percentage of final year ITT trainees in universities in England

A. Known not to have completed their ITT course for each academic year between 1998/99 and 2005/06

B. W ho have failed to gain QTS for each academic year between 1998/99 and 2005/06

Final year ITT trainees in universities in England gaining QTS

Number of final year trainees in Universities in England who have not gained QTS

	Total number of trainees in their final year in universities in England	*Known not to have completed course*	*Undefined outcome*	*Other outcome*	*Total*	*Number of trainees who are known not to have completed their ITT course as a proportion of all final year trainees*	*Number of trainees who have not gained QTS as a proportion of all final year trainees*
1998/99	26,120	1,260	440	1,280	2,980	5	11
1999/00	23,670	1,190	330	1,310	2,830	5	12
2000/01	24,490	1,250	460	1,200	2,910	5	12
2001/02	25,070	1,070	0	1,900	2,970	4	12
2002/03	27,030	960	0	2,060	3,020	4	11
2003/04	29,190	1,330	0	2,120	3,450	5	12
2004/05	29,430	1,290	0	2,730	4,020	4	14
2005/06	29,410	1,150	0	2,850	4,000	4	14

Notes:

1. Numbers are individually rounded to the nearest 10, therefore may not sum.
2. The table includes ITT trainees who trained in universities only. This excludes those trained through Employment Based Route (EBR), School Centred ITT (SCITT) and Open University courses.
3. 'Other outcome' includes final year trainees who are yet to complete their course, those with withheld QTS (including those where their skills test was not met, their standards were not met and where both their standards and skills test were not met) and those where the skill test has not been taken (including those whose standards were met and those whose standards were not met).
4. Non-completion rates presented are based on:

A. Those known not to have completed their ITT course.

B. Those who have failed to gain QTS because they are yet to complete their course, QTS has been withheld, the skills test has not been taken or the QTS outcome is undefined.

Source:

TDA performance profiles.

Students: Fees and Charges

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of higher education institutions are charging annual tuition fees in excess of £1,125; and how much extra income his Department estimates these institutions will receive from charging these fees compared with the 2005/06 academic year. [155090]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* In 2006/07, all Higher Education Institutions in England who were running undergraduate courses had an access agreement to charge Variable Tuition Fees, and were charging over the £1,200 fixed fee amount for that year.

Data are not yet available on the income to institutions from Tuition Fees in the 2006/07 academic year.

However, the Department's estimates for the expected receipts from university tuition fees were given in the November 2005 statement to the Commons. These were based on the income from UK and EU full-time undergraduate students studying at English Higher Education institutions; where we estimated that once all cohorts of students were paying variable fees, the total fee income would equate to £2,250 million in 2006-7 prices which compares to an estimated income of £900 million from standard fees of £1,200. Therefore, our estimate for the additional fee income from Variable Tuition Fees is £1,350 million.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the cost of *(a)* providing fee deferral to students at HE institutions and *(b)* writing off any student debt still outstanding after 25 years. [155093]

Bill Rammell: Provision for the cost of fee loans for English domiciled HE students in FY07-08 is £349 million in resource accounting and budgeting (RAB) terms[1]. The current RAB charge for fee loans is 33 per cent. This shows the future cost to Government of subsidising and writing-off student loans issued in any given year.

The fee loan ensures that students are not forced to pay tuition fees before university and they only repay once in work and earning more than £15,000.

[1] The RAB charge is an estimate of the percentage of the face value of loans issued in that year which reflects the resource cost over the expected life of the loan to the Government of making the loans.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Companies House

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, how much income Companies House received from the late filing of accounts in each of the last 10 years. [155589]

Mr. Timms: The amount generated from the penalties for the late filing of accounts was:

	£ million
1997-98	18.0
1998-99	19.3
1999-2000	21.8
2000-01	25.2
2001-02	23.7
2002-03	27.6
2003-04	28.0
2004-05	32.0
2005-06	30.2
2006-07	39.0

This income was not retained by Companies House, but was passed to the Consolidated Fund, HM Treasury.

Electronic Games: Epilepsy Warning

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what estimate he has made of the percentage of electronic games publishers which include warnings on their products that they could trigger a photosensitive epileptic seizure. [153978]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

None. The use of warnings regarding photosensitive seizures is undertaken by publishers of electronic games on a voluntary basis.

Workers: Additional Training

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, how many workers in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex have received additional training under the Engineering Workforce Development scheme since inception. [151354]

Mr. Timms: Following extensive inquiries with a wide range of Regional partners including the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA), the Sussex Learning and Skills Council, the Engineering Employers Federation (EEF) South and after referring to the Government Grants and Support Directory, it has not been possible to identify the Engineering Workforce Development scheme. If the hon. Gentleman wishes to write to me separately with more detail about the scheme, I will endeavour to provide the information requested.

Private Consultancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, which private consultancy firms *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies which report to his Department engaged in each of the last three years; which programmes or projects each firm worked on; and what the approximate cost to the Department or agency concerned was of each engagement. [155874]

Mr. Thomas: Central records indicate that the Department has spent the following on consultancy services:

Financial Year 2005-06: £53.6 million

Financial Year 2006-07: £40.2 million

Financial Year 2007-08: £16.3 million (to date)

I have placed in the Libraries of the House a list of companies that received payments for consultancy services in each of the last three financial years, together with details of the total amount paid to each.

I have asked Chief Executives of the Executive Agencies to respond directly to the hon. Member. Further information is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.